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Australian Government

CONTINGENCY MEDIA TALKING POINTS:

Australian Foreign Fighter Killed

Talking points are UNCLASSIFIED.

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Topic: Australian Foreign Fighter Killed

Version: Version 1 (1.30pm on 16 August 2017)

Talking points

- I am aware of reports that an Australian fighting in support of ISIL has been killed in the conflict zone.
- As we have said previously, the Government's capacity to confirm reports of deaths in either Syria or Iraq is extremely limited.
 - These places are warzones, with many ungoverned spaces.

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If asked: can you confirm the reports the individual killed is Khaled Sharrouf Australian?

- The Government's capacity to confirm reports of deaths in either Syria or Iraq is limited, so I cannot comment on the validity of this report.

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Background – ~~PROTECTED~~ and not for public release

Summary of media

ABC News Online is reporting that “...*the Federal Government has received credible information that Australia's most infamous terrorist, Khaled Sharrouf, has been killed in an air strike in the Middle East along with two of his young sons*”.

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(If asked) Reports of death of Khaled Sharrouf

- I am aware of reports that Khaled Sharrouf and two of his sons fighting in support of Daesh have been killed in Syria.
- As we have said previously, the Government's capacity to confirm reports of deaths in either Syria or Iraq is limited.
 - These places are warzones, with many ungoverned spaces.
- Khaled Sharrouf is well known to Australian authorities.
 - He has been active in publicising and promoting Daesh through social media and has participated in terrorist acts.
 - Sharrouf remains the subject of an Australian arrest warrant and targeted financial sanctions.
- Anyone fighting with, providing material support to or associating with Daesh, or other terrorist groups, is committing a serious crime and will be subject to the law.
- [Questions related to the legal status of Sharrouf or alleged terrorists and their families should be referred to the Attorney-General]

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Prepared by	CM
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