

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Group: 3**

**Program: Other Agency**

**Question No. BE15/051**

**Senator Rhiannon asked the following question at the hearing on 27 and 28 May 2015:**

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you very much. This is with regard to some developments in the Philippines and their National Bureau of Investigation. The NBI in the Philippines undertook an investigation following a request from PETA Asia on crush videos made for sexual fetishism. I will not go into them. I imagine you understand what that is about. It resulted in a life sentence for each of the two Filipino citizens. That occurred in 2014. It was reported that one of those convicted told the court that an Australian man made payments and provided the couple with the video equipment used to record the videos as well as the scripts used to direct the activities of the girls and young women who were forced to kill animals. Have the AFP been informed of this case?

Mr Colvin: I would have to take that on notice. It rings no bells with me. If the Philippine National Police have referred that information to us then we will have actioned it, but I will have to take that on notice.

Senator RHIANNON: If yes, is the AFP investigating the perpetrator? Could you take that on notice. And if no—maybe you could answer this now, Commissioner—is this the sort of case the AFP would investigate if requested, where an Australian national is directing animal abuse and what amounts to sexual abuse in another country?

Mr Colvin: That is the type of matter we would certainly look to work with our partners on, yes.

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

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) is aware of this matter, and since December 2014, has been liaising with Philippines law enforcement authorities to identify if an Australian citizen was involved.