

Rocco Leo - The facts

<http://www.sapolice.com.au/fact-file/2892-rocco-leo-the-facts.html>

Friday, 22 July 2011 1:57pm

SA Police respond to misinformation being published across some media outlets in relation to Rocco Leo.

SAPOL launched an investigation into Agape Ministries in April 2010. Rocco Leo left Australia for Fiji in May 2010, prior to police searches on properties connected to Agape Ministries, and has not returned. Contrary to what has been reported by some media, Rocco Leo has not been charged with any firearms offences.

Following an extensive fraud investigation by senior detectives, in May 2011 SAPOL provided documentation to the DPP and requested advice in relation to what specific charges should be laid against Rocco Leo. That advice resulted in the issuing of a warrant on May 31 for Mr Leo's arrest relating to 126 counts of deception. **These are minor indictable offences.**

Following this SAPOL provided a full brief of evidence to the DPP and requested it conduct a full adjudication of the matter and determine if there is sufficient evidence to proceed with a prosecution. No extradition can be considered from Fiji unless the DPP undertakes to prosecute. We await advice from the DPP. If the DPP indicate they will prosecute, SAPOL will ask the Federal Attorney General to request formal extradition of Rocco Leo from Fiji.

The public should be aware that this is an extremely complex fraud case that required careful and thorough examination of all evidence. This included requests for evidentiary documents that took many months to acquire.

Facts to remember:

- Leo Rocco is currently in custody in Fiji on matter relating to his visa in that country.
- Deportation and extradition are not the same thing – but separate and distinct processes.
- Any decision by a country to deport a person is solely a matter for that foreign country.
- Deportation is not an alternative to extradition.
- No bilateral extradition treaty exists between Australia and Fiji.
- From the outset of the investigation into Agape Ministries, SAPOL has been liaising with the appropriate Commonwealth agencies regarding Rocco Leo.
- If Fiji decides to deport Mr Rocco to an Australian port other than South Australia, SAPOL has processes in place to extradite him and ensure he is returned to this State to face court.

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Assistant Commissioner Stevens speaks about Rocco Leo

<http://www.sapolice.com.au/more-news/2985-sa-police-statement-re-rocco-leo.html>

Wednesday, 27 July 2011 5:38pm

Assistant Commissioner Grant Stevens spoke to the media this afternoon about Rocco Leo.

The DPP advised SAPOL this afternoon that it had determined there is no reasonable prospect of gaining a conviction against Rocco Leo for alleged fraud offences.

SAPOL accepts the determination of the DPP.

The decision of the DPP is not a reflection on the quality of the investigation. This has been a complex and protracted investigation which involved accessing and reviewing detailed financial records and the pursuit of more than 30 possible witnesses. This case, like the majority of fraud investigations, is intricate and involved differentiating between criminal, civil and corporate law. The investigation has been conducted in a timely and thorough manner and remains ongoing.

We encourage anyone with information relevant to this investigation to come forward.
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Police response to Advertiser 'Smoking Gun' article

Friday, 29 July 2011 3:12pm

<http://www.sapolice.com.au/fact-file/3008-police-response-to-advertiser-smoking-gun-article.html>

In response to the article in today's Advertiser where they link Rocco Leo with the police seizure of firearms and explosives, the facts are here:

As a result of the police search of ten premises located in metropolitan and country areas between 19 and 21 May 2010, 4 persons were charged (2 arrested, 2 reported) for firearms related offences. These charges are now before the courts.

Rocco Leo was not one of those charged and there is no evidence to support the laying of firearms related charges against him. The media have been advised of this on a number of occasions.

Contrary to page one of the Advertiser no high powered military rifles have been located. This has been clarified with the media on a number of occasions.

All of the firearms that were recovered were registered to licensed firearms owners.

None of these firearms matters have been referred, or would they normally be referred to the DPP as they are summary and/or expiation related.

The investigation is ongoing and police ask that anyone who may have information to come forward or call BankSA Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.