



The Hon Peter Dutton MP
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

MEDIA STATEMENT

19 February 2015

PEOPLE SMUGGLING VENTURE RETURNED TO SRI LANKA

The Australian and Sri Lankan Governments continue to work closely to disrupt the dangerous and illegal activity of people smuggling.

On Monday, 9 February 2015 a people smuggling venture carrying four Sri Lankan nationals attempting to travel illegally by boat to Australia was successfully disrupted. The people were returned to Sri Lanka on Tuesday, 17 February 2015.

“People seeking to come to Australia should not listen to the lies of people smugglers. The way to Australia is closed,” Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Peter Dutton said.

“Every single person who attempts to travel to Australia illegally by boat will be intercepted and safely returned, or transferred to the countries of Papua New Guinea or Nauru. No one will be settled in Australia and there are no exceptions.”

“This tough policy is dedicated to saving lives and ending the criminal and dangerous people smuggling trade. It will not change.”

“Don’t waste your money getting on a boat to Australia.”

The Australian Government is committed to implementing the toughest border protection measures ever to combat maritime people smuggling and protect Australia’s borders.

Australia will continue to work with Sri Lanka and all regional partners to prevent anyone who attempts to come to Australia illegally by boat, in a manner consistent with Australian domestic law and Australia’s international obligations.

Australia welcomes Sri Lanka’s efforts to disrupt people smuggling ventures and has cooperated closely with Sri Lankan authorities to return illegal maritime arrivals. Since Operation Sovereign Borders began in 2013, every Sri Lankan boat that attempted to come to Australia illegally has failed.