

Dr. U Ne Oo

Email: uneoodelaide @ gmail.com

15 December 2015

Hon. Richard Marles, MP
Member for Corio
17A Yarra Street
Geelong VIC 3220
Facsimile: (03) 5222-4505

Re: future of Asylum seekers detained in Nauru and PNG

Dear Hon. Richard Marles:

I am U Ne Oo, an Australian of Burmese Origin and also the founder and secretary of Network for International Protection of Refugees (netipr.org). I have been engaged in human rights campaigns for Burma as well as those of refugee in Australia since 1992, soon after the completion of degree at Adelaide University.

I am writing to you regarding with the prolonged detention of asylum seekers in the Republic of Nauru and Independent State of Papua New Guinea. I understand that Australian Government made a unilateral decision, i.e. without making consultations with UNHCR, to send those asylum seekers to offshore detention centres. I am seeking clarifications on the Australian Labor Party's policy position as regards to those asylum seekers.

No doubt you are aware current Liberal/Coalition Government's initiatives in trying to resolve the issues of those asylum seekers offshore. I take it that initiatives such as Cambodian resettlement deals are made purely for publicity purpose. However, some of the initiative seems to me a bit more substantive in nature. For example, few months ago, Julie Bishop went to Iran, asking that country to have taken back some Iranian asylum seekers. Again last month, the Coalition Government was seen approaching the Government of Philippines to have asylum seekers transferred.

My question to you, as the spokesperson for Australian Labor Party in these matters, is exactly what are the ALP's position as regards to those asylum seekers detained in Nauru and PNG? Is ALP going to keep them in a continue detention ? Or are they going to be re-screen and bring back to Australia ? Or is ALP planning the case-load in the whole lot to hand over to the UNHCR ?

I am seeking an honest and straight-forward answers from you as regards those asylum seekers. As you see, I live in Ryde and in the last election, me and my wife had voted for Australian Labor Party candidate whom we didn't even know the name in person; but assuming the ALP might be better option for all those asylum seekers and migrants. However, given the ALP's recent stance on issues such as boat turn back policies, we needed to be better informed about the Australian Labor Party's policy position.

Things in Nauru and PNG are very disturbing to me personally, and as I said, I am seeking an honest and straight-forward answers from you. Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,



(U Ne Oo)

cc. Hon. Melissa Parke, ALP, Western Australia.



Network for International Protection of Refugees

COMMUNICATIONS

The Cowards of Australia:

<https://www.facebook.com/netipr.netipr/posts/1651413078462761>

In these days and age of sophisticated and widely connected global media, the news items come and go with the rolling screens of my facebook page. Of course, we routinely rant about our political leaders just like on following FB postings. Many express their disgust about the exploitative nature of Scott Morrison's comment as: bigoted, racist, idiotic and so forth (all 67 comments, I believe). One netter's expression of disgust on this particular instance certainly struck right up my mind: A COWARD.

I've looked up the meaning of 'coward' in the dictionary. It's "A person who lacks courage in facing danger, difficulty, opposition, pain etc..." In Old English, its meaning is even more vivid: A frightened animal with its tail between its legs. Either way, this word certainly fits our politicians when it comes to the policy on refugees.

The racists and bigots are fundamentally cowards. This is because, having no courage to stand tall and be alone, they're trying to side with the 'majority' or 'winning side', which they felt more secure. In political projection, those cowards would rather go along with the 'majority opinion' than what was a right thing to do.

The bullying and scapegoating are the outcome of cowardice. Normally, a coward will hide its weakness by the expression of force, use of violence, making threat and intimidation [sic. a frightened dog with its tail curled into two legs usually sneer its teeth]. Historically (http://www.netipr.org/saorg/NetIPR_20020726_SenateSubmission.pdf) and of current, the Australian Government's legal bullying of refugees is an evidence of weakness. They (Australian Government) know those boatpeople are genuine refugees. If proper legal procedure were to be conducted, Australia would have to accept majority of them. To those boatpeople, the Australian government therefore put up legal barriers (bullying); use indefinite & offshore detention (use of violence and threat) and threaten them to transfer to a third country (use of threat and intimidation).

Whilst the Australian Government as a whole showed its cowardice, the individual politicians certainly fits in the definition of a 'Coward'. A coward, who having no courage to reveal or to face the 'truth' simply LIED. The conduct of government ministers on recent bribery cases to Indonesian people smugglers, indeed, is the act of cowardice. A thief will never say he steals. Nor a criminal will never admit to breaking the law. The Cowards will lie, lie and make more lies to you.

My friends, all that is left to our task that those cowards be exposed and condemned.

In Solidarity, U Ne Oo, Sydney.

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