



The Bali Process

on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

December 2016

Media Statement

Joint Action to target trafficking in persons and people smuggling networks under the Bali Process

The Co-Chairs of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (the Bali Process) are commending the outcomes of the 2nd Joint Period of Action carried out under the Working Group on the Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Networks (the Working Group).

From May to November 2016, law enforcement and immigration agencies from Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the USA carried out nine separate coordinated operations for crimes including maritime people smuggling and trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation across a wide range of sectors, such as fishing, construction, and domestic servitude. Criminal networks involved in the online commercial sexual exploitation of children were also targeted.

Parallel efforts led to over 30 arrests, including the arrest of one of the region's most notorious people smugglers, Abraham Louhenapessy, better known as Captain Bram. He is currently facing court on people smuggling charges in Indonesia. Trafficking in persons networks were also disrupted in Malaysia, the Maldives, Philippines, Thailand, and the USA.

The Bali Process benefits from the concrete cooperation to fight the people smuggling and trafficking in persons and members should continue to work together to find common regional solutions," Ambassador Hasan Kleib, Indonesian Co-Chair of the Bali Process, says.

Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking, Andrew Goledzinowski, Australian Co-Chair of the Bali Process, agrees. "The results of the 2nd Joint Period of Action send a clear message that countries under the Bali Process are not a soft touch and are highly committed to dismantling people smuggling and trafficking networks."

New Zealand and Sri Lanka, as Co-Chairs of the Working Group, were extremely pleased with the results achieved. "We look forward to working again with our regional partners through a similar joint initiative next year," says Nicola Hogg, General Manager of Compliance, Risk and Intelligence Services (CRIS) with Immigration New Zealand and Co-Chair of the Working Group.