

LETTER TO THE UNHCR FROM A MAN INCARCERATED IN OUR BLACK SITE ON MANUS ISLAND, PNG.

Respected United Nations Of Human Rights.

First of all we offer gratitude from the core of our hearts for your help and determined services towards the helpless refugees detained here at Manus Regional Processing Centre, before I humbly request about our Freedom and Rights which have been taken by Australian Immigration as we have become Political Prisoners in the 'great debate' between opposition and present politicians.

Please know that when I speak of 'the government' or 'immigration', I am referring to the Australian government and Australian immigration.

1: Manus Island Regional Processing Centre Papua New Guinea. The Manus Island RPC has been found to be illegal under the PNG constitutional law.

Manus Island Papua New Guinea.

Imagine a large and real cage in a most isolated island, surrounded by ocean and jungle and tall coconut trees. No doubts our prison is the most beautiful place or prison in the world. I'm not exaggerating. Manus Island is small and rugged, covered in a thick jungle and the coastline is stunning.

FORCIBLY MOVED BY AUSTRALIA TO PNG

We have no fixed date to speak of our arrival on Christmas Island as we are from different boats, but all of us arrived after the 19th of July 2013. After our arrivals to Christmas Island the Australian immigration, and their contractors SERCO, moved us here to MIRPC. They told us that we would be processed here as no one came to MIRPC willingly. At the time G4S & Salvation Army were the service providers but

they always threatened us and pretended to the immigration. No one was kind to us and no one ever cared about us.

## FEBRUARY 2014 AND TREATMENT OF DETAINEES

In February, 2014 there were riots which started from a peaceful protest and that seemed to be imposed by G4S & instructed by the immigration, where as the PNG immigration was used as a catalyst. The detainees were not willing to make such a chaotic environment but the G4S did. That riot resulted in loss of a life of Raza Barati and too many injured as many of us were beaten by local security guards, police and others living in the neighbourhood of the camp. After that incident the Australian and PNG Government, the courts, the international human rights agencies and UN did nothing for us.

From March 2014 until now the service providers are the Transfield service limited & Wilson security. They also have the same approach to treating the detainees as they were also pre-instructed by the immigration in order to compel us to go back to the countries of our origin. Many of us arrived without our families and these refugees never wanted to be here and are mostly desperate to go out and go anywhere except back to where they come from. These men have fled war, chilling acts of torture, threats of death or profound discrimination. Many of them have made the desperate decision to make a perilous journey from Indonesia or other countries including Sri Lanka, to Australia. "No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark", writes Warsan Shire and this is true.

## WE ARE A TOOL IN THE GAME OF POLITICS

We might have sought a new life in one of the world's richest countries but they have taken us hostage and taken us to another country - we have washed up in of the poorest country of the world. The government have taken out most of the other people's from Christmas island to the Australian mainland even though many of us were on the same boat. We know we did not commit a crime but Australia says that

we have. If that is so then why treat us differently. The people who were taken to the Australian mainland also had committed the same crime as us of seeking asylum.

Here on this occasion, again there is discrimination. From whom should we ask about this injustice? There is no one to give a satisfactory answer. The very important thing is that the immigration keep us in the dark & never told us about the real situations & programs for our freedom. They have only one answer for all of our questions that that is that they only know that we will be resettled in PNG. They avoid us and any of our questions. We are completely uncertain about our future and in a limbo. After almost 3 years we still do not know if we will be freed or kept forever behind these fences.

We are left with only one source of news and that is the internet. But from the very first days its observed that the Australian & PNG governments are regularly changing there statements and using us as a tool for playing the game of politics. It's as nothing just to torture us. The government is well aware of all this but they still insist to lengthen the duration of our life on this hell.

## SERVICE PROVIDERS, FOOD, HEALTH, OVERCROWDING

In my humble opinion the most serious problem is the devious dishonest role of Broadspectrum (Transfields), Wilson Security and International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) who are playing intricate games to ensure the conditions for serious torture and traumatising of us, mentally, physically and psychologically. I am going to give some light to these punitive and traumatic issues. Since the first of us were sent to PNG, all of the detainees are suffering from different mental & physical problems. There are hundreds of physical health cases, skeletal, muscular, nervous, dermatological, peptic , cardio , renal, dental & ENT (ear nose throat) etc.

Besides this, hundreds of us are on regulars medication of anti depression and sleeping pills. Many of us can't even survive without medication. These medicines

have become sort of drugs to many as they are now addicted to them. Apart from the medications many of the transferees are also addicted to marijuana and self made alcohol poison.

I can give you a big example of the torture that we experience if I talk of Hamid Khazaei who died because of bureaucratic delay which meant he did not get the treatment he needed, was not flown to a hospital where he could get help and passed away 30 hours afterwards from a skin infection on his leg. He was said to be brain dead even before he got to the Brisbane hospital.

The food provided to us is often found to be contaminated with worms . Fruit juice, milk and others diary products are often found to be expired as well. Sometimes a whole compound of people get very sick from the food. Often the food is not edible. Often there is no enough food if you are the last persons to the mess.

The accommodation in our over-crowded rooms is really stressful and painful. Some people go crazy. Imagine never having any privacy. Imagine never having any place where you can have solitude. What truly horrible lives they must lead. They have kept us, more than 40 refugees, in a single room, which is totally degrading and humiliating. Living in different communities in one room is a very tiresome job to handle.

Overcrowded compounds or dormitories affect us socially, physically and psychologically. The overcrowding creates many problems from the fast spread of skin and respiratory and bacterial illnesses to a feeling of going crazy as we have no privacy, no space for our own mental self-care. It's really a very hard job for detainees to keep themselves healthy and to stay sane. We are detrimentally affected from so many angles. Lack of privacy is linked to depression and anxiety. We lose our perception of what options of future there could be. Some of us have psychological frustration, which, in truth, has a bearing on our behavioural responses and ability

to cope with conditions. Lack of personal privacy, exposure to other's behaviour and personal activities, limited space - all of this moves us towards limited thinking.

## SECURITY ROLE

There are around 900 detainees in MIRPC and more or less 500 detainees have been declared as refugees. The people declared to be refugees have been kept in two compounds i.e Oscar and Delta. Those people who they have not assessed yet, or those who have refused to submit their claims to PMG immigration have been separated and isolated and kept in Mike and Foxtrot compounds respectively.

The role of Security in MIRPC is to provide safety and security. The treatment of Wilson securities personnels towards transferees is also ill as on many occasions they use harsh words and make a lots of asylum seekers and refugees mentally sick. We are tortured and have to tolerate these people while just wanting the basic rights of refugees. There is 1000 complaints with Management against Security's actions and behaviour. Some of the security guards are totally mentally sick and take out all the frustration on asylum seekers because their friends were killed during the war from where they came from. The most Important things is favoritism in security. You can't complain on security because if you do then his friends will take a revenge for his friend. "We say all fingers is not same but in Manus island all fingers is same"

## REQUEST FROM HONOURABLE OHCHR.

I need Help for more than 900 hundred asylum seekers. As you all know, on 26 April Papua New Guinea Supreme court ruled detention of asylum seekers on Manus is illegal. The Supreme court found it to be in breach of the country's constitution. Still, Australian politicians and government breaches Human Rights law, refusing to take us. To illegally detain us in the black sites of Manus and torture us for almost three years must be paid now by the government of Australia who forcibly

brought us to PNG and detained us contrary of ours rights of personal liberty under PNG constitution.

The United Nations is the last run of my hope. If you want, as the world's biggest human rights body you can affect Australia and force them to take us back, to process our claims for asylum under international law that they have signed and to give us the human rights that every person deserves.

Australia detained us illegally, according to the PNG constitution. You can sue them in ICC for breaching human rights laws.

We are all hoping here without any hopes but still I am thankful to those who are supporting us in Australia and always fight for our rights. I am thankful to all organisation who are trying make humanity alive. I am thankful to lawyers who takeout their experience and time and fight for us.

It's very hard to fights with a government when you are hopeless and your hands are tied by the authorities. I can only use a few words of a poet here.

Give us some sunshine.

Give us some rain.

Give us another chance

We want to grow

once again.

Thank you.

With Regards

J. Roy

Manus Regional Processing Centre

9 May 2016

