

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
 FILE: 15/1775
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Chronology – 14/04/2014 05:00:07 PM

Created by s 22 1(a)(ii) (CH)

Summary:

14 April - DFAT response to media enquiry by s 47 F(1) (The Australian) concerning deaths in Yemen

Details:

From: s 22 1(a)(ii)
 Sent: Monday, 14 April 2014 4:46 PM
 To: s 22 1(a)(ii)
 Cc: Media; Lochrin, Adrian; s 22 1(a)(ii)
 Subject: FW: Query from The Australian [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s 22 1(a)(ii)

Please respond with the following – cleared by AS CNB:

DFAT can confirm the deaths in late 2013 of two Australians in Yemen, one of whom was a dual national. We understand the men were killed during a counter-terrorism operation and do not intend to discuss its details.

Police and consular officials in Australia, and in the dual national's country of other nationality, were in contact with the next of kin when the deaths were confirmed. The Australian Federal Police assisted in the identification of remains.

The security situation in Yemen is highly volatile. Since 2010, DFAT has advised Australians against all travel to Yemen due to the very high threat environment. Australia does not have an embassy or consulate in Yemen and DFAT's capacity to deliver consular assistance there is extremely limited.

Thanks

s 22 1(a)(ii)
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Consular Operations Team A – Asia, Pacific and India (CSA)
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 Consular Operations Branch (CNB)
 T | +61 2 6261 s 22 1(a)(ii)
 Consular and Crisis Management Division (CCD)
 W | www.dfat.gov.au

From: s 22 1(a)(ii)
 Sent: Monday, 14 April 2014 2:00 PM
 To: s 22 1(a)(ii) Lochrin, Adrian
 Cc: Media
 Subject: FW: Query from The Australian [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Adrian, s 22 1(a)(ii)

s 47 F(1) has the following enquiry. The journalist indicated he has been in contact with AFP on this matter. Grateful for your advice.

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Best regards,
 s 22 1(a)(ii)
 s 22 1(a)(ii) Media Liaison Officer | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Tel: +61 2 6261
 s 22 1(a)(ii)

From: s 47 F(1) [redacted]@theaustralian.com.au]
 Sent: Monday, 14 April 2014 1:53 PM
 To: Media
 Subject: Query from The Australian

Hi,

s 22 1(a)(ii)

As discussed with [redacted] I am seeking information about an Australian man who died in Yemen at around November 19, 2012.

- What information, or reports, have DFAT received about how the man died?
- Have there been any reports that the man died during a military strike – either from Yemeni or US forces?
- How old was the man? Where in Australia was he from?
- Is it believed he was a member or supporter of al Qai'da in the Arabian Peninsula?

My deadline for this is TODAY.

Please don't hesitate to call me on s 47 F(1) [redacted] if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks
 s 47 F(1)

Journalist
 The Australian
 Level 4, 31 Waymouth Street, Adelaide, SA, 5000
 T: +61 s 47 F(1) | M: s 47 F(1)

Chronology – 14/12/2013 09:25:33 AM

s 22 1(a)(ii)

Summary:

Attachment: Version 2 Talking Points issued Friday 13 December 2013.

Details:

CONSULAR MEDIA TALKING POINTS

Subject: Australian reportedly killed in Yemen explosion
 Date/Version: 2220hrs, 13 December 2013 / Version 2

Talking Points

- . Australian agencies have confirmed the death in Yemen on 19 November of a 27 year old Queensland man.
- . Next of kin in Australia have been informed of the death.
- . DFAT will provide consular assistance to the family should they seek it.

If asked: how was the Australian killed?

- . We understand the man was killed during a counter-terrorism operation
- do not intend to discuss its details.

If asked: was the Australian fighting with al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula?

- . Aware of media reports that the Australian was fighting with al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)
- do not propose to disclose any security assessment in relation to the individual.

If asked: who conducted the operation?

- . The Government does not propose to discuss the counter-terrorism operation in which the Australian was killed.
- . There was no Australian involvement in, or prior awareness of, the operation.
- . Australian agencies do not believe the Australian was deliberately targeted.

If asked: media is reporting that the Australian was killed in a US or Yemeni operation - can you confirm this?

- . Any cooperation between the United States and Yemen on counter-terrorism matters is for those two countries.

If asked: does Australia support the use by the United States of so-called drones in counter-terrorism operations worldwide?

- . Do not propose to comment on specific US operations.
- . Australia works closely with the United States and other international partners to address the threat of global terrorism through the United Nations, the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and other international fora.

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If asked: how many Australians are fighting abroad in conflict zones or as part of terrorist groups?

. Australian agencies have noted an increase in the number of Australians travelling overseas to participate in terrorist training or engage in foreign disputes

- for security reasons, we don't comment on specific numbers of individuals believed to be engaged in fighting overseas

- there is very little Australian agencies can realistically do, or be expected to do, to protect citizens who knowingly become foreign fighters abroad.

If asked: Is the government planning an investigation into the Australian's death?

. As is usual practice, the AFP is informing the Queensland Coroner of the Australian's death.

. It is a matter for Queensland authorities whether an official investigation takes place.

If asked: What about s 47 F(1)

. We are aware of reports of the possible death of an Australian New Zealand dual national

s 33(a)(iii)

Background (not for public use)

Personal information about individuals contained in the following background section should not be made public. Any disclosure of personal information may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

s 47 F(1)

s 47 F(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 47 F(1)

We anticipate significant media interest in Australia and in New Zealand. Australian agencies are working closely with New Zealand counterparts to coordinate engagement with next of kin and public handling.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

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Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) is a terrorist organisation closely allied with Al-Qaeda. It is active in Yemen and Saudi Arabia and it poses a significant threat to western countries. AQAP has a history of terrorist attacks, indiscriminate bombings and kidnappings.

On 26 November 2013, the federal government relisted AQAP as a proscribed terror group because of its terrorist activity. The relisting of AQAP means it remains an offence to be a member of the organisation, to train with it or to provide it with funding or support. The offence can attract a 25-year jail term. AQAP is also subject to UN Security Council sanctions.

Personal information about individuals contained in the following background section should not be made public. Any disclosure of personal information may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

Approval

Author
s 22 1(a)(ii) Consular Operations Branch, exts 22 1(a)(ii)
Cleared by
Adrian Lochrin, AS CNB
Consultation
PAD, CTB, ILB, MEB, USB, AIC, AGD, PM&C, and AFP.



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

CONSULAR MEDIA TALKING POINTS

Subject: Australian reportedly killed in Yemen explosion
Date/Version: 1900hrs, 12 December 2013 / Version 2

Talking Points

Australian agencies have confirmed the death in Yemen on 19 November of a 27 year old Queensland man.

Next of kin in Australia have been informed of the death.

DFAT will provide consular assistance to the family should they seek it.

If asked: how was the Australian killed?

We understand the man was killed during a counter-terrorism operation

– do not intend to discuss its details.

If asked: was the Australian fighting with al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula?

Aware of media reports that the man was fighting with al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

– do not propose to disclose any security assessment in relation to the individual.

If asked: was the Australian killed in a US or Yemeni operation and will Australian agencies be investigating the death?

The Government does not propose to discuss the counter-terrorism operation in which the Australian was killed.

Any cooperation between the US and Yemen on counter-terrorism matters is for those two countries.

There was no Australian involvement in, or prior awareness of, the operation.

Australian agencies do not believe the Australian was deliberately targeted.

If asked: does Australia support the use by the United States of so-called drones in counter-terrorism operations worldwide?

Do not propose to comment on specific US operations.

Australia works closely with the United States and other international partners to address the threat of global terrorism through the United Nations, the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and other international fora.

If asked: how many Australians are fighting abroad in conflict zones or as part of terrorist groups?

Australian agencies have noted an increase in the number of Australians travelling overseas to participate in terrorist training or engage in foreign disputes

- for security reasons, we don't comment on specific numbers of individuals believed to be engaged in fighting overseas
- there is very little Australian agencies can realistically do, or be expected to do, to protect citizens who knowingly become foreign fighters abroad.

If asked: Is the government planning an investigation into the Australian's death?

As is usual practice, the AFP is informing the Queensland Coroner of the Australian's death. It is a matter for Queensland authorities whether an official investigation takes place.

If asked: What about s 47 F(1)

We are aware of reports of the possible death of an Australian New Zealand dual national
s 33 (a)(iii)

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s 47 F(1)

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s 22 1(a)(ii)

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Author	s 22 1(a)(ii) <i>Consular Operations Branch, ext s 22 1(a)(ii)</i>
Cleared by	<i>Adrian Lochrin, AS CNB</i>
Consultation	<i>PAD, CTB, ILB, MEB, USB, AIC, AGD, PM&C, and AFP.</i>