

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. SBE15/113

Senator Xenophon asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:

1. In its investigation into the Balibo Five killings, did the AFP have access to the file created by John Skeffington?
2. Can this file be made public?
3. AFP did not conduct any inquiries inside Indonesia about Balibo despite otherwise working very closely with their Indonesian counterparts. What is the extent of bilateral cooperation, the dollar value of Australian assistance to the Indonesian National Police, the otherwise highly cooperative mutual assistance arrangements?

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

1. Yes.
2. No. It is a UN investigation file provided to the AFP by Timor-Leste.
3. The AFP's role in Indonesia is to engage with the Indonesian National Police (INP) to combat transnational crime impacting on Australia's national interests, including but not limited to drug trafficking, people smuggling, cybercrime and terrorism. This is achieved through a combination of operational cooperation, the exchange of criminal intelligence and capacity building.

The AFP maintains a presence in Indonesia through its liaison posts based in the Australian Embassy in Jakarta and Australian Consulate in Bali. Additionally, the AFP provides officers and funding to the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, the primary vehicle for the delivery of training to the INP, as well as the police services of a number of other countries in the South East Asian region.