

Title: Lebanon: Deaths of Lebanese asylum seekers: Further local reactions
MRN: BI661647L 02/10/2013 05:57:12 PM ZE2
To: Canberra
Cc:
From: Beirut
From File: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Summary

Lebanon will send a delegation to Indonesia to assist with the identification of Lebanese nationals who drowned on 27 September. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Interest in Lebanon is focussed on the response of Lebanese authorities to the deaths of the Lebanese asylum seekers, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The fate of Lebanese asylum seekers on board the vessel that sank off the coast of Indonesia on 27 September -s 22(1)(a)(ii) - continues to attract attention locally.

Repatriation

2. According to the latest reported figures, 68 Lebanese nationals were on board the vessel, 18 of whom survived, and at least 29 are still missing. The Lebanese MFA has announced that a delegation, led by the head of Lebanon's Higher Relief Committee and including a forensic expert, will travel to Indonesia in the next 24 hours to coordinate the repatriation of survivors and the bodies of the deceased. Authorities in Akkar (the northern province from which many Lebanese asylum seekers have come) have reportedly been collecting DNA samples from relatives of those missing in order to assist with the identification of remains.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Protests

5. On 1 October, Akkar residents reportedly blocked roads and demanded greater action from the Lebanese authorities in identifying and repatriating Lebanese nationals who died in the incident, prompting senior political figures to defend the actions of the Government. According to a statement issued on 1 October, President Sleiman followed up with officials about the repatriation of bodies and survivors to Lebanon, and the investigations of those responsible. Caretaker Prime Minister Mikati and the MFA Secretary also defended the actions of Lebanese authorities.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

text ends

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

E-mail Message

From:
To: [SMTP:zz [SMTP:External] andrew.shearer@pm.gov.au], [SMTP: zz [SMTP:External] margot.mccarthy@pmc.gov.au], [SMTP: Grigson, Paul], [SMTP: Bird, Gillian], [SMTP: 'angus.j.campbell@customs.gov.au'], [SMTP: 'allan.mckinnon@customs.gov.au'], [SMTP: 'jim.molan@customs.gov.au'], s 22(1)(a)(ii) [SMTP: Chittick, Craig], [SMTP: 'craig.chittick@customs.gov.au'], [SMTP: Moraitis, Chris], [SMTP: Hansen, Murray], s 22(1)(a)(ii) [SMTP: Cox, Allaster], [SMTP: Coppel, Nicholas], s 22(1)(a)(ii) [SMTP: Varghese, Peter], s 22(1)(a)(ii) [SMTP: zz [SMTP:External] lynette.wood@pmc.gov.au], [SMTP: Choi, James], [SMTP: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @customs.gov.au]:
Cc: [SMTP:Moriarty, Greg], s 22(1)(a)(ii) [SMTP: Engel, David], [SMTP: s 22(1)(a)(ii)]
Sent: 8/1/2014 at 4:32 PM
Received: 8/1/2014 at 4:31 PM
Subject: Purported Video (2) [REDACTED]

Attachments: 02012014.mp4

All

Immigration at post has received two videos s 33(b)

The videos do not support allegations carried in the media of mistreatment of PIIs. We have no further information at this stage.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 8 January 2014 4:29 PM
To: zz [External] andrew.shearer@pm.gov.au; zz [External] margot.mccarthy@pmc.gov.au; Grigson, Paul; Bird, Gillian; 'angus.j.campbell@customs.gov.au'; 'allan.mckinnon@customs.gov.au'; 'jim.molan@customs.gov.au'; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Chittick, Craig; 'craig.chittick@customs.gov.au'; Moraitis, Chris; Hansen, Murray; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Cox, Allaster; Coppel, Nicholas; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Varghese, Peter; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; zz [External] lynette.wood@pmc.gov.au; Choi, James; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @customs.gov.au'
Cc: Moriarty, Greg; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Engel, David; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Purported Video (1) [REDACTED]

All

Immigration at post has received two videos s 33(b)

The videos do not support allegations carried in the media of mistreatment of PIIs. We have no further information at this stage.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

<< File: 02012014(001).mp4 >> attachment exempt in full - s 33(b)

E-mail Message

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [SMTP: Mckinnon, Allan]
To: [SMTP: Engel, David], [SMTP: Cox, Allaster], [SMTP: Varghese, Peter],
Cc: [SMTP: Moraitis, Chris], [SMTP: Bird, Gillian], s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: 23/01/2014 at 5:18 PM
Received: 23/01/2014 at 5:18 PM
Subject: Operation Sovereign Borders - Comments by Coordinating Ministry
[REDACTED]

Attachments: 140123 rejection of Indonesian remarks.docx

Allan

s 22(1)(a)(ii) we agree that the Indonesian comments need to be rejected, but prefer that it be done in person rather than by Third Person Note.

We propose sending the attached talking points to Jakarta, and would welcome any comments JATF might have. We aim to despatch a cable on Friday.

Nicholas

Nicholas Coppel
Assistant Secretary
People Smuggling Taskforce
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ph: 6261 2727
Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Email: nicholas.coppel@dfat.gov.au

- s 33(a)(iii)

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- Our inquiries into the allegations indicate that the two asylum seekers with burns had them before the vessel was boarded and that they were possibly sustained in the course of attempting to sabotage their vessel
- s 33(a)(iii)