

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

**Group: 3**

**Program Other Agency**

**Question No. SBE14/052**

**Senator Leyonhjelm asked the following question at the hearing on 20 November 2014:**

Senator LEYONHJELM: Okay. The sword that was seized in the raids last month—do you know if it was made of plastic, as the family claimed?

Mr Colvin: I am pleased that you asked this question, because it has obviously come up a few times. I am sure the committee will be pleased to know that we did make inquiries because I wanted to satisfy myself. I can absolutely guarantee the committee it was not a plastic sword; it was a metal sword. I know the speculation that has been raised in the media. Categorically, I can say it was a metal sword.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Thank you. Was the sword inscribed with Arabic text referring to Zulfiqar?

Mr Colvin: I have seen a photo of the sword. It has Arabic script of some description. Whether it is text, I cannot say. I will take it on notice to get an exact translation, if there is a translation, of the symbols on the side.

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

The seized sword has been assessed to be a metal replica of the original currently displayed in a Turkish Museum. It is of significance to Shiite Muslims. The direct translation of the Arabic text on both sides of the sword is as follows:

Side one: "There is no hero but/except Ali and no sword but/except Zulfiqar"

Side two: "The honourable members of the household Ali, Fatima, Al-Hassan, Al Hussein"

Household relates to that of the Prophet Muhammad.