

From: PSR(IC)3 (CMD)
Sent: Thursday, 8 September 2011 12:20 p.m.
To: PSR(IC)3
Subject: FW: 2625272-v1-UNAMA_Report_on_Detainees (2)
Attachments: WELLINGTON_n2625953_v1_2625272-v1-UNAMA_Report_on_Detainees_(2).doc

FYI re UNAMA report on torture of detainees in Afghan run facilities.

NZ has not sent any detainees to the 9 facilities accused of torture. One SAS-related detainee is in a US-Afghan facility but is being well treated. That facility did not form part of the report. ISAF has responded swiftly see attachment. MFAT have not seen the UNAMA report yet. It was released to BBC yesterday and there has been some international coverage. Radio NZ interviewed Dr Mapp on it yesterday yet to be broadcast perhaps today.

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From: PSR(IC)3 (ISED)
Sent: Wednesday, 7 September 2011 8:23 a.m.
To: PSR(IC)3
Subject: 2625272-v1-UNAMA_Report_on_Detainees (2)

PSR(IC)3 see attached. This went over to MFA's office last night, and is also with Minister of Defence and PM's office. It seems BBC now have a copy of the UNAMA report (which isn't due to be released until later today). We will need to see PSR(IC)1 what's in the UNAMA report before we can develop a more detailed line.

Cheers

UNAMA Report on Treatment of Detainees in Afghanistan

Background

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has released a report on the treatment of detainees by the Government of Afghanistan (GIROA). Although we have not yet seen the report, we understand that it details widespread human rights violation by GIROA against detainees in a number of Afghan police and NDS facilities. This includes the use of torture to obtain confessions.

In response, ISAF has suspended the transfer of detainees to a number of GIROA (National Directorate of Security (NDS) and Afghan National Police (ANP)) facilities.

The NDS unit in Kabul to which CRU detainees have been sent - NDS 17 - has only a few allegations in respect of it (three out of 50 interviews) and it seems that it will not be one of the facilities designated for immediate suspension, although it could be affected in future. This action could also impact on the on-transfer of detainees from NDS 17 to other facilities.

Possible Lines of Response

We are very concerned about the findings of the UNAMA Report. It draws attention to the continuing problems the Government of Afghanistan is dealing with.

I have not yet seen the report but from what I have heard, the findings bear closer examination.

I understand that the facility used by the Crisis Response Unit (which the SAS is mentoring in Kabul) has been mentioned in the UNAMA Report but is not one of the facilities to which ISAF has stopped transferring prisoners.

The UNAMA Report only relates to Afghan Government facilities.

The one detainee detained by the SAS is in a joint US/Afghan facility and so is not covered by the report. We are continuing to monitor his treatment - and I am advised that he has been well treated.

I have asked (MFA has asked) the New Zealand Ambassador in Kabul to keep me updated on steps which have been taken by the Afghan Government and others as a result of the findings of this report.

Field Code Changed