

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(220) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk asked:

During Supplementary Estimates in November 2005 the following question was taken on notice:

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Who went to Quetta and when to retrieve the document?

Answer: Question 120

The First Secretary of Immigration in Islamabad made investigations in Quetta in September 2002. He also tasked a locally engaged compliance assistant to undertake investigations in 2002. The documents in question were sent from the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and National Identity Card (NIC) Office in Quetta to the Australian High Commission in Islamabad where they were received on 2 December 2002.

It is understood that records show that Ali Asqar Bakhtiyari was given a copy of the Pakistan ID document on Friday 30 August, 2002. He responded on 20 September affirming the person from Pakistan was not him. On 15 October 2002 Mr John Caspersson wrote to DIMA from Islamabad stating he had collected the Pakistan ID on 20 and 22 August 2002 and sent a copy of the document which differed from the one presented on 30 August.

It is understood that DIMA sent a further cancellation notice on 25 October, 2002 and Ali Asqar Bakhtiyari responded on 8 and 11 November and 3 December. He was arrested and detained in Villawood on 5 December 2002.

Records show that there was a different translation to this third copy of the document and that the translation included education standard. Records also show that DIMA were advised of this discrepancy at both RRT hearings for Mr Ali Asqar Bakhtiyar and apparently ignored them. An affidavit by Mr Hassan Ghulam was also sent to the department in June 2004 pointing out the problems with the documents.

In the RRT decision of 25 August 2003, Mr Giles Short said on pages 30/31 that "it would be unsafe to say that the photo on the Pakistan ID was the applicant".

Can the Department explain:

1. The document for Mr Asghar Ali Bakhtiri with ID number 601-59-056905?
2. Its claim that it only received the Pakistani document on 2 December 2002?

Answer:

1. There are two documents for Mr Asghar Ali Bakhtiari with ID number 601-59-056905. The documents were his father's family registration documents from 1973 and 1982 which included the number 601-59-056905 as Mr Bakhtiari's National Identity Number.

2. There were a number of documents obtained by the Department over a period of time during investigations to confirm details of the Bakhtiari family. The documents received on 2 December 2002 were the copies of Mr Bakhtiari's father's family registration forms from 1973 and 1982. The document previously received by the Department and provided to him on 30 August 2002 was a copy of a National Identity Card application for registration, which Pakistan nationals can apply for when they are 18 years old.