

RAPBS CALL TO ACCOUNT 2015

Researchers Against Pacific Black Sites call the Australian State to account for grave human rights violations perpetrated against people seeking asylum and refugees.

1. I call you to account for a policy of calculated cruelty towards around 1500 children, women and men imprisoned in conditions of extreme hardship and damage to their physical and mental health in off shore prisons on Manus Island and Nauru.
2. I call you to account for the killing in custody of Reza Barati, a Kurdish man from Iran, aged 23, on Manus Island.
3. I call you to account for the death of Hamid Khazaei, a Kurdish man from Iran, age 23, who contracted septicaemia in the deliberately squalid and unsanitary conditions of Australia's detention camp on Manus Island and who died after being airlifted with organ failure.
4. I call you to account for the death by burning of Tamil man, Leo Seemanpillai, age 29. Placed in the intolerable suspension of a temporary visa, Leo chose to die by fire rather than living in constant fear of being returned to the country from whence he had fled.
5. I call you to account for the trauma of Abyan, 23 year old Somali refugee who became pregnant as a consequence of rape under our care, and was subjected to public shame and exposure by our treatment.
6. I call you to account for the sexual assault of Arezo, by medical staff who were supposed to care for her. She was later subjected to the terror of a forcible midnight removal and return to Nauru.
7. I call you to account for the horrific and despairing death of Khodyar Amini. Khoydyar set himself alight to escape his intolerable situation and called on us to bear witness to his suffering and anguish. The night before his death he stated, "Yes they did this to me... sentenced me to death. My crime was that I was a refugee. They tortured me for 37 months and during all these times, they treated me in the most cruel and inhumane way. They violated my basic human right and took away my human dignity... They killed me as well as many of my friends."
8. I call you to account for the forced separation of families, with partners sometimes detained in separate facilities, sometimes one onshore and one offshore, and for the trauma of breaking up families by placing one part of the family in the community while keeping the other in detention.

9. I call you to account for the conditions of violence, filth and despair inflicted on the recognised refugees of Fly Camp, Nauru, where they lack adequate water, proper sanitary conditions, medical care, safe working conditions for the few able to find work, and any possibility to live full and decent lives.
10. I call you to account for the scandal that compels the families of the refugees and asylum seekers who have been killed or have died in your custody to pay for the cost of repatriating the bodies of their loved ones in order for them to receive proper burials.
11. I call you to account for the suicide attempts of children as young as five years of age in fear of being returned to the hellish conditions of the camp on Nauru.
12. I call you to account for the denial of medical treatment for refugees such as the 11 year-old boy who waited over a month for treatment for a broken arm and the 27 year-old man on Nauru also with a broken arm. The man was unable to access treatment at the local hospital and was without adequate pain relief for days. After more than a month inappropriate surgery was performed on him and he now lives with ongoing pain and damage to his arm.
13. I call you to account for the systemic sexual harassment of women and girls in the detention camps by those bound to protect them. As recently reported by *The Saturday Paper*, on Nauru, there is a war on refugee and asylum seeking women. Some refugee women sleep in their jeans each night so as to minimize the possibility of rape.
14. I call you to account for the punitive targeting of the courageous refugees who defy regimes of censorship and silence in order to report human rights abuses against their fellow detainees.
15. I call you to account for establishing the torture chamber on Manus known as the Chauka, where detainees experience threats of rape as well as beatings and other forms of torture.
16. I call you to account for the ongoing threats against Behnam, the room mate and close friend of Reza Barati, who was tortured, threatened with death and has been placed in unsafe threatening situations since his friend's murder. The ongoing death threats leave him hyper vigilant and tormented, unable to sleep, his legs shaking uncontrollably.
17. I call you to account for the forced deportations and returns of asylum seekers back to their countries of origin wracked by war, violence, persecution and torture.
18. I call you to account for your scandalous treatment of the men living in the transit centre in East Lorengau, on Manus Island. These men have been recognised as refugees yet you have denied them the rights to work, study or move off the island. Most remain locked in their rooms paralysed by fear after witnessing and being the victims of the attacks on the detention camp where Reza Barati was murdered.

19. I call you to account for the rape of gay men, the ignoring of the use of young boys for sex and the return of these boys and gay men to the same compound where their rapists remain. Across these refugee camps, it is clear that you use these violent tactics of intimidation and abuse to force people to return to their countries of origin.
20. I call you to account for robbing asylum seeker and refugee children of their right to a safe and fulfilling childhood. I call you to account for transferring children under 18 years of age to the unlivable conditions of Manus Island contrary to international standards under your proof of age procedure.
21. I call you to account for the death of Fazel Chegani, age 23, on Christmas Island. He was sent there following a sentence that the WA the West Australian Supreme Court found excessive and subsequently overturned. Yet Fazel was condemned to life imprisonment because of this decision.
22. I call you to account for the travesty of medical care provided in the prison camps on Manus and Nauru, where the damage and illness suffered by inmates is compounded, not cured.
23. I call you to account for placing asylum seekers in cage conditions on Christmas Island after the unexplained death of the refugee, Fazel Chegani.
24. I call you to account for licensing your Emergency Response Teams to attack and charge asylum seekers and refugees with batons, as though they were criminals.
25. I call you to account for the use of dog squads and late night raids to intimidate and violently move people from one detention centre to another.
26. I call you to account for the forcible transfer of children to Bravo compound on Christmas Island and for the assault of these child asylum seekers. Film footage shows some of these children screaming with fear and resisting Serco officers as they are being forcibly moved, held in throat locks, wrists bent back and forced to the ground by as many as four ERT officers at a time.
27. I call you to account for the death by hanging of Reza, age 26, in Brisbane. He said: "I am tired. Always police and people follow me... Tell my family."
28. I call you to account for the multiple rapes suffered by Nazanin, age 23, on Nauru and for her repeated subsequent suicide attempts that put her life at risk.
29. I call you account for the cruel, inhuman and degrading conditions inflicted on Nazanin's brother, Omid, age 20, who, in attempting to assist his sister after her violent sexual assault, was forcibly pinned to the ground by guards, beaten and thrown into a urine-soaked cell as punishment.

30. I call you to account for the torturous separation of Nazanin from her mother and the subsequent irreversible trauma that this has induced in both women.
31. I call you to account for stifling the voices of writers, poets and human rights activists, such as Behrouz Boochani, Eaten Fish and many more. You rob them, and you rob us all, of their creativity and passion.
32. I call you to account for those you have driven into mental illness and irreparable breakdown by imprisoning them in conditions of violence, abuse and despair.
33. I call you to account for the anguish inflicted on the loved ones who are compelled to watch their family members and friends self-destruct as they stand by powerless to help them.
34. I call you to account for the forced deportation of an asylum seeker who was driven mad by the regime of abuse and assaults he was compelled to endure and who was handcuffed, taken from the Manus camp and forced to return to Iran.
35. I call you to account for the failure to provide necessary equipment, facilities and communication aids for people living with disabilities in detention.
36. I call you to account for a man who became a paraplegic due to the beatings and shooting he experienced on Manus; and for another man who lost his eye.
37. I call you to account for the sexual assault of women in Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation and for the sexualised violence of the so-called “pat downs” now regularly undertaken whenever anyone leaves a detention centre to go to a doctor’s appointment.
38. I call you to account for the beating and assault of a pregnant woman in Melbourne Immigration Detention Accommodation which led to her baby being born prematurely and her being hospitalised and returned to detention, forced to live alongside the group of men and women who assaulted her and continue to threaten her.
39. I call you to account for ignoring the epidemic of TB amongst those on Nauru, particularly children, which has gone untreated and which the authorities continue to deny.
40. I call you to account for the threat of imprisonment of health and welfare personnel who bear witness to detention abuses and speak out in accordance with ethical duty. The UN recently deferred a visit to some of our offshore camps because the workers there were not allowed to report what would be acknowledged as crimes against children in Australia.
41. I call you to account for the suffering and institutionalization of people and their families held under ASIO negative findings, such as Ranjini and her three young children. She was found to be falsely accused after 7 years.
42. I call you to account for the imprisonment of up to 100 men in the Manus Island Prison without charge whilst on hunger strike in Manus Island detention centre.

43. I call you to account for the 33 accounts of sexual assault of children in immigration detention in Australia between the dates of January 2013 and March 2014. I hold you to account for the numerous sexual assaults that go unreported.
44. I call you to account for the imprisonment of women, men and children in the Nauru prison as a result of refugees engaging in peaceful protests.
45. I call you to account for the death of Kurdish man and poet Omid Ali Avaz, 29 by suicide in 2015 after having borne the uncertainty of detention, community detention and a bridging visa since he arrived in 2011.
46. I call you to account for the death of Hazara, Afghan man Raza in Perth in 2015. A loving happy man whose mental health deteriorated significantly whilst in limbo on a bridging visa.
47. I call you to account for the death by drowning of Rezene Mebrahta Engeda, 30 year old, Eritrean man, in the Maribynong river after being notified of the failure of his asylum application and being asked to attend an appointment with DIBP where he believed he would be deported.
48. I call you to account for the death of Ali Ahmad Jaffari, 26 year old Hazara man and artist, in Villawood detention centre in 2013 after a heart attack. Concerns of failure to provide medical assistance remain. Ali was an artist.
49. I call you to account for the death of Mohammad Nasim Najafi, a young Afghan Hazara man who died in the Yongah Hill Immigration Detention Centre in 2015. It has been reported that on the night of his death repeated requests were made for an ambulance however it did not arrive until it was too late. Witnesses stated that Serco officers just laughed at Nasim as his life slipped away from him.
50. I call you to account for declaring babies born to women who have arrived in Australia by boat to be 'unauthorised maritime arrivals' and without nationality, thus rendering them stateless.
51. I call you to account for forcing some of the asylum seeking and refugee women interred on Nauru who become pregnant to terminate their pregnancies as, having experienced the unlivable conditions on Nauru, they do not believe their babies will survive in the same conditions they themselves are forced to endure.
52. I call you to account for forcing men who attend the birth of their children to do so in handcuffs whilst also forcing the women giving birth to undergo the indignity of having guards in attendance at the birth.

53. I call you to account for the forced removal of baby Asha, at the age of 4 months, and of her parents, to Australia's detention camp on Nauru. Both her parents were handcuffed for 16 hours and baby Asha separated from her parents for at least 5 hours. Asha and her parents are one of a growing number you have placed in this situation.
54. I call you to account for the difficulty many mothers in detention have in breast feeding due to the traumatic effects of detention and the resultant use of psychotropic medications, causing difficulty in producing sufficient milk -- and for the consequent health effects on their children.
55. I call you to account for detaining 157 Tamil men, women and children on the High Seas for almost a month in 2014.
56. I call you to account for forcibly returning people seeking asylum to whence they have come through forced turn backs of boats that have reached Australian waters.
57. I call you to account for the attempted suicide of up to 11 children referred to as unaccompanied minors held in Australia's detention camp on Nauru in September 2014.
58. I call you to account for the ongoing violent assaults that the children now referred to as unaccompanied refugee minors are subject to on Nauru as you refuse to uphold your duty of care to these children under your international obligations as signatory to Rights of the Child and the Refugee Conventions.
59. I call you to account for the abduction and torture of Zainullah Naser by the Taliban after he was refouled by Australia to Afghanistan in August 2014.
60. I call you to account for putting the lives of people at further risk and causing further suffering through the confiscation of, and destruction of medicines and medical aides from people arriving in Australia by boat. This includes the confiscation of hearing aids from a young boy who later self-harmed.
61. I call you to account for the confiscation of parts of a prosthetic leg, the confiscation of prescription glasses without replacement for up to 15 months and the destruction of medication belonging to a three year old girl on her arrival in Christmas Island, resulting in her suffering uncontrolled epileptic seizures which continued as officials delayed sourcing adequate medication.
62. I call you to account for the depersonalising and dissociative effects of calling people by numbers, resulting in most children and many adults in immigration detention referring to themselves as numbers rather than by their own names.
63. I call you to account for the attempted suicide by drowning of an 8 months pregnant Somali woman recognised as a refugee on Nauru in 2015. A fellow refugee on Nauru stated at the

time: “Like all of us, she is under too much pressure from Australian immigration. In our situation, this sort of reaction becomes natural.”

64. I call you to account for the attempted suicide of a teenage girl who had been brought to Darwin from Nauru after reported sexual assaults. The girl jumped from the balcony of a Darwin detention centre sustaining significant injuries, including a broken pelvis.
65. I call you to account for the separation of Latifa from her new born baby in late 2013. Latifa is a woman seeking asylum interred on Nauru who was flown to Brisbane due to her high risk pregnancy. Latifa gave birth by caesarean in a Brisbane hospital and four days later was returned to BITA. Her baby had respiratory problems and needed 24 hour medical care so remained in the hospital. Latifa was only allowed to visit her baby between 10am and 4pm, thus separated from the newborn for 18 hours each day. Her husband was not allowed to visit the baby at all.
66. I call you to account for the ‘appalling lack of medical supplies’* at the Manus detention camp when children were first sent there in 2013 as reported by ABC Four Corners. Some of the children sent there were known to suffer from anaphylaxis, one had a mass in his neck, another was suffering from anemia and had a history of needing blood transfusions. Dr John Valentine*, who worked at the camp at the time, said “From early on I was sending lists both through my health services manager up there and directly to the medical staff of IHMS in Sydney saying, ‘look, we desperately need this stuff. Stuff being oxygen, antibiotics, bladder catheters, suckers, tracheotomy equipment, anesthetic agents, sedatives, morphine, ketamine, and these things didn’t arrive...The whole time I was there it was just a disaster, medically.”
67. I call you to account for the death of a 33 year old Papua New Guinean man detained in Villawood Detention Centre who reportedly ‘fell’ out of a hospital window in Sydney’s southwest in 2013. The man was being treated at the hospital and had threatened to jump from the window.
68. I call you to account for the death by suicide in January 2013 of a Tamil man in Perth in limbo on a bridging visa who feared deportation.
69. I call you to account for abuse of a young boy of 8 years by four Wilson Security guards, contracted by you, on Nauru who cuffed the boy’s wrists using cable ties as a ‘joke’. The boy was also later the victim of a reported sexual assault while in detention on Nauru.
70. I call you to account for the death by miscarriage of Elham’s unborn baby on Christmas Island in 2013. Elham had requested medical assistance for weeks leading up to the miscar-

riage to no avail. Staff at the Christmas Island hospital said that had she been brought for medical care earlier the miscarriage would probably have been avoided.

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Call to Account, Mrs Macquarie's Chair, Sydney, 12pm, 10th December 2015

Readers:

Iqbal Barkat
Diane Busuttill
Kokila De Silva
Teresa Di Somma
Marcus Eckermann
Amala Groom
John Highfield
Marcello Messina
Lara Palombo
Joseph Pugliese
Al Poulet
Vincent Tay

Call to Account, City Square, Melbourne, 6.30pm, 10th December 2015

Readers:

Nick Theodopolous
Kobra Moradi
Dr Helen Driscoll
Hannah Patchett
Mohammad Baqiri
Arnold Zable
Janet Galbraith
Kylie Supski
Tri Setyani
Melita Luck

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Call to Account, Round House, Fremantle, 12 noon, 13th December 2015

Readers:

Uncle Ben Taylor
Robin Barrington
Michelle Bui
Dean Chan
Caroline Fleay
Sheng Huang
Chris Lewis
Leonie Lundy
Christopher Macfarlane

Victoria Martin
Susan Newby
Marc Newhouse
Baden Offord
Melissa Parke
Kaliyugan Pathmanathan
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