



MEDIA STATEMENT

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT JOINS SEA SHEPHERD

The Australian Government has rejected and thus spoiled the International Whaling Commission's efforts to ensure safety at sea and protection of the environment with its desire to give limousine service to two illegal Sea Shepherd intruders.

"These two violent pirates have been provided a first-class delivery service straight back to the Steve Irwin via Australian customs. Government of Australia should have detained the two illegal intruders and hold them aboard the Oceanic Viking for investigation of their criminal activity. They would rather assist Sea Shepherd with its violent illegal actions against Japan's perfectly legal research program?" Mr Keiichi Nakajima said today.

Australia last year took part in formulating a resolution at the IWC meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, aimed at ensuring safe operation of research activities and protecting member countries engaged such research from the dangerous actions of Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd. The resolution (Res 2007-2), which was passed by consensus:

- ? URGES Contracting Governments to take actions, in accordance with relevant rules of international law and respective national laws and regulations, to cooperate to prevent and suppress actions that risk human life and property at sea and with respect to alleged offenders.

It also urges IWC member Governments to take appropriate measures to ensure that the substance and spirit of this resolution are observed both domestically and internationally.

'Australia's decision to hand two intruders back to Sea Shepherd demonstrates they would rather side with a vigilante group of extremists rather than the international community,' Mr Nakajima said.

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