

Project SafeCom News and Updates

Saturday, June 30, 2018

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1. Hoping for \$2000 for families separated at the US border, they raised over \$10 million

The Age
By Darlena Cunha & Avi Selk
20 June 2018 — 6:27pm

It began with the smallest possible quantity of optimism, which turns out to be \$US1500 (\$2030).

Charlotte and Dave Willner had seen the pictures of migrant children crying at the border. One in particular reminded them of their own two-year-old daughter.

The San Francisco couple had heard — as much of the United States and beyond had by now — that President Donald Trump's administration has begun jailing migrant parents caught crossing the border and sending their children to shelters. The President's chief of staff has called the new "zero-tolerance" policy a deterrent against illegal immigration.

But the Willners had also learned that a lump of cash might thwart the government's plans.

Just like arrested Americans, detained migrant parents can often post bond and simply walk out of jail.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theage.com.au/world/north-america/hoping-for-2000-for-families-separated-at-the-us-border-they-raised-over-10-million-20180620-p4zmod.html>

2. UK: Virgin airlines says it will no longer help to deport immigrants

Home Office informed of decision taken following LGBT campaigning and Windrush scandal

The Guardian
Amelia Gentleman
Sat 30 Jun 2018 03.28 AEST

Virgin airlines has said it will no longer assist the Home Office in deporting people classed as illegal immigrants, following pressure from LGBT campaigners and rising unease over the wrongful removal of Windrush people to Caribbean countries.

Virgin Atlantic said it had already informed the Home Office of its decision, which it said was taken "in the interest of all our customers and staff". Migrant rights campaigners said the announcement reflected "a profound shift in public opinion on deportation since the emergence of the Windrush scandal".

For years, Virgin airlines has provided seats on its commercial flights to detainees and security staff accompanying them. A charity in Jamaica that helps resettle deported people from the UK said detainees regularly arrived as passengers on Virgin flights. British Airways has also deported individuals to Jamaica.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jun/29/virgin-airlines-no-longer-help-deport-immigrants-lgbt-windrush>

3. Top lawyers jump to the defence of former Australian spy Witness K

The Age
By Nick O'Malley
29 June 2018 — 1:27pm

A retired senior judge has expressed alarm over the decision to charge the former spy known as Witness K and his solicitor Bernard Collaery for exposing Australia's bugging of East Timor during contentious oil and gas negotiations.

Stephen Charles, who served on the Victorian court of appeals between 1995 and 2006, said the behaviour of the Australian government during and after the bugging affair was so appalling it served as evidence that the country needed a federal anti-corruption commission with the powers of the NSW ICAC.

He said that publicly available evidence shows that when Australia was in talks with East Timor in 2004 over an oil and gas field that lay between the two nations it used its external spy agency ASIS to bug East Timor's cabinet room to improve its negotiating position. As a matter of international law this constitutes fraud in Mr Charles' view.

Later, when the whistleblower known as Witness K was preparing to travel to give evidence to the International Court of Arbitration about the bugging operation, the government used Australia's internal spy agency ASIO to raid Witness K's home and seize documents, and it cancelled his passport.

These acts appear to have been an effort to prevent Witness K from giving evidence, which most courts would consider to be a serious act of contempt of court punishable by imprisonment, said Mr Charles.

It is understood that Witness K decided to come forward only after Alexander Downer retired from politics and took a consulting job with Woodside Petroleum. Mr Downer was the foreign minister who authorised the bugging operation and Woodside was the corporate entity with most to gain from it.

On Thursday, using parliamentary privilege, the independent MP Andrew Wilkie revealed the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions had filed criminal charges against Witness K and Mr Collaery.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theage.com.au/politics/federal/top-lawyers-jump-to-the-defence-of-former-australian-spy-witness-k-20180629-p4z0jl.html>

4. Australia to spend nearly \$7 billion buying unmanned military planes from America

Sydney Morning Herald
By David Wroe
25 June 2018 — 6:56pm

The Turnbull government will spend nearly \$7 billion on massive, long-range surveillance drones that will dramatically expand Australia's ability to spot military ships on the seas of Asia and tighten joint operations with the United States in the region.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull will on Tuesday announce the purchase of the country's first Triton drone, which has the wingspan of a Boeing 737 and will easily be able to complete a lap of the South China Sea after taking off from the Northern Territory.

Australia will work with the US on the drone program, and the RAAF's eventual fleet of six Tritons will operate closely with the United States on shared missions as needed.

"Australia's alliance with the US is our most important defence relationship, underpinned by strong co-operation in defence industry and capability development," Mr Turnbull said in a statement.

"This co-operative program will strengthen our ability to to develop advanced capability and conduct joint military operations."

FULL STORY AT <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/australia-to-spend-nearly-7-billion-buying-unmanned-military-planes-from-america-20180625-p4znmc.html>

5. Behrouz Boochani: Our lives have become weapons in a rugged political contest

For the past five years, Australia has used the lives of 2,000 innocent refugees as a political game

The Guardian
Behrouz Boochani
Wed 20 Jun 2018 07.07 AEST

On 19 July 2013, Kevin Rudd, the then prime minister of the Labor government, announced the resumption of offshore processing. According to the policy, whoever came to Australia by boat would be exiled to Manus Island and Nauru.

Together with 60 other people travelling on a leaky boat headed for Australia, I was lost on the ocean when the return to offshore processing was announced. This policy was seen as political propaganda to win votes; it occurred just two months before the 2013 federal election in September.

We were taken to Manus Island as part of this policy which has been criticised for being inhumane and unjust. This was the first chapter of a program that used 2,000 innocent asylum seekers as part of a political game. Kevin Rudd and the Labor party lost the election. Tony Abbott from the Liberal party took office as the prime minister of Australia. Rudd, who forced us into this ruthless political game, quit Australian politics forever and moved to New York.

It has now been five years: three prime ministers and three immigration ministers. We are still living in exile. During this period, no events or shifts in Australian politics has affected our destiny; there have been no changes in our situation caused by Australia's political climate. Keeping us in this condition is clearly a rugged political contest within the Australian political arena. Whoever hurts us the most, whoever humiliates us the most, will please the public and keep them on side.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/20/our-lives-are-have-become-weapons-in-a-rugged-political-contest>

6. Guardian Interviews: Trusting the government to protect civil liberties? That's a sick joke

We asked five non-government organisations to explain what their major concerns were regarding new foreign interference and espionage laws

The Guardian

Claire O'Rourke, Paul Oosting, David Ritter, Sunita Bose and Hannah Ryan

Wed 13 Jun 2018 16.14 AEST

Civil society groups and media organisations are raising alarms bells about two bills the government is hoping to get passed before the byelections in July.

A bipartisan deal was reached last week to pass amended legislation to target secret attempts by foreign spies to influence Australia's politicians and media (the espionage and foreign interference bill), and on a second bill forcing individuals and companies acting on behalf of foreign powers to be listed on a public register (the foreign influence transparency scheme bill).

We asked five non-government organisations about their major concerns.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/13/trusting-the-government-to-protect-civil-liberties-thats-a-sick-joke>

7. Former spy boss alarmed by Dutton proposals for electronic computer attacks

Sydney Morning Herald

By David Wroe

11 June 2018 — 12:01am

The former head of Australia's electronic spy agency has issued an extraordinary warning against Turnbull government proposals to use the agency to smash the computer systems of criminals domestically, saying such a move would "send a shiver down most judges' spines".

In a rare public intervention, Ian McKenzie, who headed the Australian Signals Directorate for more than six years, has told Fairfax Media that using the high-calibre agency to disrupt in Australia the systems of cyber-enabled criminals such as paedophile rings and organised crime gangs would be a "fundamental change".

His comments follow remarks by both Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton and his department head Michael Pezzullo indicating they are interested in using the directorate this way, though they have adamantly ruled out using it to collect intelligence on Australian citizens.

The agency has in the past carried out offensive disruption attacks against overseas criminals' computers, though only when there is no hope of an arrest.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/former-spy-boss-alarmed-by-dutton-proposals-for-electronic-computer-attacks-20180610-p4zkne.html>

8. Border Force merger fails to bring savings and beset by problems – report

Audit report into the merging of departments finds it failed to realise savings and is plagued by poor record keeping and high turnover

The Guardian

Helen Davidson

Thu 7 Jun 2018 04.00 AEST

The creation of the Australian Border Force by the merging of the departments of immigration and border protection failed to bring the budget savings it promised, and was beset by poor record keeping and high turnover, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) has found.

It also found the department failed to evaluate 94% of its contracts with external consultants engaged to assist the merger.

In 2014 Morrison, the then minister for immigration and now treasurer, announced the merger of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection with the Australian customs and border protection service. Peter Dutton took over the ministry in December of that year, and after legislation was passed the new department and agency came into force in July 2015.

The move, which also established the Australian Border Force (ABF) as a frontline agency, was in response to a previous recommendation by the ANAO in order to cut duplication and make “significant” savings.

The ANAO review found that while the government had achieved the merger “in a structural sense”, it was “not in a position to provide the government with assurance that the claimed benefits of integration have been achieved”.

It also revealed there was no evidence “to indicate that written briefings were provided to the minister on progress”.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/07/border-force-merger-fails-to-bring-savings-and-beset-by-problems-report>

9. 'Disappointing': Border force training school blasted in official report

Canberra Times

By Nicole Hasham

19 June 2018 — 11:55pm

The multimillion-dollar college that trains Australia’s border security personnel has “overpromised and underdelivered” and immigration and customs officials have repeatedly abused their powers, a scathing report has found.

The government-commissioned findings also said many department staff lack the training needed to perform their jobs and “jaws of death” have gripped officials struggling to complete more work with fewer resources.

In May 2014 the Coalition Abbott government controversially announced the creation of the Australian Border Force (ABF), as part of a merger of customs and immigration border operations. Crucial to the new super-charged agency was the establishment of the ABF College, with multiple campuses, to ensure recruits and existing staff “have the right skills to do their jobs”.

Under the former department of immigration and border protection, consultants RAND Australia were asked to evaluate the progress of the merger, ahead of the creation of the Home Affairs portfolio in December last year which combined immigration, border protection, law enforcement and intelligence.

The findings concluded that “clear and unequivocal” progress has been made towards building a “modern border management capability”.

However, success had been “uneven” and in particular, the ABF College “largely remains a disappointment to senior leaders across the department”.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/politics/federal/disappointing-border-force-training-school-blasted-in-official-report-20180619-p4zmd9.html>

10. Jack Waterford: No redress for the wicked

Canberra Times

By Jack Waterford

16 June 2018 — 12:00am

Malcolm Turnbull plans to issue, on behalf of all Australians, a national apology to survivors and victims of institutional sexual abuse, and to their families, on October 22. He has begun a process of consultation about what form that apology will take.

There will be some who will wonder why the Commonwealth ought to be manning up for the blame, when, so far as the royal commission seemed concerned, the lion’s share of the abuse occurred in religious institutions, schools and orphanages, in sporting clubs and bodies like the scouts, or in state-based institutions. There’s a point in that, even if it ought to be natural for the Commonwealth to be taking a leadership role in addressing a national problem and a national shame.

That’s of course assuming that it really wants to be a moral leader on such matters. If it really did, he might also be drafting one to the children of boat people -- and their parents -- to save a future prime minister the trouble.

[...]

By contrast, the Department of Home Affairs appears, as ever, without shame. And government, which has its own political reasons for reminding everyone how indifferent it is to the human rights or dignity of boat people, might be prepared to make justice a matter of only secondary importance.

The initial response of government to the commission said that redress would be available only to Australian residents – perhaps only to Australian citizens – and only for abuse within Australia. Under some pressure it has seemed to allow for

children abused in detention in Australia but has yet to provide for victims of abuse in its concentration camps in Nauru and Manus.

This is contrary to the recommendations of the commission, but has been piously argued on the basis that it is necessary to prevent fraud by aliens, or on the quite spurious grounds that if any sexual abuse occurred, victims should look to either the governments of Nauru (where most of the children now are) or PNG (which at one stage had some of the children).

FULL STORY AT <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/politics/federal/no-redress-for-the-wicked-20180615-p4zln3.html>

11. New Zealand Star: How Dutton and Molan justify the heinous

New Zealand Star
Independent Australia
Tuesday 29th May, 2018

Senator Jim Molan's appearance on QandA last night (28 May), during which he devised new and improved justifications for Australia's illegal and prolonged imprisonment of innocent refugees, suggests that he is deluded.

Delusion is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as:

'An idiosyncratic belief or impression maintained despite being contradicted by reality or rational argument, typically as a symptom of mental disorder.'

This is not to say that he (like his idol, Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton) has delusions of grandeur - though there is also evidence of this - but that Molan, in attempting to justify the heinous, has created an alternate reality.

Before we examine a few of Senator Molan's comments, for those who may not be au fait with the status of Australia's current refugee policy, under the Coalition, let's first examine a few salient facts:

FULL STORY AT <http://www.newzealandstar.com/news/257370153/how-dutton-and-molan-justify-the-heinous>

12. The \$225,000 campaign to dislodge Peter Dutton from Dickson

GetUp is making a grassroots, issues-based bid to oust the home affairs minister from his safe Queensland seat

The Guardian
Michael McGowan
Sat 16 Jun 2018 08.30 AEST

Anthony Smith is blunt in his explanation for why he wants his local MP Peter Dutton out of the parliament.

"I don't like racism," he told the Guardian. "I think some of the things he has said have crossed that line. The things he's said about refugees, one of the most vulnerable groups in our society."

Smith, a 45-year-old engineer from Queensland, says he has never been a member of a political party or "even been to a rally", but he's part of a hardcore group of activists plotting the political downfall of the Liberal party's rightwing standard bearer.

On Saturday, the left-leaning activist group GetUp will formally launch its campaign to dislodge Dutton from the seat of Dickson after amassing a \$225,000 war chest from its members.

It might seem a far-fetched prospect given Dutton's status. Often touted as a future prime minister, the former Queensland cop's role overseeing Australia's strict border control policies have made him a source of hatred for the left but a galvanising figure on the right-flank of the Liberal party.

But Dutton's position in Dickson is not as secure as his influence within the party.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/16/the-225000-campaign-to-dislodge-peter-dutton-from-dickson>

13. 'We can't help them all': Liberal motion on white South African farmers defeated

Philip Ruddock tells federal council singling out whites for special visas goes against what Australia stands for

The Guardian
Amy Remeikis
Fri 15 Jun 2018 19.12 AEST

Liberal party members who attempted to have white South African farmers singled out for special treatment when applying for asylum in Australia have been defeated after an emotional interjection from a former immigration minister.

In a policy motion put forward to the federal council, where members attempt to influence Coalition policy, they attempted to amend a motion changing “South African minorities targeted by hate crimes” to “European farmers”, to ensure white farmers were given particular attention.

But after a flurry of debate, Philip Ruddock addressed the crowd, saying singling out whites for special humanitarian visa attention went against what Australia stood for.

“The problem is that we have something in the order of 65 million people around the world displaced, 22 and a half million of them refugees,” he said. “Now, I hate to say it, as much as I might like – we can’t help them all. The question is who do you help? And that is always the question.”

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/15/special-visas-for-white-south-african-farmers-on-agenda-for-liberal-council-meeting>

14. Asylum seeker detainees can keep mobile phones, federal court rules

Advocates say ruling should act as precedent to reject Peter Dutton’s legislation to ban the devices

The Guardian
Guardian staff
Fri 22 Jun 2018 17.14 AEST

Asylum seekers will be able to keep their mobile phones while in detention, the federal court has ruled, after the Australian Border Force introduced a ban on the devices.

The federal court found that immigration could not mandatorily confiscate property, including mobile phones, from people in immigration detention.

George Newhouse, the principal solicitor at the National Justice Project, who successfully brought the case on behalf of about 80 asylum seekers, said the court had successfully stopped “the overreach of minister Peter Dutton and protected the rights of vulnerable people trapped indefinitely in his brutal system”.

Tim O’Connor from Amnesty International said the decision would enshrine the rights of people in the immigration detention system to mobile phones.

“This is a lifeline for people to maintain crucial access to their family, friends and their lawyers,” O’Connor said.

In February last year, lawyers representing asylum seekers detained in Melbourne, Sydney and regional Western Australia launched a federal court challenge and obtained a temporary injunction to a new policy introduced by the Australian Border Force to seize all detainees’ phones.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/22/asylum-seeker-detainees-can-keep-mobiles-phones-federal-court-rules>

15. 'I didn't know how to survive': the refugees and asylum seekers hit by Coalition cuts

Thousands will lose income and rental support over coming months

The Guardian
Helen Davidson
Tue 12 Jun 2018 04.00 AEST

Sarvenaz, a refugee on a five-year protection visa, lost her special benefits payment on orientation day for her first semester at university.

“They actually didn’t tell me, they just cut it off without explanation,” Sarvenaz says. “I went to Centrelink to check what’s going on and they said because you were studying we have to automatically stop your payment from the beginning of the semester.”

“I didn’t know how to survive, how to support my family.”

Sarvenaz is among the thousands of refugees and asylum seekers to lose income and rental support over coming months under federal government cuts labelled “cruel” and unprincipled by charity groups.

They have all been told to get jobs but many have poor English and serious health issues, and overseas qualifications are not recognised here.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/12/i-didnt-know-how-to-survive-the-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-hit-by-coalition-cuts>

16. Jenny Osborne: The demise of English language programs for new arrivals to Australia

Canberra Times

By Jenny Osborne

25 June 2018 — 10:00pm

Members of the government are surprised by the recent revelation that approximately 820,000 Australian adults from non-English speaking backgrounds do not have a competent grasp of English. It's reported that this compares with only 300,000 in 1981. What is surprising is that they are surprised. Surely they are aware that government policy has been responsible for the significant decline in quality of the key English language program targeting new arrivals, the Adult Migrant English Program.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Australia was internationally recognised for being the only country in the world to have a national program that delivered English language and settlement programs to adult migrants and refugees. It had been successfully coordinated and funded by the Commonwealth and state governments from 1948. People came from overseas to learn from our model - a model that was constantly evaluated and underwent ongoing quality improvement. In 1988 a National Centre for English Language Teaching and Research was established at Macquarie University with funding from the then Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. All this added up to a world class program.

During this period, with the support of education unions, increased permanency of the workforce was achieved and career pathways developed. Contract teachers provided flexibility as required but the core programs were staffed by a stable cohort of highly-qualified, experienced staff. By 1998 the Adult Migrant English Program celebrated 50 years of successful development and delivery, through targeted classes, radio programs and the Home Tutor Scheme. But regretfully it wasn't to last.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/politics/federal/the-demise-of-english-language-programs-for-new-arrivals-to-australia-20180620-p4zmm1.html>

17. The life of an Iranian refugee in Jakarta: 'Of course I feel less than a human being'

ABC News - RN

By Nicole Curby for Earshot

Updated June 25, 2018 06:35:21

Mozhgan Moarefizadeh is 26 years old, ambitious, driven, and in love. She's ready to start a career, get married, and have kids.

She's ready to live, basically. But none of that is available to her.

It's illegal for her to get married, to work, or to study, and she can't bear to bring kids an existence where they'd live like she does — without basic rights or hopes for the future.

Her life has been on hold for the past five years, and it's likely to stay that way for a long time.

Mozhgan hasn't committed a crime, but she is a fugitive; one of almost 14,000 asylum seekers and refugees who are stranded in Indonesia.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-25/iranian-refugee-life-on-hold-in-jakarta/9735548>

18. Senior politicians in Australia have committed crimes, says top lawyer

Sydney Morning Herald
By Karl Quinn
8 June 2018 — 7:43pm

The top politicians in this country are guilty of major criminal offences, but they are unlikely ever to be tried for them, says lawyer Julian Burnside.

"I think it's pretty clear that Australian prime ministers and immigration ministers are guilty of criminal offences against our own law," says the Melbourne-based QC. "The problem is that no one can bring a prosecution for those offences without the approval of the Attorney General. Take a lucky guess what the Attorney General would say."

The offences he has in mind involve the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers – deliberate and unnecessary cruelty that amounts, he argues in the documentary *Border Politics*, to torture.

Since 2002, Australia has been a signature member of the International Criminal Court, and as a result, he explains, "there is a series of offences [in Australian law] that mirror the offences over which the ICC has jurisdiction."

It was compulsory for Australia to introduce those laws, and some were well overdue. "Until then, believe it or not, genocide was not an offence under Australian criminal law," he says. "But it is now."

In *Border Politics*, which is getting a limited release nationally, Burnside – who says he does not enjoy travel – roams the world to see how our treatment of asylum seekers stacks up. The short answer: terribly.

"The way we are seen overseas is really worrying," he says. "It's vaguely embarrassing to be in another country and disclose that you're Australian. It's like, I guess, being in another country and disclosing you're American, because of Trump."

FULL STORY AT <https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/movies/senior-politicians-in-australia-have-committed-crimes-says-top-lawyer-20180608-p4zk9e.html>

19. Canberra Times: If arbitrary, off-shore detention must end, why not stop it now?

EDITORIAL
By The Canberra Times
7 June 2018 -- 12:00am

Given Australia's offshore refugee detention policy, which includes the arbitrary detention of children who arrive by boat, is unsustainable in the long term, the question is "what are we going to do about it?".

Repeated attempts to lance this boil, including the American solution, the 2014 refugee deal with Cambodia and the recent, explosive, forced relocation of refugees from one place to another on Manus Island, have all fallen far short of success.

Cambodia, which pocketed \$40 million in aid plus an additional \$15 million towards costs, only accepted seven refugees from Nauru. Of these, three are believed to have already left that country.

Only about 100 of the 1250 offshore detainees originally proposed to have been relocated to America under an arrangement slammed by US President Donald Trump as "the worst deal ever" have made that trip.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/act/if-arbitrary-off-shore-detention-must-end-why-not-stop-it-now-20180606-p4zjtb.html>

20. 'My son is going to be left behind': Brisbane mother's countdown to deportation

In three weeks, Bernadette Romulo will be sent back to the Philippines while her son, 8, remains in Australia

The Guardian
Ben Smee
Sun 24 Jun 2018 11.37 AEST

Bernadette Romulo still wakes her son Giro early, because that's what they've always done. She drives the children to school. At night they pray.

Romulo knows that, in three weeks, the daily routine will come to an end. Recently, she lost an appeal against an Australian government decision to deport her. Soon she will be sent back to the Philippines and Giro, 8, must stay behind in Brisbane. Until then, the routine is everything: full of small moments to savour, a distraction. Just another day.

"I'm still trying my best," Romulo told Guardian Australia on Friday. "We still have to do the everyday routine, Giro still needs to go to school. I just need to do what I have to do, what has to be done every day.

"We've been in this situation for the last couple of months, in the morning during the day he's fine and going to school. At night time, when he realises that July 11 is going to be the last day, he can get really sad. He cries when I'm not around. I don't know if he wants to be brave in front of me. He's a very brave boy."

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/24/my-son-is-going-to-be-left-behind-brisbane-mothers-countdown-to-deportation>

21. Brisbane mother facing deportation, separation from son granted reprieve

Bernadette Romulo, who was to be deported to the Philippines, has been given a bridging visa

The Guardian
Ben Smee and agencies
Wed 27 Jun 2018 20.02 AEST

A Brisbane mother facing separation from her son has been granted a last-minute reprieve from deportation.

Bernadette Romulo told Guardian Australia she had been granted a bridging visa by the home affairs department, a decision that prevents the imminent separation of her family.

Romulo had previously been given until 11 July to return to the Philippines. Her eight-year-old son Giro must stay in Australia because of custody arrangements with his father.

The assistant home affairs minister, Alex Hawke, decided on Wednesday to grant the bridging visa to Romulo to give her family "time to finalise other outstanding matters", the home affairs department said in a statement.

Romulo told Guardian Australia she was "overwhelmed" and grateful for the opportunity to stay in Australia. She hopes to ultimately reapply for permanent residency.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/27/brisbane-mother-facing-deportation-separation-from-son-granted-reprieve>

22. Tamil family lose appeal to stay in Australia

The Guardian
Lisa Cox
Thu 21 Jun 2018 11.33 AEST

Nadesalingam and Priya and their Australian-born daughters face being deported back to Sri Lanka

A family of Tamil asylum seekers have lost their appeal against deportation, prompting supporters to call on home affairs minister Peter Dutton to intervene in their case.

Nadesalingam and Priya, and their Australian-born daughters, nine-month-old Dharuniga and two-year-old Kopiga, have been in a Melbourne detention centre for 108 days after they were taken from their home in Biloela in central Queensland.

Nadesalingam's application for protection had been rejected by Australian authorities, and his appeals extinguished. But the federal circuit court was considering whether Priya's plea for protection should be reexamined by the immigration assessment authority.

At a hearing in Melbourne on Thursday, judge Caroline Kirton rejected Priya's bid to stay and the family now has 21 days to lodge an appeal with the federal court.

Speaking outside the court, family friend Simone Cameron said she was disappointed for the family and it was time for Dutton to step in.

"What this family needs right now is some intervention from Mr Dutton," she said.

"Mr Dutton has immense power that's given to him under the migration act. He can step in at any time. I reckon today's a good day for him to step in."

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/21/tamil-family-lose-appeal-to-stay-in-australia>

23. Tamil family from Biloela handed deportation notice despite 21-day appeal period

ABC News

By Gail Burke

Updated June 23, 2018 19:08:02

Australian Border Force (ABF) officials have been condemned as "underhanded" for acting late on Friday afternoon to issue a deportation notice to a Tamil asylum seeker family that could see them flown out of Australia within days.

The ABF notice came a day after the Federal Circuit Court rejected the family's latest appeal against deportation, but ahead of any further court appeal.

Priya and Nadus, and their two Australian-born daughters, remain at the Melbourne immigration detention centre where they have been held since they were removed from their home in the central Queensland town of Biloela, where they had lived for about three years.

A campaign led by Biloela residents has been pleading for government intervention to let the family stay.

Biloela-based family friend Angela Fredericks said she received a call about the notice from a family friend at about 5:00pm on Friday and was told the family could be deported by next Tuesday.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-23/tamil-family-biloela-deportation-notice-after-court-ruling/9902206>

24. Tamil family from Biloela spared imminent deportation pending new appeal, court rules

ABC News

By Gail Burke

Posted June 25, 2018 13:08:28

A Tamil asylum seeker family that had been living in regional Queensland has been spared imminent deportation after the Federal Court in Melbourne this morning ruled they could stay in Australia for the time being.

Priya and Nades, and their two Australian-born daughters, are being held in immigration detention in Melbourne, having been removed from Biloela in central Queensland where they had been living for several years.

Border Force officers served them with deportation papers on Friday, a day after they lost an appeal to the Federal Circuit Court to stay in Australia, and the family could have been sent out of Australia by tomorrow.

The family's lawyer, Kajaliny Ranjith, said the Federal Court today agreed to allow the four to stay in the country while another appeal is heard — which could take months.

"They're shocked, they're nervous, but I think they are relieved now that they're not being deported tomorrow," Ms Ranjith said.

"There is an element of frustration there now, because they have been in there for more than 100 days.

"The children are getting really frustrated because they have so much energy, and they can't get out and play or anything like that, but for what they're going through, they're doing quite well."

She said the family would stay in detention in Melbourne until the Federal Court made a determination on the appeal.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-25/tamil-family-from-biloela-spared-imminent-deportation/9906272>

25. Tamil family members win injunction to prevent deportation to Sri Lanka

Nadesalingam, Priya and daughters were removed from their home in Queensland's Biloela

The Guardian

Ben Smee with agencies

Tue 26 Jun 2018 06.06 AEST

Two members of a family of Tamil asylum seekers from the Queensland town of Biloela have won an 11th-hour injunction preventing their imminent deportation.

Nadesalingam and Priya and their two young Australian-born daughters have been in immigration detention in Melbourne since March, when they were forcibly removed from their home in Biloela in central Queensland.

The family had previously been told by Australian Border Force officials they could be deported as early as Tuesday.

But federal court justice Bernard Murphy on Monday granted an urgent injunction prohibiting immigration authorities from deporting Priya and their eldest daughter, three-year-old Kopika.

“It’s a good result and we’re all taking a big sigh of relief,” family friend Simone Cameron said.

On Thursday last week, the federal circuit court denied Priya’s bid to stay. The court was asked to consider whether her plea for protection should be reexamined by the immigration assessment authority.

That decision was subject to a 21-day appeal period.

But on Friday, the ABF issued deportation notices to both Nadesalingam and Priya and told the family they could be sent back to Sri Lanka from Tuesday. Advocates for the family said issuing the notices was “underhanded” as they had not exhausted their legal options in Australia.

Justice Murphy on Monday restrained immigration authorities from removing Priya and her eldest daughter until their appeal is finalised.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/26/tamil-family-members-win-injunction-to-prevent-deportation-to-sri-lanka>

26. Q&A: Shorten struggles to say how Labor would handle asylum seekers

Appearing solo on the program, Opposition leader says Labor would have won any election in past two years

The Guardian
Amy Remeikis
Tue 12 Jun 2018 07.24 AEST

Bill Shorten maintains Labor would have won any election called in the last two years, despite questions over his personal popularity. But the opposition leader, appearing on the ABC’s Q&A, struggled to answer how a government he led would handle asylum seekers.

Shorten’s right faction has been facing increasing pressure from members on the left to shift Labor’s asylum seeker policy to a commitment to end indefinite detention, and bring those detained in offshore detention centres to Australia, while permanent resettling options are found.

Appearing as the solo panelist on the program, at a special taping in Elizabeth, a northern Adelaide suburb devastated by the closure of the Holden manufacturing plant last year, Shorten struggled to answer an audience member’s question on whether he would end indefinite detention.

“What we are not going to do is have the boats start again and see hundreds of people drown at sea,” he said.

“I think it is legitimate for people to want to come to this country. I support a refugee intake. I don’t [think] it is bad for a person to want to come to this country.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/12/qa-shorten-struggles-to-say-how-labor-would-handle-asylum-seekers>

27. Bill Shorten refuses to promise that Labor will end asylum detention

Canberra Times
By Latika Bourke
12 June 2018 — 2:57am

Labor leader Bill Shorten refused on three occasions to promise that he will end the indefinite detention of asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus Island, after being confronted over the issue on live television.

In a solo appearance on the ABC’s Q&A program on Monday night, Mr Shorten said he would have led Labor to victory if an election was held at any point in the last two years, and he said popularity was not the most important challenge of his job as Opposition Leader.

Mr Shorten's comments come after his one-time leadership rival, Anthony Albanese, for the first time on the weekend ruled out a leadership challenge. Mr Albanese, from Labor's left faction, had previously refused to rule out a challenge since the resignation of several Labor MPs who belatedly admitted they were in breach of the constitution's rules on dual citizenship.

Those byelections have been touted as a test of Mr Shorten's leadership as it approaches its fifth year. The polls will be held on July 28, delaying any showdown within the party over its asylum seeker policy, where parliamentary newcomer Ged Kearney had vowed to lead a change of the party's position.

On Monday night, an audience member asked Mr Shorten: "My question is simple... can you now, on national television, promise to end the indefinite detention of asylum seekers if you are elected?"

The question was the most popular of the night among audience members who gave it sustained applause and cheers.

Mr Shorten declined to make a promise to end detention when asked the question three times because he doesn't have regional resettlement agreements resolved.

However, he said he doesn't believe in indefinite detention and thinks regional resettlement should be increased alongside independent oversight. He said he supported resettlement agreements with New Zealand and the United States.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/politics/federal/bill-shorten-refuses-to-promise-that-labor-will-end-asylum-detention-20180611-p4zkvd.html>

28. The Saturday Paper: Inside Labor's refugee strategy

With fears a 'bring them here' motion could pass Labor's state conference, left unions have decided it is better to play a dead bat on the issue ahead of the federal election. By Karen Middleton.

The Saturday Paper
Edition No. 207 June 2 – 8, 2018
By Karen Middleton

Refugee advocates handing out flyers in the foyer of last weekend's Victorian Labor Party conference were surprised and thrilled when the Industrial Left's hard man, John Setka, expressed his support.

Not realising who he was initially, one of the Refugee Action Collective's volunteers engaged the state secretary of the militant Construction, Forestry Mining and Energy Union in conversation about asylum-seeker policy. His response was so pleasant and supportive that she offered him a sticker. It read: "Unions stand for refugees. Bring them here".

Setka not only accepted it, he stuck it on his jacket and insisted she give one to each of the dozen or so of his members standing nearby, who all dutifully did the same.

She and others were shocked to hear later that Setka had backed a move to shut down the conference early and ensure an urgency motion to "bring them here" – along with several other motions, including one to recognise a Palestinian state – was not debated.

Afterwards, Setka tweeted his reasoning: "Why the hell are Labor people prepared to use a STATE Labor conference against the election of a FEDERAL Labor government? Our best chance for a more humane approach and community is a Labor government and that's what we're fighting for."

When journalists tried to ask him about the shutdown, he simply grinned and said: "Democracy at work."

FULL STORY AT <https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2018/06/02/inside-labors-refugee-strategy/15278616006320>

29. 'We thought we'd never get out': a refugee from Manus starts life in the US

Abdull Grafar Ghulami was suddenly taken to Kentucky from Manus Island as part of the Australia-US refugee deal. Now he is forging a new life, despite the weight of the past and four lost years

The Guardian
Andra Jackson
Wed 20 Jun 2018 06.00 AEST

It is a hot and sticky 25C in Louisville, Kentucky, and the young man is dressed accordingly in a polo shirt, bermuda shorts, long white socks and shoes. Like a local, Abdull Grafar Ghulami refers to the city as "Luhvul" and points out that aside from thoroughbred horse racing and Kentucky whisky, Louisville's claims to fame are as the home of Muhammad Ali and Colonel Sanders.

Ghulami, 24, is proudly driving an older model car. He smoothly navigates the sharp turns of the city's overhead highway maze. The GPS tracker he consults is the only outward indication that he is not yet entirely at home in this city.

Ghulami had never heard of Louisville until nine months ago. It probably would never have been on the Afghani man's radar except for his inclusion in the first group of refugees from Papua New Guinea's Manus Island to be transferred to the US under a refugee swap deal with Australia. The Australian government negotiated with the Obama administration for the US to take up to 1,250 refugees detained by Australia on Manus Island and Nauru.

Ghulami was a computer science student when he fled Kabul because it was too dangerous to return home. The Taliban beheaded Hazara on the highway to his parent's home in Maidan Wardak province, he says.

He arrived by boat on Christmas Island and was transferred to Manus on 10 September 2013. He was recognised as a refugee in 2014, but nothing changed: "2015, 2016, 2017 as a refugee but same place, same detention centre, same bed, same restrictions. I live the same as a non-refugee, as asylum seekers," he says. "All of us were hopeless and helpless, we thought we'd never get out." In the last year he fell into a "deep depression".

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/20/we-thought-wed-never-get-out-a-refugee-from-manus-starts-life-in-the-us>

30. Manus refugee who reached Canada last week says deaths are 'very likely'

Amir Taghinia flew to British Columbia last week, thanks to a group of private sponsors, after nearly four years on Manus

The Guardian
Ben Doherty
Mon 6 Nov 2017 19.30 AEDT

A refugee who was detained on Manus Island has left to begin a new life in Canada, through a group of private citizens who sponsored his freedom.

Amir Taghinia, a refugee from Iran, flew to Coquitlam, British Columbia last week, after nearly four years on Manus Island.

"To be honest, I cannot believe I am in Canada, I am so thankful," Taghinia told the Guardian. "But I cannot forget about my friends, they are starving, they have no water to drink. It is very, very likely we will have more deaths in the next coming days."

Taghinia said he was overwhelmingly grateful to the Canadians who had worked together to find him a path to freedom. He is living at the house of Wayne and Linda Taylor after their daughter, Chelsea, met him in 2015 while she was administering immunisations to Manus Island detainees.

"I really respect these people, I now consider them as part of my family. I am seeing the generosity Canadians have towards human beings. But look what is happening to Australia: Australia's reputation is being ruined by what the Australian government is doing to people.

"Here, when people hear I am a refugee they are so happy to help me, to assist me in any way they can. On Manus Island, the Australian guards, they hate me because I am a refugee They call me by my boat number – EDE039. But here they call me my name, they respect me as a human being. I am glad to call myself Canadian."

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/nov/06/manus-refugee-who-reached-canada-last-week-says-deaths-are-very-likely>

31. MEDIA RELEASE: Six more refugees leave from Manus for the US, but Trump ban still in place

Refugee Action Coalition
June 19, 2018
Ian Rintoul
mobile 0417 275 713

Six Manus refugees left Port Moresby this morning, Tuesday 19 June, for the United States.

All single men, the refugees are Afghan, Pakistani and one Rohingya. No refugees from Trump's list of travel-banned countries are among those travelling to the US.

This brings the total number of refugees from Manus to the US to 108, while another 184 have been accepted from Nauru. The total resettled from Manus and Nauru is 292.

Over 1600 asylum seekers and refugees, including about 140 children, remain on Manus and Nauru.

Fifteen refugees, some brought from Manus to Port Moresby in January 2018, are still waiting to be resettled.

"The delays, the fits and starts and the imposition of the travel ban on refugees from Iran and Somalia have robbed people of any hope of resettlement or freedom," said Ian Rintoul, from the Refugee Action Coalition.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.refugeeaction.org.au/?p=6897>

32. 'Real and tragic consequences': asylum seekers left untreated for hepatitis C

The Age
By Michael Koziol
12 June 2018 — 11:58pm

The doctors who examined Wissam Jadiri when he came to Australia by boat in 2013 detected his elevated liver enzymes right away. But it took more than four years, countless flights and threats of a federal court case for the 41-year-old Feyli Kurdish asylum seeker to get treatment for hepatitis C.

"They told me because you don't have visa, because you detainee, we can't give you medication," he says. "This is not fair [that] they treat me like that, in a country like Australia."

Mr Jadiri is far from alone. A new report by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre has identified the "routine denial" of antiviral treatment to people in immigration detention, and accused the federal government of failing to fulfil its common law duty of care.

It also identified a "failure to properly physically and psychologically treat suicidal asylum seekers" and the misuse and overuse of handcuffs and mechanical constraints, particularly on mentally ill asylum seekers.

Of the 60 referrals it received since September 2016, the centre agreed to help 24 people with high-level needs, including eight who were initially refused treatment for hepatitis C. In four cases, the prisoners were ultimately given medication: one through a decision of the contracted healthcare provider, another courtesy of a pharmaceutical company and two through the centre's legal efforts.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theage.com.au/politics/federal/real-and-tragic-consequences-asylum-seekers-left-untreated-for-hepatitis-c-20180611-p4zkvg.html>

33. Nauru asylum seekers flown to Taiwan for medical care complain of language barriers

Some say that despite the high healthcare standards, they are sometimes unable to give informed consent

The Guardian
Calla Wahlquist
Sat 23 Jun 2018 14.30 AEST

Asylum seekers flown from Nauru to Taiwan for medical treatment have complained to lawyers that language barriers meant they were unable to give informed consent even when the overall quality of care was good.

Australia signed a memorandum of understanding with Taiwan in 2017 to provide medical treatment for asylum seekers detained on Nauru, in an effort to prevent people indefinitely detained on the island from applying for a medical transfer to Australia.

The agreement was disclosed by a Taiwan representative in a letter to the Guardian last month, following a report about an Iranian woman and her son who were transferred to Taiwan so she could undertake life-saving heart surgery, and confirmed by the Australian government overnight.

The woman, Fatemah, had told the Guardian her 17-year-old son also required medical treatment for severe mental illness caused by his time in detention but did not receive treatment before the pair were returned to Nauru. Taiwan authorities said he was not listed as a patient on the medical transfer form.

Taiwan is also not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, meaning refugees cannot apply for asylum to prevent them from being returned to Nauru.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/23/nauru-asylum-seekers-flown-to-taiwan-for-medical-care-complain-of-language-barriers>

34. PNG woman killed after unlicensed Afghan refugee crashes car on Manus Island

ABC News

Posted June 14, 2018 10:53:23

A Papua New Guinean woman has died after a refugee crashed a car on Manus Island.

Manus Island police said the 18-year-old woman was a passenger in the car, which was being driven by an Afghan refugee who did not hold a licence.

There were five people in the dual-cab ute when it left the island's main road and overturned, a few kilometres outside the main town of Lorengau, on June 13.

The refugee fractured his shoulder in the crash and was treated in hospital before being arrested and charged with dangerous driving causing death.

Manus province police commander David Yapu said another refugee who was in the car has also been charged with consuming alcohol in a vehicle and is in custody.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-14/woman-killed-after-refugee-crashes-car-on-manus-island/9868968>

35. MEDIA RELEASE: Another asylum seeker dies on Nauru

Refugee Action Coalition

June 15, 2018

Ian Rintoul

mobile 0417 275 713

In tragic news from Nauru, a 26-year-old Iranian asylum seeker has been found dead, believed to have suicided, this morning.

He was found dead in his family's tent in the RPC 3 compound around 9.00am, Sydney time.

His death comes only three weeks since a Rohingya refugee died on Manus Island.

It brings the tragic toll of deaths in offshore detention to 12.

In late April the younger brother of the dead man made a plea for help for his mother, Fazileh (<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/apr/25/asylum-seeker-boy-on-nauru-pleads-for-medical-help-for-his-mother>).

"Like the others, the death of this young man lies at the feet of Peter Dutton," said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition, "There have been so many warnings, but the toll mounts day by day; the neglect continues. So many cases of medical neglect."

FULL STORY AT <http://www.refugeeaction.org.au/?p=6872>

36. Iranian asylum seeker dies by suicide on Nauru

Fariborz K, 26, found dead on Friday morning in Australian-run regional processing centre

The Guardian

Ben Doherty and Saba Vasefi

Fri 15 Jun 2018 16.20 AEST

A 26-year-old Iranian asylum seeker has died on Nauru, reportedly by suicide in his tent in the Australian-run regional processing centre.

The body of 26-year-old Fariborz K was found in his tent by a family member at about 9am local time on Friday morning. He had recently married. His mother and 12-year-old brother are also being held on Nauru.

Fariborz's wife and mother were both hospitalised on Friday afternoon. His 12-year-old brother Ali has been taken into care by camp authorities.

Sources inside RCP3 – the family camp – said refugees and asylum seekers attempted to help Fariborz when they found him in his tent but they were unable to revive him.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/15/iranian-asylum-seeker-dies-by-suicide-on-nauru>

37. Iranian asylum seeker dies on Nauru

Advocates are reporting an Iranian asylum seeker being held on Nauru has taken his own life, the twelfth person to die in Australian offshore detention centres.

Daniel McCulloch
Australian Associated Press
June 15, 2018 1:56pm

An asylum seeker being held on Nauru is believed to have taken his own life, with the man's body found by his wife and the centre locked down.

Refugee advocates said the 26-year-old Iranian man was found dead inside his family's tent on Friday morning.

The man is the twelfth person to die in Australia's offshore detention centres, and the fifth on Nauru.

It comes weeks after an asylum seeker took his own life on Manus Island.

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre said the man's death on Friday was another clear indication of the policy failure of offshore detention.

Its detention advocacy manager Natasha Blucher said people had been detained for more than five years, subjected to abuse and substandard physical and mental health care.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/iranian-asylum-seeker-dies-on-nauru/news-story/61a0eaf3244ae6b46108f647e7274b4b>

38. 'You will be responsible': a mother's warning is unheeded on Nauru

For months in the Australian-run detention centre she pleaded for her sons. The eldest, Fariborz Karami, killed himself last week

The Guardian
Saba Vasefi and Ben Doherty
Wed 20 Jun 2018 04.00 AEST

Two days before her son took his own life on Nauru, Fazileh Mansour Beigi's final plea for help carried with it a warning too.

For months inside the Australian-run regional processing centre, Mansour Beigi had begged for help for her sons, whom she had watched deteriorate over five years in immigration detention. To anyone she could, she wrote letter after letter, pleading for someone to intervene.

On 13 June, two days before her eldest son, Fariborz, killed himself inside his tent, she wrote a final letter to Construct International, the Brisbane company that runs the processing centre under contract from the Australian government:

"Due to repetitive darkness of this life, my kids are depressed," Mansour Beigi wrote in Persian. "I also am emotionally and physically in a fatal stage of my life. Many times, I have asked for your help, but, instead of assisting me, each time you have wounded me more."

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/20/you-will-be-responsible-a-mothers-warning-is-unheeded-on-nauru>

39. Iranian asylum seeker begged for help: 'I am suffering intensely'

Fariborz Karami, who took his life, had repeatedly asked for psychiatric help during his time at Nauru

The Guardian
Ben Doherty and Saba Vasefi
Sat 16 Jun 2018 10.37 AEST

Fariborz Karami had been crying out for help for years.

Almost since being taken into immigration detention in 2013, Karami, the asylum seeker who killed himself inside the Australian-run regional processing centre on Nauru on Friday, had, over years, consistently asked for medical intervention to arrest his deteriorating mental health.

“The thought of suicide doesn’t ever leave me. I am suffering intensely every day,” the former dentistry student wrote in one plea to see a doctor.

The 26-year-old Karami died by suicide inside his tent in the RPC3 camp on Nauru on Friday morning. Recently married, he had been held on Nauru, along with his mother and 12-year-old brother, for five years.

Karami had a background of torture and trauma. A member of Iran’s Kurdish ethnic minority, which faces systematic persecution in that country, he had been kidnapped as a 10-year-old boy and held for three months, threatened every day he would be killed. Psychiatrists identified him as “being severely traumatised”.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/16/iranian-asylum-seeker-begged-for-help-i-am-suffering-intensely>

40. 'You hate us that much?' Mother of refugee who killed himself on Nauru berates Australia

Fazileh Mansour Beigi has pleaded with the Australian Border Force to give her son Fariborz’s body back so she can bury him

The Guardian
Ben Doherty and Saba Vasefi
Thu 28 Jun 2018 04.00 AEST

The mother of Fariborz Karami, the Iranian asylum seeker who died by suicide on Nauru two weeks ago, has pleaded with the Australian Border Force to give her son’s body back so she can bury him “anywhere but Nauru or Iran”.

In an excoriating letter written to the ABF, Fazileh Mansour Beigi blames those who held her son on Nauru for his long mental decline and ultimate suicide.

“For five years you incarcerated me and my innocent children in Nauru and ignored us. I know that your violence and cruelty is deeply rooted and against that I am a powerless woman. You even deprived me from having a mobile phone, lest I speak up? But I always told you if any harm befell my children, I wouldn’t remain silent,” she has written.

“My 26-year-old son had his last breaths in your mouldy tents and closed his beautiful eyes to your abomination, injustice, and disgusting policies.”

In the lead-up to her son’s death, Mansour Beigi repeatedly pleaded for help for her two sons, arguing they were severely depressed and in danger. Just two days before Karami’s death, his mother wrote to camp manager Canstruct, contracted by the Australian government to run the regional processing centre, warning that “if my kids and I get worse, you will be responsible”.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/28/you-hate-us-that-much-mother-of-refugee-who-killed-himself-on-nauru-berates-australia>

41. INTERACTIVE: Deaths in offshore detention: the faces of the people who have died in Australia's care

Twelve refugees and asylum seekers have died while in Australian immigration detention on Manus Island and Nauru. On World Refugee Day, Guardian Australia acknowledges those who have died and begins a project to record lives lost in offshore detention

The Guardian
Ben Doherty, Nick Evershed and Andy Ball
Wed 20 Jun 2018 06.00 AEST

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/ng-interactive/2018/jun/20/deaths-in-offshore-detention-the-faces-of-the-people-who-have-died-in-australias-care>

42. MEDIA RELEASE: Refugees leave for the US, as Nauru grieves

Refugee Action Coalition
June 17, 2018
Ian Rintoul
mobile 0417 275 713

A bitter sweet moment on Nauru as 21 refugees leave Nauru for the United States today Sunday 17 June (photos attached), only two days after a beloved asylum seeker died in a suspected suicide.

The 21 leaving Nauru are from Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The group includes two families (one from Myanmar and one from Sri Lanka) of a mother and four children, four Rohingya men and seven men from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

But as with other flights this year, there are no refugees from Iran, Somalia, Iraq, Sudan or Syria among those flying to the US today; the unofficial ban on nationalities under the Trump administration's travel ban continues.

Meanwhile Nauru still mourns the death of Farhad, the 26 year old Iranian asylum seeker, who was found dead on Friday morning in his family's tent.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.refugeeaction.org.au/?p=6889>

43. MEDIA RELEASE: Threat level raised on Nauru after asylum seeker death

Refugee Action Coalition
June 15, 2018
Ian Rintoul
mobile 0417 275 713

Canstruct, the Nauru detention management company, has declared a "threat level 3" (probable) at the RPC 1 and RPC 3 in the aftermath of today's suicide.

RPC 1 is the detention administrative centre and also houses the IHMS clinic, where the brother and the mother of the deceased Iranian man, "Farhad" (not his real name) were taken this morning.

RPC 3 is the detention centre where around 250 people including children live in mouldy tents. Farhad's body was found in a tent in RPC 3.

One man was arrested at the gate of RPC 3 this morning when a large crowd gathered waiting for news of Farhad's death.

The Nauru government has said that they are waiting for a doctor to come from Australia to perform an autopsy to confirm the cause of death.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.refugeeaction.org.au/?p=6875>

44. Dying refugee on Nauru barred from coming to Australia for palliative care

Border force tells 63-year-old with advanced lung cancer he can go to Taiwan or return to Afghanistan

The Guardian
Ben Doherty
Mon 11 Jun 2018 04.00 AEST

A dying Afghan refugee held on Nauru will not be allowed to come to Australia for palliative care.

The Australian Border Force has told 63-year-old Ali*, who is suffering advanced lung cancer, he is deemed to have "refused treatment" because he declined to be moved to Taiwan to die.

He told the ABF he did not want to go to Taiwan because he did not know anybody there, was concerned there would be no translator from his language, Hazaraghi, and that there would be no one to perform the Shia Muslim rituals and ceremonies on his body when he died.

The ABF has told Ali he will not be moved to Australia to die. The ABF has also offered Ali \$25,000 to return home to Afghanistan. Ali is a member of the persecuted Hazara minority and has been formally recognised as a refugee – he faces a well-founded fear of persecution in Afghanistan and cannot be forcibly returned there. Australia is legally obliged to protect him.

Ali will stay on Nauru, where he is currently being held in the regional processing centre. Doctors have described the situation there as “totally inadequate” for a person requiring advanced palliative care.

Doctors familiar with his case say his prognosis is “dire”, and his life expectancy is “a matter of months”.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/11/dying-refugee-on-nauru-barred-from-coming-to-australia-for-palliative-care>

45. Dying man's last wish': Nauru refugee denied care in Australia

Refugee advocacy groups say a terminally ill man is not being allowed to enter Australia to receive palliative care.

SBS News
Updated 13 June 2018
By Nick Baker

A terminally ill refugee on Nauru has been refused entry to Australia where he hoped to receive palliative care, according to advocacy groups.

The 63-year-old Afghan Hazara has advanced lung cancer and is currently receiving treatment in the regional processing centre.

Ian Rintoul, a spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition, said the organisation had been in contact with the man throughout 2018.

"For a long time, there was no diagnosis although he was kept in the International Health and Medical Services clinic [in the regional processing centre]," Mr Rintoul said.

"You have to be very sick to be kept there. But he was not sent anywhere for further treatment or further tests.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/dying-man-s-last-wish-nauru-refugee-denied-care-in-australia>

46. 'No way to die': peak medical bodies call for dying refugee to come to Australia

More than 2,000 doctors have petitioned for an Afghan refugee on Nauru to be transferred to Australia

The Guardian
Ben Doherty
Thu 21 Jun 2018 04.00 AEST

A dying Afghan refugee currently held in offshore processing on Nauru must be brought to Australia for palliative care, doctors groups have told the government.

The Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians have both told the government 63-year-old Ali*, who has lung cancer, should be moved to Australia to “be allowed dignity and respect at the end of his life”.

The medical groups' statements follow an open letter signed by more than 2,000 doctors calling for Ali's transfer, and a public petition to the prime minister that has garnered more than 22,000 signatures.

Last month, Guardian Australia revealed the details of 63-year-old Ali, an Afghan Hazara man suffering advanced lung cancer. Sources on Nauru and doctors familiar with his case say the palliative care he is receiving inside the Australian-run regional processing centre is “totally inadequate”. His prognosis is “dire” and he has only weeks or months to live.

The Australian Border Force has told Ali he can go to Taiwan to die – an option he has rejected because he does not know anybody there, is concerned there would be no translator from his language, Hazaraghi, and that there would be no one to perform the Shia Muslim rituals and ceremonies on his body when he died.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/21/no-way-to-die-peak-medical-bodies-call-for-dying-refugee-to-come-to-australia>

47. Hundreds of Australian doctors call for dying refugee to be brought from Nauru

The Guardian
Melissa Davey
Sun 17 Jun 2018 17.48 AEST

More than 800 doctors sign petition for Hazara man to get palliative care in Australia

Hundreds of doctors have signed a petition calling on the immigration minister, Peter Dutton, to bring a refugee dying of advanced lung cancer to Australia for palliative care.

The 63-year-old is being held on Nauru and is a member of the persecuted Hazara minority in Afghanistan. He has been formally recognised as a refugee. But the Australian Border Force told the man, known as Ali, that he could not come to Australia for palliative care, despite pleas from doctors on Nauru, who say the care there is inadequate.

After reading reports by Guardian Australia about Ali's situation, Dr Sara Townend wrote to Dutton and launched a petition she urged other doctors in Australia to sign.

"Australia has accepted this man as a legitimate refugee," her letter says.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/17/hundreds-of-australian-doctors-call-for-dying-refugee-to-be-brought-from-nauru>

48. Rachel Coghlan: Allowing a refugee to die with dignity would show Australia's human heart

A terminally ill man risks spending his dying days in pain and isolation despite a compassionate solution being available

The Guardian
Rachel Coghlan
Tue 19 Jun 2018 12.27 AEST

The report of the refusal of the Australian Border Force to allow Ali*, a 63-year-old Afghan refugee on Nauru, to come to Australia for palliative care is deeply disturbing. Ali is dying from advanced lung cancer, and would receive patently inadequate care should he remain on Nauru. Now Australian doctors have called on the immigration minister to act quickly to bring Ali to our shores.

Palliative care aims to prevent and relieve the suffering caused by terminal or chronic conditions through the treatment of pain and other symptoms – be they physical, psychosocial or spiritual. Palliative care helps to improve quality of life and provide dignity and comfort to people in their last days, weeks or months of life. Since the medical staff on Nauru cannot provide the supportive care Ali requires, the ABF has told him that it will fund his return home or his move to Taiwan for treatment. But Ali has understandably rejected both these alternatives. As a Hazari he fears persecution in his homeland, and in Taiwan he would have no support network and no one to perform the Shia burial ritual when he dies.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/19/allowing-a-refugee-to-die-with-dignity-would-show-australias-human-heart>

49. Dying refugee moved from Nauru to Australia after intense campaign

Exclusive: Doctors say Afghan refugee hasn't got long to live and should be allowed dignity and respect in his last days

The Guardian
Ben Doherty
Sat 23 Jun 2018 15.03 AEST

A dying Afghan refugee held on Nauru for five years has been transferred to Australia for palliative care after a sustained campaign of pressure from doctors, medical peak bodies, the media, members of the public and even members of the Australian Border Force.

Ali*, a 63-year-old Afghan Hazara refugee and father of six, has advanced lung cancer. His prognosis is "dire", doctors said, and he is not expected to live more than a few weeks or months. Previously, the Australian Border Force (ABF) and Department of Home Affairs had been adamant he would not be moved to Australia under any circumstances.

But the Guardian learned that he was flown by air ambulance from Nauru to Brisbane on Saturday afternoon. He landed at 6:45pm local time, Hazara community members on Nauru said.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/23/dying-refugee-moved-from-nauru-to-australia-after-intense-campaign>

50. Dying refugee receiving care at Gold Coast hospital after Nauru move

Border Force let Afghan man, 63, with lung cancer receive palliative care in Australia after intense campaign

The Guardian
Ben Doherty
Fri 29 Jun 2018 11.38 AEST

The 63-year-old Afghan refugee moved to Australia at the weekend for palliative care is being cared for in a Gold Coast hospital and has received visits from Queensland's Hazara community.

Ali, whose full name is withheld to protect his family, has terminal lung cancer. He had been held on Nauru for five years, but the care he was receiving in the Australian-run processing centre on the island was, according to doctors, "totally inadequate", and he faced a painful and protracted death without specialist palliative care.

The Australian Border Force had initially refused to move him to Australia, instead offering him \$25,000 to return to Afghanistan – the country he had fled because of persecution and threats to his life – or to take him to Taiwan. He rejected that offer because he knew no one there, would have no one who could speak his language, and where, he feared, no one would be present to conduct Shia Muslim rituals on his body once he died.

After Ali's failing health and the rejection of doctors' pleas to have him moved were revealed in the Guardian, the Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians issued statements saying he should be immediately brought to Australia.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/29/dying-refugee-receiving-care-at-gold-coast-hospital-after-nauru-move>

51. MEDIA RELEASE: Nauru Government cancels Refugee Day

Refugee Action Coalition
June 19, 2018
Ian Rintoul
mobile 0417 275 713

The Nauru government has cancelled its World Refugee Day event scheduled for Wednesday, 20 June (photo attached).

The cancellation is not surprising; there is little sign of a duty of care for the refugees on Nauru, who have become a cash cow for the government at the behest of the Australian government.

While millions of dollars are being provided by Australia for new Nauru government buildings, around 250 refugees and asylum seekers are still confined to tents in the so-called Family camp, RPC 3, where they have been for the last five years.

It was very obvious that there were no Nauru government representatives, no representatives of Construct, and no Wilson's Security representatives at the ceremony on Sunday night, for Fariborz Karami, the 26 year-old Iranian asylum seeker who was found dead last Friday morning.

The Refugee Day celebration by the Nauru government is more a celebration of the money that offshore detention has poured into Nauru. Asylum seekers, rather than phosphate, have become Nauru's main source of income.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.refugeeaction.org.au/?p=6894>

52. Fears Nauru's sweeping new contempt laws target opposition

Criminalising criticism of cases is an 'attack on rule of law', says one of 19 protesters facing jail for supporting opposition

The Guardian
Helen Davidson
Mon 4 Jun 2018 18.33 AEST

Nauru has enacted sweeping contempt-of-court laws that make almost any criticism of a case – including in media reporting – a crime, but create exemptions for members of the government.

The legislation came into force last month. Anyone accused of the crime would be refused a presumption of bail, alongside those accused of murder or treason, under separate laws that came into force on the same day.

Members of the so-called "Nauru 19", who are facing jail for protesting against government crackdowns on opposition MPs, have expressed concern about the laws.

Separately, a Lowy Institute report has warned of Nauru's "lurch towards authoritarianism".

Under the Administration of Justice Act, it is now a crime to criticise any party to a case, which could include the government, as it is party to any criminal prosecution.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/04/fears-naurus-sweeping-new-contempt-laws-target-opposition>