

# Media Release

Tuesday, January 11, 2005

**EMBARGOED 2.20pm 11/1/05**

## **Police Arrest James Tatau in relation to the murder of Adam Dunning and the attempted murder of another three PPF Officers in Solomon Islands**

Police in the Solomon Islands have arrested 29 year old James Tatau wanted for questioning in relation to a number of matters including the shooting murder of Australian Federal Police Protective Service Officer Adam Dunning on 22 December 2004, the attempted murder of his colleague and the attempted murder of another two Participating Police Force (PPF) officers during a shooting on 21 October 2004.

Tatau was located in the village of Ro'one on the island of Small Malaita and arrested this morning during a special joint operation by Royal Solomon Island Police (RSIP) and the Participating Police Force (PPF).

The team of joint investigators has already identified Tatau as a person of interest and will be interviewing him today. It is expected that Tatau will be charged this afternoon with a number of offences including:

- 1 count of murder
- 3 counts of attempted murder and

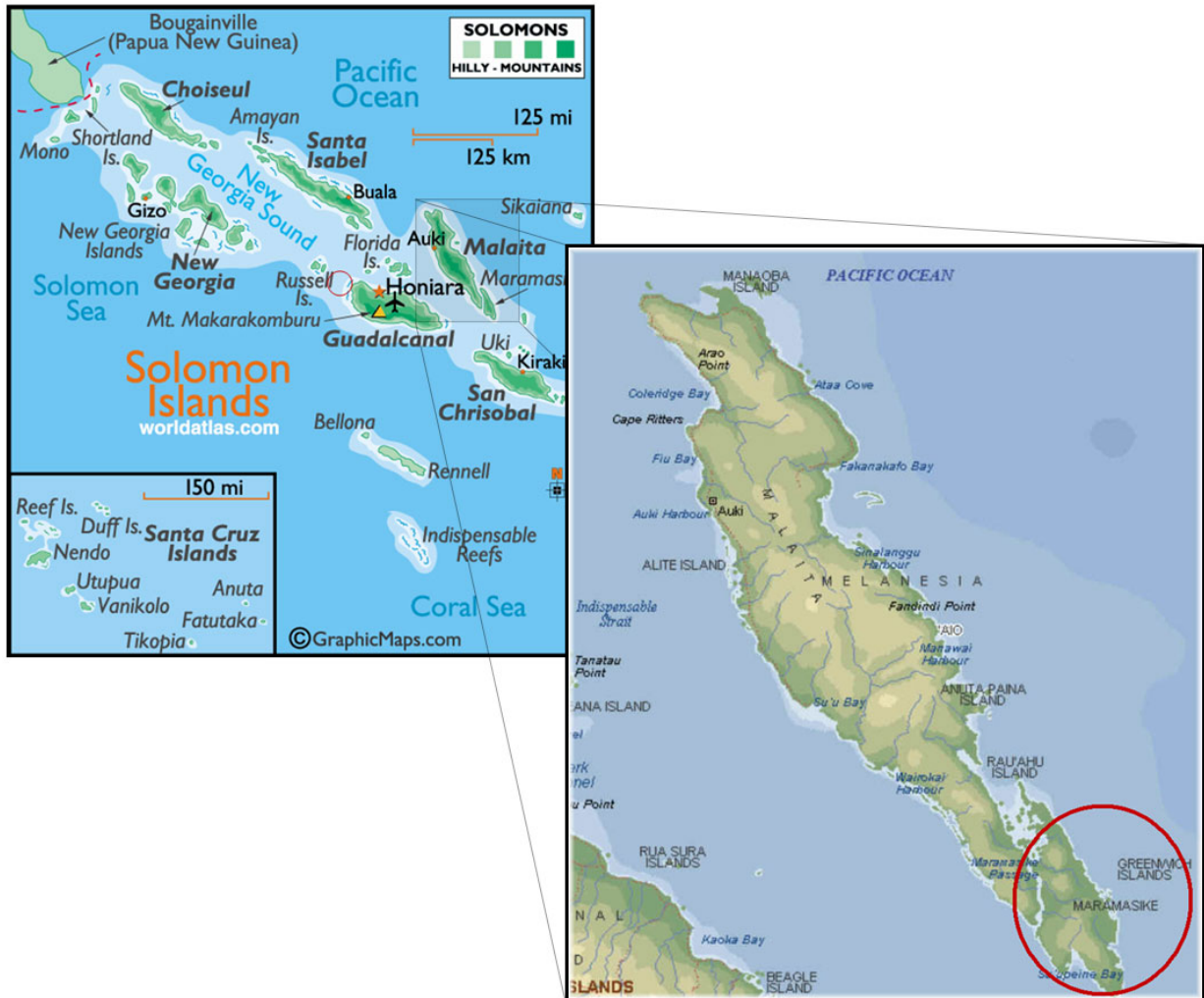
He will also be charged in relation to a number of other outstanding warrants.

Commissioner Keelty said today "this is a positive outcome for the Solomon Islands community and significantly advances the investigation into the murder of PSO Dunning and the attempted murder of another three Participating Police Force members. I congratulate the Royal Solomon Island Police and the Participating Police Force on the arrest of James Tatau"

The appeal to the Solomon Island community for information in relation to the shootings has also proved beneficial.

Commissioner Keelty said "the majority of Solomon Islanders welcome the presence of RAMSI to the Solomon Islands and the feedback we have received through the community supports that. The restoration of law and order to the Solomon Islands is critical in ensuring peace and prosperity for the Solomon Island community."

The investigation into the two shooting incidents continue and preparations of briefs of evidence for the court process.



ENDS

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