

From: PSR(IC)3 (ISED)
Sent: Thu, 8 Sep 2011 09:32:08 +1200
To: PSR(IC)3
Subject: RE: UNAMA Report on detainees

[CONFIDENTIAL]

Tks PSR(IC)3 Not an especially helpful response from the NDS.

From: PSR(IC)3 (KBL)
Sent: Thursday, 8 September 2011 4:46 a.m.
To: PSR(IC)3 (ISED); PSR(IC)3 (CBA); PSR(IC)3 (WSH); PSR(IC)3 (OTT);
PSR(IC)3 (LON); PSR(IC)3 (BRU)
Cc: PSR(IC)3 (ISED); PSR(IC)3 (DS MLG)
Subject: RE: UNAMA Report on detainees

[CONFIDENTIAL]

PSR(IC)3 et al

I've been talking to the PSR(C)1 and have been liaising with NZDF legal officer based in ISAF, PSR(IC)3, to try and get more information. It is fair to say that this proved difficult. There is no clear steer yet, for instance, on the proposed timing of the release of the UNAMA report. I was unable to attend the meeting which Brussels refers to in its report, although I understand that it was mainly a case of a lot of questions and conjecture and not much substance.

We have heard that a UNAMA officer was adamant that the report would be released on Monday 12 September. We have also heard that the PSR(C)1, PSR(IC)4 had asked for its release to be deferred for two months, something UNAMA was apparently not prepared to countenance. But we have also heard through PSR(IC)3 contacts that the report's release will be delayed, in part to see what the Afghan public reaction is. As it happens, the head of NDS has given a press conference on the report, with a report of that press conference pasted below. So I'm afraid at this stage we have nothing more than "gosint" and quite a bit of "fog of war" swirling around all of this. I will try to get more info tomorrow when I will be in ISAF.

In terms of public response, I understand that PSR(C)1 advice to PSR(C)1 is along lines of PSR(IC)3 reporting on the PSR(C)1 response.

I would be inclined, at this stage, not/not to use the sentence in the proposed public response that refers to the CRU until NZDF LGL has had a chance to assess the full implications of the Frago for NZDF operations.

As an aside, PSR(IC)3, PSR(sen)1 will be visiting our detainee tomorrow - security situation permitting - as part of her regular visits.

Cheers

PSR(IC)3, PSF

**Highlights of Press Conference by Shafiqullah Tahiri, Head of NDS Media Relations,
Wednesday, 07 Sep. 11**

MFAT.003.000021

Shafiqullah Tahiri, Head of Media Relations Department of Afghanistan National Directorate of Security (NDS) speaking to a news conference in the capital Kabul today (07 September 2011) did not directly rule out accusations of torture of prisoners in Afghan jails stated in a UN report expected to be published soon.

Tahiri however said that the NDS has been treating the prisoners in its custody properly and in accordance with the international conventions for protection of rights of prisoners.

Tahiri added that if the UN has evidence on the alleged torture of prisoners at NDS detention, they should present it to us and we will investigate it and will take necessary legal action accordingly.

He went on and said that the NDS is against the NATO decision to halt transferring of detainees to Afghan detention centres.

He also said that the NDS personnel over the past one month have arrested a five-member terrorist group who had planned the assassination of Kandahar mayor.

He said that in a separate security development last week the personnel of NDS had arrested an individual named **PSR(sen)1** in the capital Kabul who was spying for the intelligence of one of the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan apparently referring to Pakistani ISI.

He added that Fauq was assigned by the intelligence of an Afghan neighbouring country to collect secrets about NATO military bases in Afghanistan and then sell it to the said intelligence agency.

Attendance:

The news conference was attended by journalists of all major TVs and newspapers and a number of international journalists.