



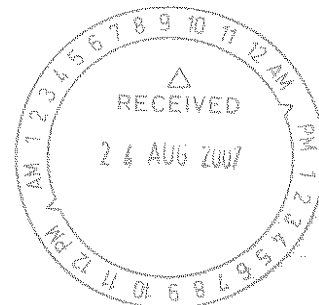
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23 August 2007

Ms Jackie Morris
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Ms Morris

Evidence given in relation to Mr Mamdouh Habib

Thank you for your letter dated 25 July 2007, in which you refer to the assertions by the *Four Corners* program, aired on 11 June 2007 of perceived inconsistencies in the evidence provided to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee in relation to Mr Habib.

I have reviewed transcripts of my appearances before your committee, the answers the AFP has provided to questions on notice and the transcript of the *Four Corners* program. I do not believe there are any inconsistencies in the evidence I have given to the committee in my position as Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, either at the estimates hearing on 15 February 2005, or via answers given to questions on notice.

The *Four Corners* program makes mention of a document sent by a Federal Police Liaison Officer in Islamabad on 19 November 2001. This document states "Information supplied this date by Head of Mission is that above person (*Habib*) is no longer in Pakistan and has been removed to the country of his birth. NFD." This information from the HOM was the first indication to the AFP of Mr Habib's whereabouts. As we were aware he was born in Egypt we took this to be the "country of his birth". This has previously been detailed in my response to Question on Notice 232, tabled during the Additional Estimates hearings of 14-15 February 2005.

After this time, the only direct indication the AFP received that Mr Habib may have been moved to Egypt came during an interview conducted at Guantanamo Bay on 15 May 2002, where Mr Habib stated to AFP officers: "...they drugged me and they took me in Egypt. That's what I believe. I'm not sure where I was. And I meet all Egyptian people. Since the flight, they landed - they land in this country - what country is?". Mr Habib could not confirm he was in Egypt but that they were Egyptian speaking people.

To date, the AFP has not received official confirmation from any source that Mr Habib was definitely in Egypt during his time in custody and I have not provided evidence to this effect. I have been consistent in advising that we were told he had been taken from Pakistan, most likely to Egypt but have been unable to confirm this.

If there are any specific concerns regarding my evidence to the Committee and the assertions of *Four Corners*, do not hesitate to contact my office to have these concerns addressed.

Yours sincerely



M J Keelty
Commissioner