

Illegal night trapping reports by CABS and police response
– protocols of cases from Nov. and Dec 2015



DELIMARA

Two trapping sites found active at 4 different dates, both use Golden Plover callers

13/11/15 : 2.55AM reported to police, was told they couldn't come now but would come later.

15/11/15: 12.50AM reported to police, police said they would come. 1.20 AM arrived, said they were not equipped to deal with plus had flat tire, left to replace it said would call. Never did.

18/11/15: 12.40AM, police called were told they would come. 1 AM arrived, said it was too dangerous to go, not their job.

30/11/15: 1 AM reported to police, were told they had instructions not to go.

SIGGIEWI

Several active trapping sites, but one very close by with sensors which turn off electronic callers on site

20/11/15: 1.45 AM called police, said that they would meet team, 2AM arrived and told team not to come with, and they knew the site. Police only drove along road passed site, callers turned off. Police said no one there, despite suspect car nearby. They left.

30/11/12: 2.35 AM called police, said were understaffed would try to go later.

SANTA LUCIJA

One active trapping site very close to village, easy to access, electronic Golden Plover caller

7/12/15: 3.44 AM reported to police, would meet. Arrived 3.54 AM caller was off when went with police, they said too dangerous to go in filed to check trapping site.

12/12/15: 1.04 AM reported to police, said that they would come, 1.50 AM arrived, said it was too dangerous to enter field and not their job.

25/11/15 Bingemma Golden Plover and Lapwing caller

1.56 AM called police, Mosta said that patrol would meet team

2.25 AM called again, Mosta (other officer) said ALE were on duty and coming to meet us, but could not transfer us to them.

2.28 AM called Mosta, said no ALE on duty and that district police would meet us

2.45 AM police arrived. Told us they would not take action as not safe and not their job. Wanted to see site, drove down track to open field with trapping site next to us. Car there next to hide and nets and trapper in hide. Police wanted to go, trapper then closed the nets in front of us. Team left and police said they would inform ALE in the morning.

6/12/15 Benghisa Golden Plover caller

12.40 AM called police, said they would phone back.

1.18 AM police phoned back and arranged to meet team.

1.25 AM police arrived, team showed them the site, callers had been switched off, went to site, nets on ground, car next to it, could not see into hide, police said it was not safe to go into field.

6/12/15 Buskett Cart Ruts Golden Plover caller

3.53 AM called police, they were busy would try to come later.

7/12/15 Gudja Wader caller at trapping site

1.45 AM called police (Zurrieq)-not their area
1.48 AM phoned Zejtun, no answer
1.49 AM Phoned Zejtun hung up
1.53 AM phoned Zejtun – said to meet team at Ta Loreto Chapel
2.22 AM arrived, callers switched off in the meantime, police said would come later

8/12/15 Salina Golden Plover, Lapwing and duck callers (4 active trapping sites)

12.43 AM phoned police, they were busy and would phone us
1.30 AM arrived to meet us, we explained where the sites were, they said they were busy and it was not safe to go into fields.

9/12/15 San Rafu, Gozo Golden Plover, Wader, Lapwing, Dotterel callers (4 active trapping sites)

1.40 AM called police, would phone back
2.30 AM phoned police, told they would be there soon
2.56 AM police arrived, said they have no torches and car would not get up track, said job for ALE
5.53 AM received call to say ALE on the way, could not see police, callers were off.
7.22 AM police arrived and said that they have been busy with other cases, did not want to check callers sites found by team.

10/12/15 Mtahleb Golden Plover, Lapwing, Wader and duck caller, calling from trapping site

1.15 AM reported to police, they would come
2.30 AM arrived but too dangerous to go in at night, wanted to meet at 1pm next day when next on duty.
1.15 PM showed police the area, caller off- team was told later that ALE did a search in early morning and found a caller in nearby field.

18/11/15 Gharghur Golden Plover and Lapwing caller on trapping site

2.15 AM called police, said they would come
2.55 AM called police, said they are busy on other duties
Police arrived 3.16 AM went on site, found callers on the trapping site, trapper not there then, plastic decoys of GP and lapwing. Said not their job and to call ALE at 5 AM.
5 AM called ALE, said that they would come. Callers switched off at 5.30 AM.
6 AM ALE arrived, went on site, trapper there, issued charges as had Lapwing plastic decoys (non trappable species)

12/12/15 San Martin Golden Plover caller

3.10 AM phoned police, were busy but would come later
4.13 AM arrived, said it was too far away and not their job to do

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13/12/15 Majjstral nature & history park (Manika), Golden Plover and Lapwing caller

12.08 AM called police, Mosta said to call Qawra, said didn't know the place

12.10 AM called Qawra police, never heard of Majjstral Park, don't know where it is. Said it's not their job but would call back.

12.48 AM called Qawra again, said not coming, they would inform ALE in the morning

OTHER SITES

There were also twelve other sites with callers but were switched off before we could phone the police.

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