

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to express my personal disappointment at Australia's decision to imprison refugees. I am particularly unhappy about the creation of an offshore detention centre on Nauru. Not only did we, as a country, refuse to fulfil our obligation as a humanitarian nation, we sent the "rejects" to an economical disaster on a corrupt island. We essentially bought a jail from a system well known for its misuse of funds.

A number of the young men left on the island were picked off boats when they were still technically children. Some have been imprisoned since they were 16 or 17 years old and are now in their 20's. Most of these men come from war torn countries and it is obvious that they should not be sent back. One would think that 4 years in prison is a harsh sentence for trying to stay alive and seek a better life. In the case of the younger refugees they have spent very formative years isolated and alone.

It would appear more economical, and more ethical, to accept these people so that they could begin a life in Australia. I cannot help but feel that they are treated wrongly because they are from the middle east and probably Muslim. If decisions are made that are based on fear then they will not have been made in an objective manner.

We are a big country and certainly big enough to be able to accept these people.

Yours Sincerely
Margaret Carey

6 Maddock St
Dulwich Hill
NSW