

Media Release

SENATOR THE HON. CHRISTOPHER ELLISON

Minister for Justice and Customs
Manager of Government Business in the Senate
Senator for Western Australia

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Government welcomes Siev-X people smuggler conviction

The Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison, has welcomed the conviction today of people smuggler Khaleed Shnayf Daoed in the Supreme Court of Queensland.

Daoed was convicted on the charge of people smuggling in relation to Siev-X under Section 232A of the Migration Act 1958 by virtue of Section 5, Crimes Act 1914.

“This conviction sends a clear message to people smugglers that the Australian government is determined to bring to justice those involved in this reprehensible criminal activity,” Senator Ellison said.

In October 2001, the vessel known as Siev-X (Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel-Unknown) sank en-route to Australia from Indonesia in international waters, resulting in the death of 353 people. A total of 45 people survived the incident.

The conviction of people smuggler Mr Daoed is as a result of a joint investigation involving AFP and Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (People Smuggling Strike Team).

This conviction follows the Australian Government's successful extradition of Daoed from Sweden to face these proceedings in Australia.

Daoed has been remanded in custody until his sentencing hearing on Friday 24 June 2005.

The offence carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment.

Daoed is the second person to be convicted of offences stemming from the SIEV-X investigation.

In 2003, the AFP assisted Egyptian authorities in the prosecution of Egyptian-born Abu Quassey for organising the vessel Siev-X. Quassey was convicted and is presently serving a 5 year 3 month prison sentence after being convicted of negligently causing death, and migration offences.

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