

Manus guards let residents into centre as extra manpower, says G4S witness

G4S employees broke down the centre's perimeter fence to allow PNG locals in on night of rioting, witness tells the ABC

Paul Farrell
theguardian.com, Tuesday 25 February 2014 10.18 AEST

Jump to comments (223)



Scott Morrison has had to correct previous statements about the unrest on Manus Island. Photograph: Daniel Munoz/AAP

G4S guards on Manus Island allowed locals in the detention centre on the night of the riot, where they began attacking asylum seekers inside the compound, according to a witness account broadcast by the ABC.

Protests on Manus Island last week escalated into violence involving guards, local contractors and asylum seekers. [One asylum seeker was killed](#) during the disturbance and several were seriously injured. Morrison [has been criticised](#) after being forced to revise his account of where the events took place, conceding on Saturday night that most happened inside the perimeter of the centre.

Accounts began to emerge last week of locals entering the compound, which Morrison initially denied. An witness to the events, who is one of the locally employed G4S guards but spoke on condition of anonymity, said he saw other Papua New Guinea guards and locals entering the compound and attacking asylum seekers after the asylum seekers began swearing at people outside the compound.

"The police fired warning shots and that scared the clients and they went into their rooms, so that's when the G4S went in. And when the G4S get

Share 308

Tweet 46

1

1

Share

Email



World news

Australian immigration and asylum · Australia · Manus Island · Scott Morrison · George Brandis

Media

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

More news

Asylum - key facts



What you need to know

Detention centres



Every incident mapped

Today's best video



Inside ousted Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich's palace

Ukrainians find bears, wild boars and expensive champagne as they tour the luxury residence of their former president Viktor Yanukovich

into the camp, they belt, they fight with the clients and belt them very badly and some are wounded, blood run over their face," the witness told the ABC's 7:30 programme.

"They're some locals. Because the locals came to see what's happening. They're on the road and see what's happening, so when the fence, the gates just – the G4S guards just break down the fence. They told everybody to go in and stop them and hit them and fight them, so that's when the locals get in."

The witness said the local G4S guards asked the locals to enter the compound because they wanted "manpower to help them". He also said the feared PNG mobile squad played a limited role in the disturbances.

As parliament resumed on Monday the minister faced a barrage of questions over his responses to last week's unrest and who supplied him with the incorrect information.

"I advised in my previous answer on the afternoon of the Tuesday I received a further briefing. I reported on that afternoon there were conflicting reports. That's what I said on Tuesday afternoon," he said in response to a question from Labor's immigration spokesman, Richard Marles, about the time the minister was notified about the incorrect information.

The attorney general, George Brandis, defended the minister in an interview on Monday. "Mr Morrison has done a superb job in showing that what the Labor party said couldn't be done can be done with good policy and a government with the will to implement that policy," he said.



Get the Guardian's daily Australia email

Our editors' picks for the day's top news and commentary delivered to your inbox every weekday.

[Sign up for the daily email](#)

Facebook Share, Twitter Tweet, LinkedIn Share, Submit, Email

More from the Guardian

What's this?



James Bond films are 'a boy's fantasy', says Fleming star Anna Chanceller
20 Feb 2014



Italy recalls ambassador to India after supreme court delays marines' trial
18 Feb 2014



Letter: When Pete Seeger reduced a conservative audience to silence
20 Feb 2014



Nine-hour tests and lots of pressure: welcome to the Chinese school system
22 Feb 2014

More from around the web

What's this?



The paradox of America's fading empire
(Nikkei Asian Review)



Richard Hammond on Michael Schumacher's brain injury: 'Coma is a very strange state'
(Drive.com.au)



9 Things your current Superfund does not want you to know.
(ESUPERFUND)



We came away very very impressed with this little terrier from Ford
(themotorreport.com.au)



Everyone's in love with Jennifer Lawrence

Is it possible to love her any more? A song by written by Joe Stilgoe

153 comments



Why Nebraska should win best picture Oscar

Catherine Shoard drinks to Alexander Payne's black-and-white family comedy

42 comments



Bill Hicks on religious cults

Previously unseen 1993 footage of the late American standup

355 comments

GuardianWitness



Ukraine street protests

Share your photos, videos and stories - but please remember that your safety is most important



What advice would you give the women in your life?

For International Women's Day, show us a photo featuring your words of wisdom – and the hashtag

#BeYourselfAtWork



Daily commutes: share your stories

Show us the epic hurdles you face every day, just to get to work

Send us your

assignment ideas

Do you have an idea for an assignment you think should run on GuardianWitness? [Let us know](#)

THE NSA FILES

