

From: [Swami Haribodhananda](#)
To: ["Ahimsadhara Saraswati"](#); ["Bert Franzen"](#)
Cc: ["pmc"](#); ["Atma"](#); ["Sarah Tetlow"](#); ["Suryamitra"](#); ["Yogasandhan"](#); ["Gurubhatka"](#)
Subject: RE: Way forward with Victims - opinions sought
Date: Tuesday, 29 April 2014 11:46:56 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Agreed, sanitising is politicising.

I'm happy for you to send it on my behalf if that protocol is ok, otherwise we can ask their permission for me to send it personally.

All of us that were there at the time need to be regarded as victims in varying degrees and so have a right to be heard (whether on a committee or not). I think this is the correct way to look at it.

All the innocent adults that were there have a right to be heard and I think much of what I wrote, says how it was.

Om
Hb

From: Ahimsadhara Saraswati [mailto:ahimsadhara@REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 29 April 2014 11:30 AM
To: Bert Franzen
Cc: Swami Haribodhananda; pmc; Atma; Sarah Tetlow; Suryamitra; Yogasandhan; Gurubhatka
Subject: Re: Way forward with Victims - opinions sought

Hari Om,
 sorry for another email. I have only just read Haribodh's letter, which had got lost in the email chain. I think it's important that these things are said. His letter is honest and real. It says some things they won't like, but I'm not sure that we should sanitise everything. I also felt it was an important Sunday when Anandaratra and Haribodh spoke. That's what the process is for. As I said previously, I think the decision for this should be with Hb and Atma themselves, and in any communication I have with those writing to us, I would say that. If they are going to respond, it should happen quite quickly.

Ahimsa

On Tue, Apr 29, 2014 at 11:05 AM, Ahimsadhara Saraswati
ahimsadhara@REDACTED wrote:

hari Om,

There is no option of stopping now. Terry is getting direct requests for assistance from people who were at the group session. I have a response to yesterday's letter sent to me confidentially from a very troubled person who doesn't know where to turn, wants to forget it all, but how? This person is not aggressive or vindictive. I suggest we need to consult with Terry about how to proceed with a session for victims and relatives who are interested now that a little time has gone by and we are feeling out the post-easter scenario. We can only offer, and then it's up to them. The e-news is yet to go out. That will develop the process with teachers etc. It's like Terry said, it will be messy, you can't tie it up with a ribbon and pass it on.

I agree that we don't go into details of justifying the TF membership. However, if Haribodh and Atma are open to it perhaps I can suggest to Alecia, APV and Tim that that they call the person directly to discuss, so that there is no second hand conversation from our end and we have responded to their challenge, otherwise they will keep working up that issue amongst themselves and occasionally firing a volley at us. I do think it's worthwhile clearing those misconceptions and demonstrating that people change, they make mistakes, are sorry for them, manage to accept their own vulnerability and have the strength to keep growing in life and find ways of restoring their own balance. Also, that some of their info is wrong. I feel that this decision belongs to those concerned, not to the task force or mangrove.

If/when a session for victims is organised Mangrove needs to consider if it will offer to fund or part fund travel. If its to be at MM it should be when there aren't many people there. It would be worthwhile to start looking at possible dates, then we can put them to Terry, which will further narrow the options.

Om, Ahimsa

On Tue, Apr 29, 2014 at 9:38 AM, Bert Franzen <bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au> wrote:

Hello Haribodhananda

Thank you for your willingness to share your history with the victims. My view however is that it is not necessary for you to send anything to Aleacia. We're not in the business of justifying ourselves or more specifically - yourself. Otherwise you'll just be putting coal on the fire.

We do need some clarity from the Taskforce as to where from here however. Poornamurti in a couple of emails has proposed backing off. To quote him *"We do need to have referrals in place for anyone who approaches us but I do not think we should deliberately organise a group session for all concerned. I just do not think it is our business to keep re-cooking this pot. Why not just leave it? We cannot take responsibility for everybodys pain"*.

I on the other hand am for taking a proactive approach and providing a) support and b) open sessions for victims to meet with Terry and c) liaising with the victims , etc.

Would the rest of the taskforce please make their position clear. We need a consensus approach in how we move forward and we all need to be on the same page with the proposed plan from here. Please advise.

Can we also make sure that we cc Yogasandhan and Gurubhakta so they are across the issues when we hand-back to MM.

Kind regards

Bert

Bert Franzen

electAssociates | HR Consulting Specialists | Building 8 Level 2 | 49 Frenchs Forest Road | Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

T: 9454 7736 | M: REDACTED | F: 02 8088 6725 |    

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient you are hereby notified that any use, review, retransmission, dissemination, distribution, reproduction, or any action taken in reliance of this message is prohibited. If you receive this message in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from your computer.

From: Swami Haribodhananda [mailto:haribodhananda@REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 29 April 2014 8:33 AM
To: 'pmc'; 'Ahimsadhara Saraswati'; 'Atma'; 'Bert Franzen'; 'Sarah Tetlow'; 'Suryamitra'
Subject: RE: Fwd: Reply from APV

Hari Om All

When Aleacia raised my involvement with the TF I drafted a letter to her but have held off sending it. Now that it has been raised again, I will forward and amended version to you all later today. This is my first free day since starting my new job. APV's take on things is very inaccurate as to what actually happened. The conversation she said took place at Easter didn't happen. I spoke to APH (who to my knowledge wasn't a victim) after Terry's session (there were a couple of other people there as well) and we spoke about what we were both doing and her family, nothing about what was going on. I can't imagine APH would have said anything different to that.

Om
 Hb

From: pmc [mailto:pmc@REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 28 April 2014 11:21 PM
To: Ahimsadhara Saraswati; Atma; Bert Franzen; haribodhananda@REDACTED; Sarah Tetlow; Suryamitra
Subject: Re: Fwd: Reply from APV

There is a great deal of anger here. Often very misdirected.
 Most of what you say is ok, but it worries me that we are committing to more and more response to the anger.
 Can we hold this for a day and consider.

Om
 Pm

----- Original message -----

From: Ahimsadhara Saraswati
Date: 28/04/2014 10:18 AM (GMT+10:00)
To: Atma ,Bert Franzen ,haribodhananda@REDACTED ,Poornamurti ,Sarah Tetlow ,Suryamitra
Subject: Fwd: Reply from APV

Hari Om,

here is the letter from [APV], who is Tim's sister. I have replied to her in brief. My reply is copied into this email. In that reply I decided to address, in a small way, the issues she raised about Haribodha and Atma's presence on the task force. I think it's time for this as it keeps being raised. Alecia and [APV] have used virtually the same lines re Atma, and [APV] and Tim have described Haribodh in the same way (as a snake etc). I suspect there is a lot of venting and escalating of these grievances. These are people that they can 'get at' through their presence on the TF, and in the process question the credibility of the TF. This is understandable given the sensitivities. You will see from [APV]'s letter how reactive they are to any slight comment which touches their hurt, and that these same remarks are passed around the group, feeding the fire.

Now that we have made some progress I think a few specifics like this need defusing. Let's think about how to do this. I had meant to talk with Haribodh on Easter Monday about Tim's feelings about him being on the task force but he had gone. After Easter I needed a little down time from the intensity, so I did not follow up with Hb then. I think it very important that we move quite decisively towards a meeting of victims with Terry. Atma and I go to India on July 7th. It should happen before that. Once the victim's letter and the e-news go out, we should look at when and how.

Here is my reply to [APV] which will make more sense if you read her letter first:

Dear [APV]
 many thanks for your letter, which I have just read. This is not a complete reply, as that will take a little longer. However, I wanted to let you know that the ashram is preparing a complete report of the Easter weekend to be sent out as its e-news and made available through the website. It will be ready towards the end of the week. I've been asked to contribute, which I'll do today. I hope you trust me when I say there is no attempt or desire being made to hide the discussions or process that happened over Easter, it's just that some things take a little time and we also wanted to see what responses and feedback came in the following week.

A follow up email is also about to be sent to the abuse survivors that we have contact details for. I am hoping to send it tonight.

Re your concerns about Haribodh, this has been expressed by others and I am raising it with the group. I agree that this needs to be addressed openly. Having said that, whatever his past actions were, I do not believe that he has any other agenda now except to make a contribution to healing the wounds that go on. Otherwise he would certainly not have been asked to join the task force. It was considered in the beginning and his presence on it was questioned at the outset by the group itself. We were not unaware that it was controversial. We are not avoiding controversy: if we were, there would have been no facebook discussion and no Easter Sunday session. Perhaps his mistaken judgement in the past are a motivation to now help in the process of journeying towards a better place. I do not say that to in any way defend him, simply as a statement of my own observation. He was invited to participate as his first hand knowledge of the history is helpful to us, and he has described his own moment of realising the lie that Akhandananda was living and in which he had been involved. He never tries to justify what he did. I feel that what we are doing now cannot be complete without involvement of people like him, not necessarily on the task force, but in general, as there are so many strong feelings around those issues. Each of those people also has their own demons to face and our process is for them as well.

Re Swami Atmamuktananda, I will also ask her about what you say, as I feel she would want to speak for herself. I do know that she was in an extremely difficult position and still feels personal pain that she could not be more effective in the role Swami Satyananda had given her at Mangrove when she came back from India. She was not able to shift the bigger picture, as those in charge did not accept her in that role, but she did take some actions behind the scenes which prevented further mishandling of finances. You would not know about this, but I think it will be helpful at this stage for efforts such as hers that were made to halt the corruption to be made known.

Well, I have written more than I meant to, but only on matters I have little knowledge of already. I

thank you for your encouragement to me, and I offer the same to you. It's only through communication and collaborative effort that we can make progress.

Kind regards,
Ahimsa