

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/047) - Return of three persons to Indonesia - Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 92) asked:

Senator McKIM: If we need Mr Pezzullo here for this I am happy to park it until he gets back. I asked a question that was taken on notice at the last estimates hearing in regard to the return of three people to Indonesia after their vessel broke down. For reference, it was SE16/076. The question was based on an Operation Sovereign Borders May update, which asserted that during the 1 May to 30 May period last year the government safely returned the passengers and crew of one vessel to their country of departure. I asked a series of questions and what we got back was: The Australian Government assisted the return of three persons to Indonesia after their vessel broke down.

That did not really answer all of the questions that I put on notice, so I am going to ask them again, plus a couple of others. I realise this is a detailed question, so if you need to take this on notice that is fine. What was the date of interception and the date of return of the vessel? What were the nationalities of the people on board? Did Australian ABF or ADF personnel assist in repairing the vessel, or were the passengers transferred to another vessel? Were the passengers interviewed by ABF or ADF personnel?

Mr Quaedy: I vaguely familiar with that particular operation, but for the sake of accuracy I might take up your offer and take those on notice and come back to you with some detailed responses.

Answer:

What was the date of interception?

28 May 2016.

What were the nationalities of the people on board?

Bangladeshi and Indonesian

Did Australian ABF or ADF personnel assist in repairing the vessel, or were the passengers transferred to another vessel?

The vessel was unable to be repaired and was assessed as unseaworthy.

The passengers were transferred to another vessel.

Were the passengers interviewed by ABF or ADF personnel?

The passengers were questioned by Australian Government officers.

What was the date of return of the vessel?

29 May 2016.