

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/08/05/2325034.htm?section=justin>

Further addendum to submission to the committee.

Re Deportations – after Al Masri

Mr Al Masri was telling the truth about being a refugee as his murder shows yet we get this insane statement from the new minister that we will continue to deport people “if they are not refugees”.

Following them Home by David Corlett has raised the issue of getting deportations wrong and people being dumped in the wrong countries.

Phil Glendinning from the Edmund Rice Centre has followed people home and found that many have been murdered or live in extreme danger but still we get this nonsense of “if they are not refugees” they will be forced out of the country.

In Australia every year we encourage about 5 million tourists and we never say “he is not really a tour so he must be handcuffed, shackled, drugged and dumped in some country”.

We don't use that language about over seas students, or migrants or people who come to work temporarily.

The refugee convention is about a humanitarian program of seeking refugee status by those in danger yet we abuse them if “they are not refugees” even though our department of immigration gets it very wrong time and time again.

I am sickened and disgusted with the language in this by Senator Evans. Mr Al Masri was a human being, not a thing to be demonized with “ he was not a refugee”.

He was murdered, just as he said he would be when Ruddock gave him the choice of a lifetime in Woomera or forced deportation to Gaza.

Is it only refugees who we brutalise when they are the only “migrants’ anywhere in the world with carte blanche to seek and enjoy asylum from protection while tens of thousands of ‘not visitors’ are allowed to go home to safe countries only if they are found but are otherwise unmolested.

In all case the government must err on the side of caution because refugees generally come from places of maximum danger, they don't just decide to go to another place on a whim.

As for the mad notion of deterrence, deterrence is illegal, immoral and utterly repulsive as we seek to force the third world to do what we don't want to do.

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Australia helped to devise the refugee convention and we were one of the first signatories out of a need to protect those who could not protect themselves.

Do we have to resort to the language of savages to demonise them still?

Yours in disgust

Marilyn Shepherd.