JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK

Q68

Question:

a) How many IMAs have been returned to their countries of origin either voluntarily or non-voluntarily by country of origin since August 2008 by month?

b) Which countries were they removed to?

c) How many were voluntary.

d) How many were involuntary.

e) When did these removals occur?

f) Have any removals actually been attempted? How many were successful? How many were abandoned and why?

Answer:

(a) As at 26 August 2011, 344 Irregular Maritime Arrival (IMA) clients, including 101 IMA crew members, have been removed from Australia since August 2008 – see Attachment A for a breakdown of the removals by month.

(b) Since August 2008, IMA clients have been removed to Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea.

(c) Since August 2008, of the 344 IMA removals, 329 of those were removed from Australia voluntarily.

(d) Since August 2008, of the 344 IMA removals, 15 of those were removed from Australia involuntarily.

(e) The 344 IMA removals occurred between December 2008 and 26 August 2011. Attachment A provides a breakdown by month.

(f) Since August 2008, 344 IMA clients have been successfully removed from Australia. Removal planning can be halted or postponed in response to a variety of reasons, including: litigation, ministerial intervention requests, safety concerns or a client withdrawal of their request for removal. The department does not keep consolidated statistics on the number of removals postponed or aborted given the diversity of factors which might affect removability and removability timeframes.

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Attachment A

	Total IMA Passengers Voluntary	Total IMA Passengers Involuntary	Total IMA Crew Voluntary	Total
2008				
October			3	3
November			1	1
December	1		1	2
2009				
January	1		2	3
April	1			1
May	2		2	4
June	8		3	11
August	9			9
October	71	4	4	79
November	15	8	1	24
December	5	1	6	12
2010				
January	11		1	12
February	4			4
March	3	2	2	7
April	2			2
May	1		1	2
June	3			3
July	3			3
August	1		6	7
September	5		2	7
October	9		1	10
November	5		3	8
December	13		7	20
2011 (as at 26 August 2011)				
January	1		3	4
February			6	6
March	9		4	13
April	11		9	20
May	12		8	20
June	9		12	21
July	10		4	14
August	4		8	12
Total	**229**	**15**	**100**	**344**

* Please note that any further disaggregation of data, for example, by nationality may lead to the identification of clients.