

To Committee Secretary

I am writing to this inquiry to outline my concerns for one young refugee who was sent back to Afghanistan from Nauru in 2003/4. A [REDACTED] was a minor when he took the money offered from him to return to Afghanistan after spending two years waiting without hope in detention on Nauru. Despite pleas from his friends he returned where he could not find his family nor friends in his home town. Only money was given to him no other support money that quickly ran out. For his own personal safety he escaped to Quetta Pakistan to be not only safe but to look for his family. Here he was at only just 18 with no one in the world except me. Late last year I received an email from him begging for me to help him and all that I could do was send money through various methods, money that was consequently stolen by Taliban that were forming groups in Pakistan to go back to Afghanistan. Over the next months we tried to get some assistance from DIMIA through applications etc to get him out of this hell. But this was to no avail. About 6 weeks ago he went to Islamabad where he was arrested and sent back to Afghanistan. On his return to his home town he was beaten and thrown into prison for one week as the towns people thought he was back to take his fathers land. All he wanted was some community comfort but he did not get this. Some how through miracles he arrived back in Quetta through bribing and pretending he was Pakistani at the boarder. Now one again he is alone and without money or community and he is barely 19 years old. What do I say to him? What do I say to him as an Australian that has allowed a minor to be sent back against the rights of the child and the UN refugee agreements that we have signed. Why isn't he here where he could be safe, instead of taking the bribe to go back from Nauru which should never have been offered let alone allowed to happen. This is my submission which forms so much of my shame and helplessness for this young man who is lost sure like so many others but this is one we could have saved.

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