

Dr U Ne Oo, Ph. D.
E: uneoodelaide[AT]gmail.com

Dated: 5th February 2017

Hon. John Alexander MP
Federal Member for Bennelong
44 Oxford Street
Epping NSW 2121

Dear Hon. John Alexander,

re: Evacuate the Asylum-seekers from Offshore Detention Centres

I am U Ne Oo, a resident from Ryde area and I am the coordinator of the *Network for International Protection of Refugees* – a self-help and self-funded grassroots refugee rights campaign network -- focusing on the situations of refugees in Asia-Pacific region, including Australia. I live and work to support myself here in Sydney as a full-time sub-contract cleaner.

Firstly, I attached with this letter a **REPORT-CARD** and a **POST-CARD** dedicated for the Australian Government, of which the notes I prepared over last few months concerning with the situation of refugees in Australia. I respectfully ask your kind assistance for that two reports to be brought to the attention of the Prime Minister and your parliamentary member colleagues of the Liberal party.

Secondly, I call upon you and the Australian government's attention to the plights of asylum-seekers detained offshore for nearly four years. It is evident that these asylum-seekers are Australia's responsibility and I therefore ask Australian government to take immediate step to evacuate these asylum-seekers to Australia.

In this regards, I enclosed a combined statement being made by the 70 humanitarian organisations via Refugee Council of Australia. I emphasize that the *Network for International Protection of Refugees* is not part of any of those organisations. But I fully endorse their views and that, as such, I am supporting their call for a bipartisan motion to be made at the parliament to evacuate the asylum-seekers who are detained in Manus Island and Nauru.

You'll be in no doubt, I am disappointed with both LNP government and Labour Party on this refugee detention issue. As you have rightly noted on your website, every one in Australian political circle nowadays seems to be on to the race to the bottom so as to catch the bigger prize. As the recent debacle on the so-called US-Australia refugee swap deal has demonstrated, if the Australian government continues to twist the facts and ignore the truth in order to avoid Australia's responsibility, that will prone to cause even more chaos and disasters. It is time for Australian Government to do the right things re: asylum-seekers detained offshore. I ask you and your colleagues to initiate bipartisan motion to evacuate those asylum-seekers in Manus Island and Nauru.

In closing, I thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours respectfully and sincerely,



(U Ne Oo)

Copy:

1. Senator Marise Payne, Liberal Senator for NSW, Level 3, 2-12 Macquarie Street PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Statement calling for immediate action on offshore detention

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/media/open-statement-calling-immediate-action-offshore-detention/>

3rd February 2017

We, as a coalition of organisations and community groups from around Australia, are writing to express our concern regarding the humanitarian crisis that Australia has created.

Successive Australian governments have managed and funded offshore detention camps on Manus Island and Nauru. The people detained there are clearly Australia's responsibility. This situation has reached crisis point, and immediate action must be taken.

Beyond the reports of physical and sexual abuse, including of children; inadequate medical attention; suicides and attempted suicides; even a murder; the extinguishment of hope has pushed people to the edge.

Many of these people have been recognised as refugees. We owe them protection and safety now.

Meanwhile, politicians are spending years engaged in lengthy negotiations as to the fate of these men, women and children. With the US resettlement deal in serious doubt, the most obvious and humane solution is to clear the camps and bring these people to Australia until a safe long term, appropriate outcome for them can be guaranteed.

We do not have years. Australia cannot allow another person to die or suffer because of our actions.

This is a crisis. We are calling on both major parties to form a bipartisan commitment to immediately evacuate the camps and bring these people to safety.

Signed,

The Refugee Council of Australia

Academics for Refugees