

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 117**

**Senator Milne asked the following question at the hearing on 13 February 2007:**

- (a) Can AFP please provide in relation to the SIEV X survivors;
- i) Costs of fares and accommodation for the overseas-based witnesses at each of the trial and committal hearings?
  - ii) Costs of fares and accommodation for the Australian-based witnesses at each of the trial and committal hearings?
- (b) Giving evidence at the committal and trial was stressful if not retraumatising for the SIEV-X survivors. During the trial two of the witnesses from Finland collapsed in court and were hospitalised. Why did the AFP prefer to use the testimony of the overseas witnesses at the 2005 trial? Can AFP please provide their rationale for not calling the Australian-based SIEV-X survivor witnesses to give testimony at the 2005 trial? In the committal hearing, Rami Akram spoke about lists of SIEV X passengers and Faris Kadhém spoke about the ships that failed to rescue survivors when they were in the water after SIEV-X sank. Did these have any bearing on the decision to not call them to give evidence at the trial?

**The answers to the honourable senator's questions are as follows:**

- (a)
- i) The costs of fares and accommodation for the overseas-based witnesses were:  

Trial =	\$ 30,359.53
Committal =	\$ 28,363.35
  - ii) The costs of fares and accommodation for the Australian-based witnesses were:  

Trial =	\$ 4,864.28
Committal =	\$ 8,206.33
- (b) Decisions about the calling of witnesses were made by prosecuting counsel representing the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecution based solely on an assessment of the requirements of the case.