

What about SIEVX?

Over the last week the nation has shared in the mourning of people who lost relatives in the Bali atrocity. This grief offers us some insight into how it must be for those who lost relatives in the SIEVX maritime disaster, the anniversary of which is this weekend. However, while relatives of Bali victims can take comfort in dedicated pursuit of the bombers by the Indonesian and Australian police, the relatives of the SIEVX victims have seen nothing like this level of commitment to getting a full explanation of why their loved ones died. The sinking of SIEVX with 353 mainly Iraqi asylum seekers aboard was the largest peacetime maritime disaster in our region, the passenger load was the equivalent of a fully laden 747. The 44 survivors and relatives of the victims live in Australia, yet the government does not appear to have the same determination to get to the bottom of why they died.

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