

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 232**

**Senator Xenophon asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:**

1. What is the status of the investigation into the deaths of five Australian-based journalists in Balibo, East Timor, in 1975?
2. How much money has been spent to date on this investigation by the Australian Federal Police (AFP)?
3. How often and in what months has the AFP interacted with Indonesian National Police on this investigation?
4. How often and in what months has the AFP interacted with Indonesian authorities and agencies other than the Indonesian National Police on this investigation?
5. How are the Indonesian National Police or any other Indonesian authorities and agencies cooperating with the AFP investigation?
6. Is Indonesia blocking or delaying the AFP investigation in any way?
7. Have the AFP interviewed any witnesses in Indonesia, East Timor, Portugal, Macau or Australia? Have the Australian Federal Police interviewed any witnesses anywhere else? If so, in what month, and in which countries?
8. When was the most recent activity in this investigation, and what was that activity?
9. How many extradition requests has the Australian Government received from the Indonesian Government in the past ten years?
  - a. How many people have we extradited to Indonesia in the past ten years?
  - b. How many people have we refused to extradite to Indonesia in the past ten years?
10. How many extradition requests has the Australian Government made to the Indonesian Government in the past ten years?
  - a. How many people has Indonesia extradited to Australia in the past ten years?
  - b. How many people has Indonesia refused to extradite to Australia in the past ten years?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

1. This is an active investigation. The AFP has undertaken enquiries overseas and is currently awaiting those results. As this is an ongoing investigation, it would not be appropriate for the AFP to elaborate further on the nature of the international enquiries.
2. As at 24 February 2014, the AFP has spent a total of \$470,802.82 on this investigation.
3. This investigation has multiple phases. As part of the current phase the AFP has undertaken enquiries overseas and is currently awaiting those results. As the results of those enquiries are yet to be received, the AFP has not interacted with the Indonesian National Police.
4. Indonesian authorities have been advised the AFP has commenced an investigation. The AFP met with the Indonesian Ambassador to Australia on 24 September 2009 to explain the referral and investigative process.

5. The AFP has not yet sought cooperation from Indonesian authorities.
6. No.
7. As this is an ongoing investigation, it is inappropriate to identify witnesses or the location of witnesses.
8. The AFP is waiting for information and evidence from international enquiries. The AFP has also continued to engage with other Departments in efforts to receive the outstanding material and conducted a briefing with the family of some of the victims on 28 June 2013 to update them on developments with the investigation. As the matter is ongoing, the AFP will not comment on specific operational activity.
9. Extradition requests are a matter for the Attorney-General's Department.
10. Extradition requests are a matter for the Attorney-General's Department.