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Darwin JIG
Information Report
SIEV 391
UTUNGAN (UTU)
ARRIVAL

Ref Number – CI JIG IR: 1.### 30JUL2012

Incident / Information Details		
Reporting Party	Darwin JIG	[I & T CI JIG INTREP]
Reported Date / Time	30JUL2012	
Information Source	ACBPS, AFP & DIAC	

Background

At approximately 1418 AEST Friday 27 July 2012, a Customs and Border Protection DASH-8 surveillance aircraft, operating under the control of Border Protection Command (BPC), detected a contact of interest (COI) approximately 102 nautical miles south - east of Ashmore Island. The COI was heading in a south - easterly direction. There were approximately 10 people visible on the deck of the COI. ACV Roebuck Bay responded to the area.

At approximately 2132 AEST, Friday 27 July 2012, ACV Roebuck Bay relocated the COI 39nm north-east of Browse Island heading south-east at 4 knots. ACV Roebuck Bay continued to monitor the COI until it entered the Australian Contiguous Zone.

At approximately 1124 AEST Saturday 28 July 2012, while monitoring the COI, ACV ROEBUCK BAY assessed that the COI may require assistance. The COI stopped in the water and the

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people on board began waving life jackets. A party from ROEBUCK BAY went alongside to assist the COI. AMSA RCC coordinated the situation.

At approximately 1125 AEST Saturday 28 July 2012, ACV ROEBUCK BAY embarked all 17 persons from SIEV 391 due the vessel being unseaworthy, nil propulsion and all persons waving life jackets. SIEV 391 was 41 nautical miles east-south-east of Browse Island and 10 nautical miles outside the Australian Contiguous Zone at time of disembarkation of all persons to ACV Roebuck Bay. The 17 persons on board SIEV 391 comprised of 15 Vietnamese and 2 crew believed to be Indonesian.

At approximately 1635 AEST Saturday 28 July 2012, AMSA RCC advised that based on medical advice on the condition of a pregnant 29 year old female embarked onboard ACV ROEBUCK BAY from SIEV 391, AMSA RCC directed ACV Roebuck Bay to the Port of Broome where further medical treatment could be provided.

At approximately 0330 AEST Sunday 29 July 2012, ACV Roebuck Bay completed transferring the people from SIEV 391 into the custody of Australian Government Agencies at Broome.

On Sunday 29 July 2012, all passengers and crew were transferred from Broome via charter aircraft to Government Authorities in Darwin for processing commencing Monday 30 July 2012.

Information of Interest

- All claims made by the passengers were consistent throughout the interviews.
- All passengers departed **Bung Tau, VIETNAM** on 13 Jul 2012
- Crew stated that the vessel that the passengers were transferred to departed **LARANTUKA harbour in FLORES** on the 24 or 25th July 2012

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Vessel

No information was provided about the vessel at the time of writing the report.

Passengers

Information provided by Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) - Nominal Roll version 1 states that the 15 passengers on board SIEV 391 consisted of:

15 Vietnamese (including 7 minors)

Crew

s47E (d) claims:

- **s47E (d)** is from **ARDONARA** in **Flores** and is a fisherman
- He departed ARDONARA on 14th July 2012 to go to **LARANTUKA** to fish
- He normally fished from Larantuka.
- **s47E (d)** stated the boat departed from LARANTUKA on the 24 – 25th July 2012
- The Captain asked to **s47E (d)** to go to sea to find fish when he was in Larantuka
- **s47E (d)** does not know the Captains name. He is a **BUGIS man** from **Sulawesi**
- The Captain asked him to go fishing in the harbour
- The Captain is Indonesian, about 50yrs, not dark or light skin
- **s47E (d)** was recruited in FLORES harbour
- **s47E (d)** was not told how much he was to get paid. He was going to be paid after the fish are caught.
- Departed night time. Passengers possibly on the boat at the front when he got on. He got on the back and departed straight away.
- 3 Crew on the boat to start. The captain departed midnight on the first night.
- The Captain got the passengers who were on the boat before recruiting the two crew.
- **s47E (d)** role on the boat was just crew. Had to drive the boat once the Captain got off.
- The Captain drove the boat first
- Directed the boat by the moon and the stars
- They didn't drive back to Indonesia because it was already on the way.

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- No stops on the way
- No problems with the vessel
- 1 engine broke down. The other was working.
- He didn't know the destination was Australia. Only knew it was Australian waters when they were apprehended.
- Has not come to Australia before
- s47E (d) did not know the other crew member before
- s47E (d) stated no one was in charge of the boat.

s47E (d) & s47F claims:

- He is from **KUPANG**, he was living there before he came to Australia. He departed over two months ago.
- He is a fisherman.
- He left from **LARANTUKA**. He departed by ferry and went by himself. The ferry took one day and one night.
- He met a friend that catches fish and his friend took him to Larantuka. His friend said would you like to come and work in the fishing boat. If they caught fish, he would get a share of the catch. His friend knows the Captain. He does not know that Captains name. The Captain was referred to as **DAENG**.
- He met the Captain in Kupang.
- The Captain told them that they would sleep in the boat and that they would leave at midnight. The front of the boat was closed. They embarked from the back of the vessel. He didn't notice if the passengers were already on board.
- The Captain departed the vessel.
- He has previously fished in Larantuka.
- The Captain met him in the harbour and asked him if he wanted to leave with him. He said you have a rest in the boat.
- He boarded the boat with his friend, the other crew member. He boarded the boat sometime between 11pm - 1am, about 2 – 3 days ago.
- He was asleep when the boat left.
- There was another small boat following them which the Captain got into. The Captain disembarked in the morning. The small boat had an engine. This occurred below FLORES.
- The Captain told them to travel 180 degrees east, they had a compass.

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- They were on board for about five days and five nights before being intercepted.
- They had no trouble with the boat, there were no problems with the engine.
- He hasn't tried to come to Australia before.

Voyage Route

Both crew were consistent with their stories stating that the vessel departed from the harbour in **LARANTUKA**. Both crew claim that they never saw the passengers get on the boat. The boat departed on the 24 or 25th July 2012 and sailed directly towards Australia for 4 – 5 days before being intercepted. The captain of the vessel disembarked after one night below FLORES.

Passenger Route

Passengers claimed to have stayed in a hotel/house close to the **Ba Ria Market in Bung Tao** for one night on the 12th July 2012 before being transported by minibus or motorbike for up to 1 hour to meet a large boat in a harbour crewed by five Vietnamese males. The vessel departed on 13 July 2012 and travelled for 10 – 13 days before being transferred onto a smaller boat crewed by two Indonesian males. They travelled for 3 – 4 days before being intercepted by the Navy.

VIETNAM - AUSTRALIA

s47E (d) & s47F

- Departed **Bung Tau, VIETNAM** on 13JUL2012
- Organiser was **s47F**. Contact number was given to them for **s47F**
- The journey cost USD 10,000 per adult and USD 5,000 per child for trip to Australia
- **s47F** and three other unidentified males transported them to the boat
- The journey took more than 10 days from Bung Tao to another unidentified place where they changed to a smaller boat
- Never spoke face to face with **s47F**. Only communicated by phone
- Carried by small van to the port. They were collected from a house that was close to the **Ba Ria Market**.

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- They were told to stay at that house. They stayed there one night on the 12th July 2012. There were over 10 other people in the house
- All the people in the temporary house travelled with them on the boat
- They were driven from the temporary house to the boat by an unknown person. The trip took approximately 1 hour
- Departed from Vietnam on a boat approximately 13 metres long and were on board for 10 – 11 days
- This boat started with five Vietnamese crew but three got off after a short time and went back to Vietnam by swimming
- When they were transferred to the smaller boat, they saw four to five Indonesian men who took care of the engine and made the boat run well
- 3 Indonesian men got off the small boat then swum to shore
- They travelled for approximately 3 days on the second boat before seeing the navy boat who rescued them
- They were rescued because they were lost and the engine had a problem and they were desperate that they were going to die in the ocean.
- The crew fixed the engine and could travel to the Navy ship

s47E (d) & s47F claims:

- Departed **Bung Tau, VIETNAM** on 13JUL2012.
- Went from big boat to smaller boat.
- Arranged trip through **s47F** a male agent. He lived in Bung Tau. They paid US\$10,000 per adult, children \$5,000 each.
- They haven't met **s47F**, only one of his representatives. They talked to him only by phone.
- **s47F** agent was 165cm tall, dark skin, South Vietnam dialect, aged mid 30's to 40's.
- We were told that on 12JUL2012 they would be met at **Ba Ria Shopping Centre**. They were picked up from the Shopping Centre by a seven seat taxi on 13JUL2012. There were about 15 other people getting picked up from the Shopping Centre. Two people took them to the taxi and there was a motorbike.
- They were told to stay in accommodation around the Shopping centre. It was like a mini hotel. It faced the car park of the Shopping Centre.
- They were taken to the beach side, the trip took about 25 – 30 kilometres. It was dark when they arrived.

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- There was a wharf with lighting. There were other boats (NFD). There were residential houses seen in the distance.
- The 15 boarded a big boat, they were on board for more than 10 days.
- They were all transferred to a smaller boat. There were five crew on-board but only two stayed, three left.
- The wharf had many boats in rows.
- They were on the boat for 3 or 4 days. They didn't stop anywhere.
- The engine broke down. They saw lights from far away and they gave a signal. They signalled with their clothing and lit a fire.
- The other boat did not come forward so they tried to fix the engine. They managed to see another boat which was the Australian Customs boat.
- We don't know of any other people intending to come to Australia.
- They haven't tried to come to Australia before.
- They had a hotel card for Cambodia in their luggage.
- They stated that they hadn't previously been to Cambodia. Their father who is a teacher travelled to Kampuchea the week before for work and used the backpack.

s47E (d) claims:

- He came from Nghe An and travelled on 12 July 2012 to **Ba Ria, Bung Tau**
- He stayed in a mini hotel for one night with his brother
- On 13 July 2012 he was picked up with other people to go on the boats, they travelled by motorbike. The journey took about 30 minutes.
- He paid US\$10,000 and his brother cost AU\$5,000 for the trip. The money was given to the owner of the boat.
- His father arranged the journey.
- We all got on the boat at the same time.
- He doesn't know how many crew were on board the vessel.
- He was on board for 12 – 13 days.
- They were transferred to another boat with two crew. They were on board this vessel for three days.
- Something broke down on the boat otherwise they would have died.

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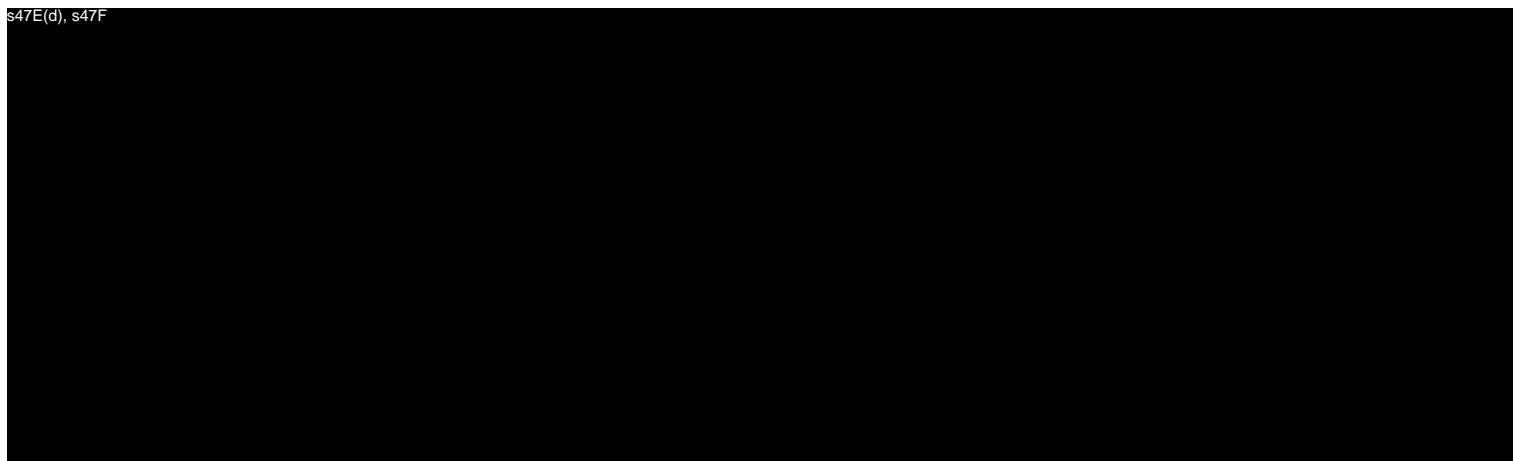
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s47F 7 s47E (d) claims

- He started from **Bung Tau** on 13 July 2012
- Usually work on a small fishing boat. If he wanted to go to Australia the owner of the boat said he could organise it.
- The owner of the boat he worked on is **s47F** (surname unknown) who owns a couple of small fishing boats in Bung Tau province at a small wharf.
- The owner of the boat took him to a big boat to come to Australia
- **s47F** said he was the first one that got on the boat other than the crew. He got on the evening at around 2000hrs on 13 July 2012 at a wharf
- Other passengers arrived by motorbike at the wharf to get on the boat about two to three hours later
- In 10 – 12 days, the boat run out of fuel and food and were transferred to a smaller boat
- There were two crew on the smaller boat
- They were on the small boat for three nights and three days
- On the last day, the engine broke down and the boat stopped
- **s47F** didn't know what the destination in Australia was
- Did not pay any money for the journey to Australia. Just told by Thanh to help out on the boat where he could
- He only helped carry the luggage and help children with their floating device

s47E(d), s47F



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Locations of Interest

- All of the passengers claimed to have stayed at a house mini hotel across from the **Ba Rai Market/Shopping Centre in Bung Tau**

Property

Photocopies of property taken and forwarded to ACBPS People Smuggling in Canberra.

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