

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

INQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF THE MIGRATION ACT 1958

I am a community based unpaid ethnic community leader of Hazara people (Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan), without ready access to a computer or office resources. I am hoping that you may accept this late submission from me, and on behalf of the Australian relatives and friends who have been stranded in Indonesia for four years. Attached is my report on the issues of Afghan refugees in Indonesia as I experienced them.

A DVD of interviews with those refugees was submitted to the Minister to support the written report. A number of the people I spoke with were forcibly returned to Indonesia by Australian Navy boats and their basic survival care is provided by Australia through the IOM. If family and justice means anything in Australia, the situation of these men women and children must be resolved in a just and human way.

I am willing to be called before the Committee to give evidence on the experiences of the many refugees in the Australian community who were and maybe still on Temporary Protection visas. Over the past six years I have been an interpreter for hundreds of interviews with doctors, psychiatrists, teachers, lawyers , Centrelink, employers, hospitals , landlords, TAFE, police, Transport Department etc. I heard their stories told in our language and their serious complaints about their treatment, since they arrived in Australia.

I have seen and heard evidence of serious mis interpretation and mis translations and of brutality and bias in detention, as well as in Indonesia, conducted by UNHCR.

For many years I have been in direct telephone contact with those still in detention and I have visited Baxter and Port Headland and met some of them.

Asylum seekers forcibly taken against their will to Nauru asked me to be their spokesperson, and I told their story to the world during the 4 weeks of a hunger strike and beyond. Also rejected asylum seekers in Indonesia appointed me as their representative, but UNHCR didn't recognise me. DIMIA refused to deal with me in my capacity as their spokesman, and the life endangering strike went on without serious attempts to intervene. It was a disgrace, and the continued detention of 32 men remaining on Nauru must end. Many well noticeable deterring measures were practiced in collaboration with UNHCR which, denied the asylum seekers fair hearing and a just outcome.

As an Australian citizen born in Afghanistan, it would be an honour to tell you face to face the injustice done to people who fled persecution and who were further tormented and persecuted in Australia at the hands of the Australian Government and its employees.

Regards

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