

7/24/05

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

Dear Senators:

I am expatriate; I have read about the asylum-seekers and their treatment under the Howard Government in the online versions of The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald.

On several occasions I have written to the Prime Minister and/or the Minister/Acting Minister in charge of Immigration. The concerns in my letters have been:

- 1) the cruel, to the point of being sadistic, administration of conditions of detention
- 2) the inhumanity of the Howard Government's policy
- 3) the dubious legality of related legislation, buttressing the Howard Government's policy (e.g. the exclusion zones and their retroactivity)
- 4) the illegality of the policy itself, considering the various international treaties to which Australia is signatory
- 5) the ill-will these policies and their day-today, minute-to-minute enactment generate in neighbouring countries and in other regions of the world
- 6) the national security risks this ill-will will, eventually, create for Australia

I have had no direct contact with detainees or with anyone affected by these policies.

However, I am attaching copies of those letters because they contain citations and references to particular incidents in detention centres in 2001-2002, which should not be overlooked in any consideration of the policy as a whole.

Yours respectfully,

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