



# Media Release

11 December 2014

## Senate Inquiry into Manus Island Detention Centre

The Salvation Army has cooperated fully and transparently with the Senate Inquiry into the riots at the Manus Island Detention Centre from 16 February to 18 February 2014 and acknowledges the findings released today.

Once again, The Salvation Army wishes to express its deepest sorrow to the family of Mr Reza Berati and all those injured and traumatised as result of the riots.

The Salvation Army has made significant contributions to this Inquiry, and has consistently welcomed an independent investigation that seeks to determine the factors that led to this incident and the tragic death of Mr Berati.

Following security protocols, no Salvation Army staff were authorised to remain in the Centre during the riots – aside from the two most senior managers who remained in an administration building and were also later evacuated.

As previously mentioned on a number of occasions, The Salvation Army has still not been contacted by PNG authorities regarding this incident. The Salvation Army remains willing and able to assist PNG officials if it will be of benefit to their work in ensuring this tragedy is investigated fairly and thoroughly.

### About The Salvation Army in Manus Island and Nauru

The Salvation Army worked in Manus Island and Nauru Offshore Processing Centres from September 2012 until February 2014, providing humanitarian support and welfare services to asylum seekers transferred there.

This humanitarian support included practical assistance, case management services, recreational activities, educational and other programs aimed at supporting the welfare and emotional well-being of asylum seekers.

**ENDS**

**For more information please contact:**

The Salvation Army Media Office – (02) 9266 9820 (diverts after hours)