

THE CRY OF A
VOICE IN ISOLATION

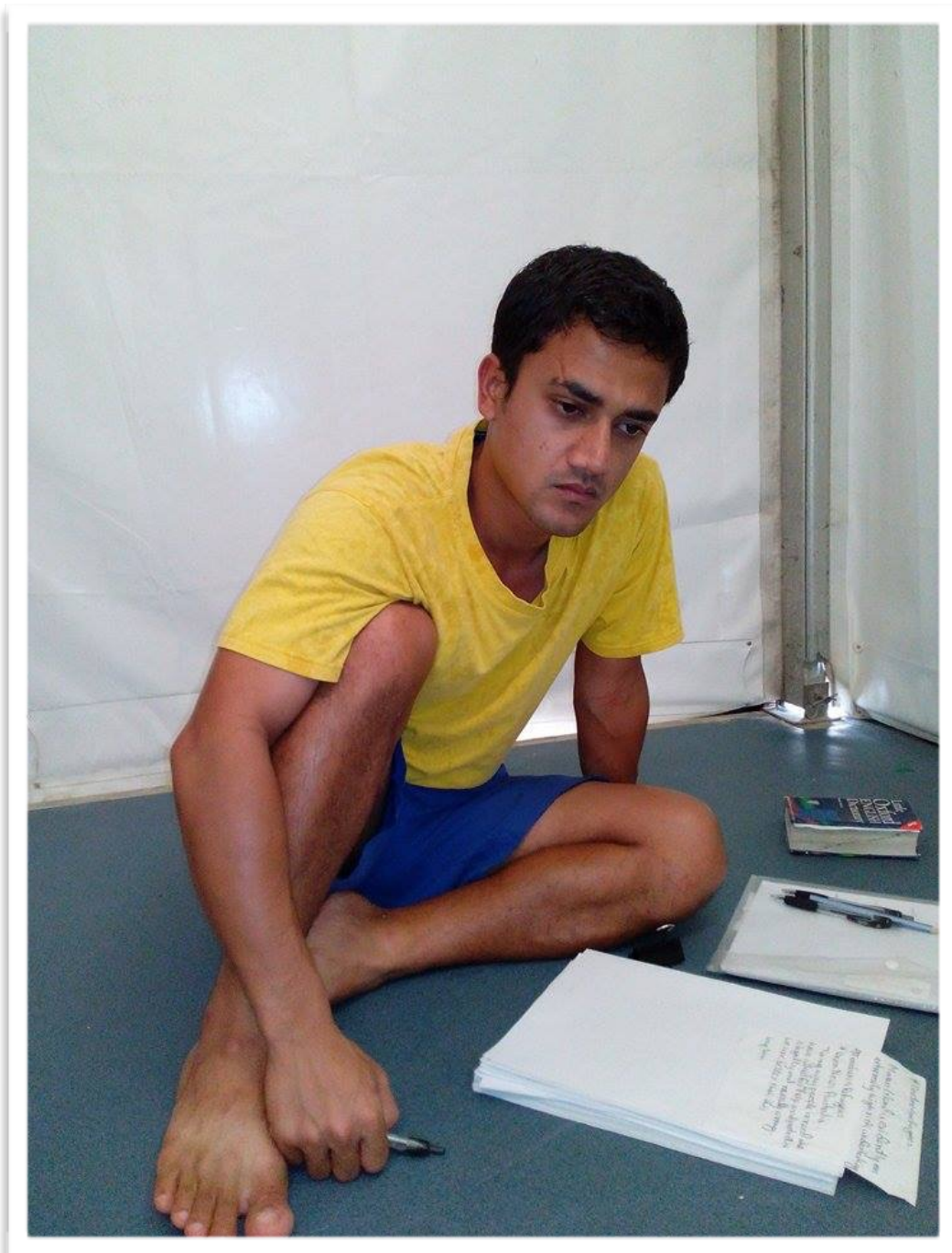


**BEHIND THE WIRE
OF
MANUS PRISON**

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IT IS NOT ILLEGAL TO SEEK ASYLUM

The following is a first-hand account of how gruesome indefinite detention causes long term damage to peoples lives.



First of all, we the inmates of Manus Island Detention Centre, have great respect for Australia and Papua New Guinea and furthermore we respectfully obey the laws of both countries.

We are unaware of the reasons we have been forcibly moved here and indefinitely detained. However, we are definitely not here to fight against either government.

I would like to ask some questions of both countries and ask the whole world what we did to deserve these degrading and inhumane acts. Additionally, I will be disclosing many facts, until now hidden, about indefinite detention centres all over the world.

My name is Imran Mohammad and I am from Myanmar (Burma).

19th JULY POLICY:

The legislation that was mandated from the 19th of July 2013, stipulates everyone who arrives after this announcement will be transferred to Manus Island, PNG and Nauru. Children or family groups will not be exempted from transfer. Exempting them would simply encourage people smugglers to put men, women and children on boats to Australia.

According to Australian Border Force statistics, approximately 5800 people were impacted by the 19th July 2013 law. Dear Australians, please be aware of Government propaganda and ask yourself why there are just 1500 miserable people in Manus and Nauru. Where did the rest go? Those lucky people, who arrived on the very same boats as us, as well as 267 people who the High Court ruled could stay, are settled and safely living in the Australian community for over a year. The statement made by the Australia Government that those who come to Australia by boat without a visa won't be settled in Australia is an utter lie. Of course we celebrate the freedom of our fellow brothers who have also made this journey to escape the horrors and wars of their own country. But conversely, we have been neglected, subordinated, tortured and still don't know anything about our future. The reason I am bringing up this is that it causes great depression, stress and painful strain. You may want to know how.

For example, whenever we open our Facebook profile and see that our boat mates are free, having a great time with their families and friends, working and studying. Whilst we are happy for them, in the blink of an eye we feel depressed and wonder what on earth we did differently to end up in indefinite detention. Above all, we can't talk to our families due to this news. Their first question is after picking up the phone is 'Son what sort of crimes have you committed and why you are still in prison?'. This depression has caused so many deaths in our families and damages to our brain.

The fact of the matter is that the government insists on calling us illegal maritime arrivals, neglecting to advertise the fact that Australia is part of the UN convention for refugees and therefore it is legal to seek asylum in Australia. The government has lied to the Australian public. If someone has the means to arrive by plane, with a passport in their hand, they are allowed to be assessed in the community. The war on people arriving on boats has simply been a tactic used to scare people and get votes and the people involved in these politics have been forgotten, neglected, abused and murdered. I have a question to the whole world; isn't it a crime to segregate and punish us without a crime being committed? If not what is it?

IHMS - INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICE

It is understood that doctors in this world are meant to save lives and bring back hope. Preserving human lives is always at the top of a doctors agenda. Unlike a place like Manus Island, where the reverse is true. Their jobs have been highly politicised and hence, they can only speak in certain way and can only treat their patients in line with the political agenda. That is to say, our illnesses are not diagnosed as they should be.

In contrast, our physical health problems are not given priority or treatment. Obviously our prescriptions are written by the doctors or nurses, however the words in the prescriptions have been instructed by someone else. Consequently we have received prolonged poor treatment that has debilitated us physically and mentally.

Incidentally, we knew from the day when we first stepped on this island that every minute would be diabolical and agonising, as it was a minefield. It was set up intentionally to make our lives unbearable so that we choose to return where we came from, despite the fact our safety is precarious in those places.

At the beginning, there wasn't a dentist and one didn't arrive for almost 15 months. Whenever someone had dental problems, they were not assessed by the dentist, instead they were given painkillers or ice to dull the terrible pain. As a result, peoples problems resurfaced every two or three days. The horrible events are indescribable.

The inmates fainted at times and especially when the pain took over their minds in the middle of the night, they fell to the floor from their top bunks.

The patients were sometimes treated without an interpreter if they were sent to IHMS. Moreover, we still had to wait months to be able to see a dentist and to this day, the wait list is ridiculously long.

Secondly, there are many young and old men with severe problems with their sight and we had very limited access to an optician. They couldn't read or write and always struggled with distinguishing people. We didn't know at times what we were eating. A significant number of injuries were caused by darkness during the night. We were always fearful of getting injured in the darkness and consequently, we urinated in our bed and couldn't sleep for the rest of the night. There are thousands of heart breaking moments which you are not told.

Thirdly, most of us had no health issues before we came here. We can now say for sure that almost everyone has significant health problems. I would like to give you an explanation of what sort of symptoms we have developed since being here.

For example, some people have asthma, diabetes, blood poisoning, high blood pressure, paralysis, sight problems, dental problems, joint pain, growths on eyes, digestion problems, outbreaks of skin conditions, persistent migraines and loss of appetite. So many people are on a waiting list for MRIs, kidney checks, surgery and too many more to mention, but the waiting can be up to one year.

In addition to this, our medical information disappears from time to time, or it is not passed to the appropriate person so that our illnesses are not diagnosed in a timely manner. To clarify, the staff stay here for three weeks and at the end of their rotation, their minds are focused ongoing home rather than treating their patients properly. Thus, the employees, who fly in aren't given a good handover so mix things up and the patients get left behind without knowing anything. In other words, the inmates, who are not very sick, get prioritised and those who are suffering seriously ill don't get treatment at all. Despite the fact that it happens a lot, the issues have never been addressed. A small mistake has already turned into someone's death.

Fortunately, after years we have finally got a well resourced medical centre. Unfortunately the hardships are still in place. For instance, when we get sick, we put in a written request to see a doctor or nurse. However sometimes it takes at least 1 week to get an appointment. When we go to IHMS, we don't get to see a doctor upon arrival. It doesn't matter how terrible the illness is. There are some local PNG nurses there and we are always diagnosed by them first. We feel that most of the time they struggle to correctly identify our illnesses, be it through knowledge or communication issues.

If they were competent, they would not hesitate to show us the results of our blood tests, which does not occur. Additionally, when we ask them to give us our medical records so that we can send it to our families in order to consult with another doctor, they advise that they are not allowed to give it to us.

Mental health services have been in place since we arrived here to support us to manage our emotional well-being. Nonetheless, we have no escape from depression, stress and strain. Just imagine you are walking down the street, minding your own business.

Suddenly, you hear someone's voice screaming from a drain for help. You help them get out of the drain. You help them get cleaned up. After that you put them back to the drain you saved them from. That's exactly what is happening to us for over the last three years. We are so depressed, stressed, oppressed and traumatised terribly by horrific events. We are desperate to eradicate depression from our lives. Hence, we seek help by seeing a psychologist, however we can never heal our pain as we are put back to the drain straight away if we dare leave for a minute.



Left: We are not given any products to clean our toilets, so this is the condition in which they are frequently left.

We remain resilient putting up with all of this, but we are not provided with proper medication. Often the same medication is given for every ailment - two Panadol two or three times a day, for which we have to line up in the burning sun for 3 to 4 hours to receive, as they will not allow us to manage our own medication. This causes aggravation and fighting between the men.



We have been living in appalling conditions in the prison. I would like to give you an example instead of showing a lot. This is what it is like in Delta compound. Drainage - sewage perhaps.

In summary, a lot of money has been invested and the doctors have been hired, yet they can't treat their patients morally and ethically.

Lives have been lost, the pain has not been cured and battling this constant pain has eaten away at our physical and mental health since we arrived here.

There are people who are utterly disturbed and wander around in a daze, or suffer heart wrenching sadness or psychosis. They have been broken into pieces and are left as just a shadow of the person they once were.

FOOD :

Manus Prison is a place where food is used to cause extreme depression amongst the inmates. Notwithstanding, it is a deliberate act to put people into a position from where they can only react as though they are crazy. Nobody can catch themselves as it's been planned to happen specifically in this way.

Now let me give you something so that you try to get your heads around about our current situation.

To illustrate, we have always experienced the service of terrible food for a week or more at a time. By terrible food, I mean that we don't know what it is and it isn't cooked properly. Most notably it makes us sick. However, we do eat it in order to get rid of our hunger and keep ourselves alive. Unexpectedly, they will often serve something that is promising after having poor quality food for a whole week. Obviously, we flood into the mess to get some food. We wake our friends up telling them that the meal is good. Consequently, the queue gets bigger and the men towards the end have to wait hours in the sun having no shade over their heads. All of these obstacles don't really matter if we get something to eat in the end. I can guarantee that there will be a number of people who end up missing out.

The people in charge know if the inmates get something different, everyone will come to eat. Nevertheless, they don't bring enough food for everyone. If this occurs once or twice a month everyone would understand, but the fact is that it is a planned cycle in which a group of people suffer everyday.



Left: Human teeth stained with betel were found in our meals. There was an epidemic of dioyiya (diarrhoea - Ed). in which everyone was effected, yet it was not reported.

In other words, in my compound there are almost three 300 people. They bring 2 boxes of biscuits for 300 people. Each box contains approximately 60 biscuits. That means only 120 people are going to get a biscuit. As a result, 180 people will be left to watch the 120 eating biscuits.

I am predicting that you want to know how they distribute it to us. They bring different things like bananas, biscuits, bread or cookies. They put them on a table and invite some of us. Then they sit back and watch what we do. Obviously, the people who are around the mess will take most of what's there. Those who are running towards the mess to get whatever is left. It's certain that there will be a lot of sad faces. That is to say, those who don't get a piece of biscuit will be depressed for the rest of the day about not being

able to eat a biscuit. There have been so many fights for a biscuit, a slice of bread, etc. This is a kind of place in which we can be injured for a banana or even lose our lives at times for a biscuit.

As I was saying about the meals, they impose constraints on our meals everyday. One day they say we can have three spoons of meat and the next day say, we can only have one spoon of meat. One day, we are given two or three apples and the next day, we are only allowed to have one. We never know what to expect from one day to the next. They let our stomachs fill one day and the other day they tighten our stomachs by not providing enough food. Although they don't kick us in our stomachs with their boots, they knock down our stomachs by keeping us in a state of hunger.

These types of inhumane and cruel torture devastate us and make us furious and most importantly, put us in a desperate position where the human mind loses control. One can do extreme things when pushed to their limits. For example, we can take our own lives. And this, many have tried.

However, if we could see the hidden story, we would definitely say they were killed. If we are not put in these kind of situations, we would never ever take our own lives. We left everything behind to live our lives, not to end them. If that was the case we would never ever have fled the place where we were born.

All in all, if anyone thinks we are fed, they make a fool of themselves. On the contrary, we feel we have been used to experiment ways in which to slowly drive us mad.

EDUCATION:

Education is a process of teaching, training and learning to improve knowledge and develop skills. There should not be any limits if one wants to learn and if one is willing to possess knowledge.

Luckily, the Australian political prisoners on Manus Island have been provided with education. In contrast to meeting the human rights of these prisoners, it's been put in place to cause severe emotional conflicts amongst the inmates as well as amongst the teachers. The world knows that we have been given education, whereas we have been plagued in many ways in the name of education.

Now let me provide you with the facts that are put in place in order to make us suffer from severe depression.

April 2016: During the relocation of refugees
and asylum seekers to different compounds.

"I am just depressed as they destroyed my little space as well as my study table was taken away from me. They threw all my stuff all over the place. I just can't get over this horrible and traumatic pain".

Incidentally, despite the fact that we have got quite a few qualified teachers on Manus Island, they are not allowed to talk with their students freely. I mean, the classes are observed by security guards. Moreover, not only aren't they allowed to talk about Australia, but they can't even mention the name in their classes.

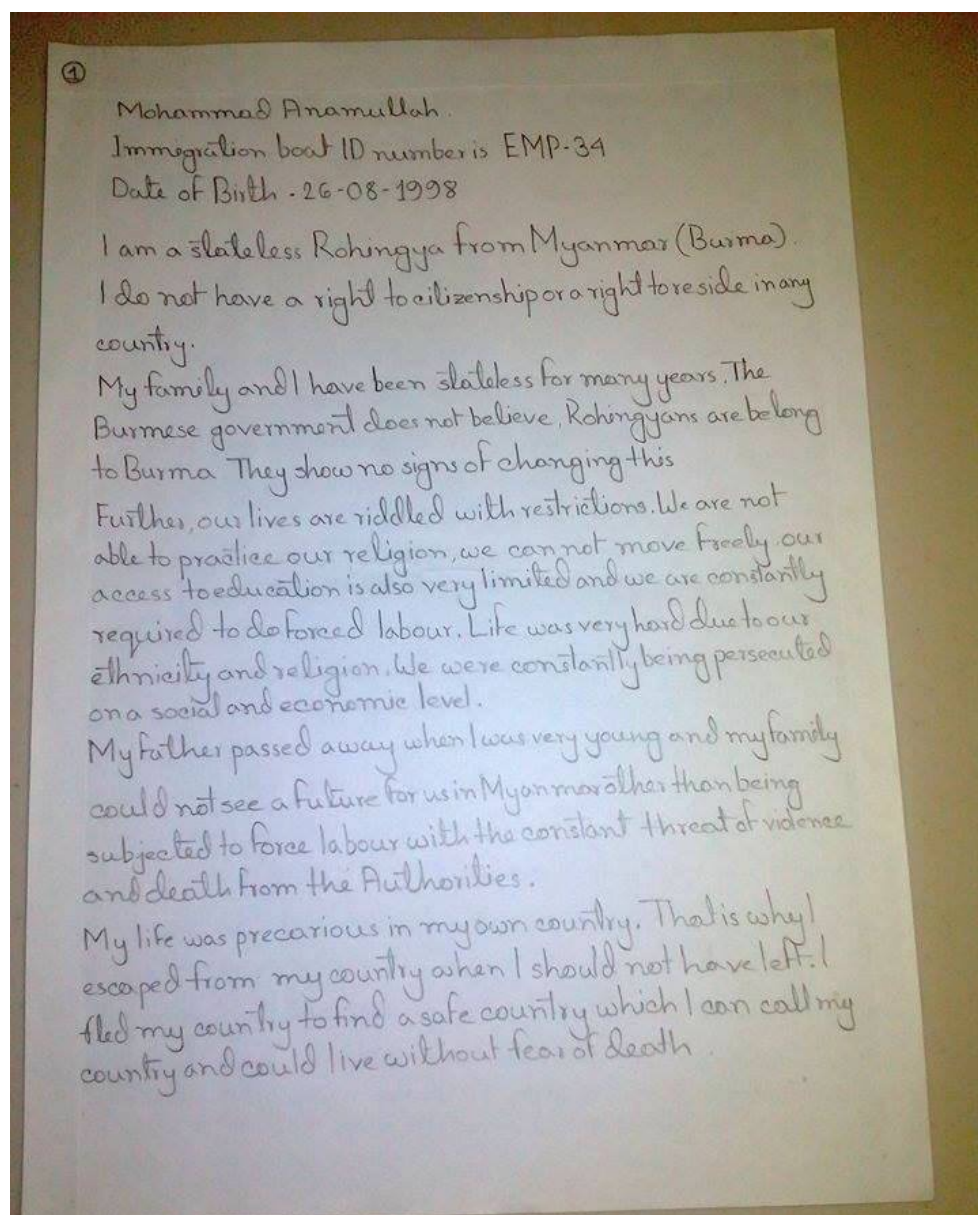
Actually, we understand that some teachers were reported and fired due to showing their students documentaries that included some parts of Australia. Management make the teachers behave in a way that they themselves feel like they are being used in this game to reiterate via English classes that the inmates of Manus Island will never go to Australia. Thus the teachers are constantly in a state of fear while they are teaching the class and this had led to poor relationships between the teachers and the pupils right from the beginning.

In all aspects of our education settings, the teachers are expected to teach and the students are expected to learn and improve their knowledge. However, it is notable that on Manus Island, the

teachers are not provided with the basic necessities that they need to run a class efficiently. Namely, often there are no speakers for them to conduct a listening class. Furthermore, until recently there is no TV in the class rooms in order to screen something for the students. Not having a TV in our class rooms doesn't upset us. What really breaks our heart is that there are TVs in almost every corner of the staffs accommodation and they are not being used. Not a single time since they have been put on the wall. They can have a TV in their rooms as well as outside of their rooms simply to have fun. Whereas, we didn't have a TV for our education. Consequently, some of the teachers bring their own DVD players and speakers from back home.

There is no doubt that teaching and learning on Manus Island is the hardest thing ever. In spite of trying hard to fill the students mind with a few new words, it is almost impossible to distract pupils mind from the stark depression that surfaces in their daily lives. To illustrate, sleep is often disturbed as inmates had to wake up in the middle of the night for their phone calls. Maybe they couldn't get through to their families, maybe they didn't have enough food last night or maybe they missed their breakfast. All of these issues and more have diminished the inmate's capacity to retain information and their concentration levels and memory has dropped significantly since they have started living in this inhumane environment.

Despite having our brain twisted unbearably, we are still very keen on preserving the concept of a learner and student. English is a new language and undoubtedly we want to improve it. It is clear that if we can speak English we will have a voice that will help us explain our journey through life and death. In addition, we are not provided with sufficient books to read for all the men. When we do receive a pencil, we are not allowed to have a sharpener to sharpen our pencils.



Left: Mates helping mates.

FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF THE LETTER HANDWRITTEN BY IMRAN FOR HIS FRIEND:

"I am a stateless Rohingya from Myanmar (Burma). I do not have a right to citizenship or the right to reside in any country.

My family and I have been stateless for many years. The Burmese government does not believe Rohingyans belong to Burma, and there is no sign of this changing. Further, our lives are riddled with restrictions. We are not able to practice our religion, we cannot move freely, our access to education is also very limited and we are constantly required to do forced labour. Life is very hard due to our ethnicity and religion. We are constantly being persecuted on a social and an economic level.

My Father passed away when I was very young and my family could not see a future for us in Myanmar, other than being subjected to forced labour with the constant threat of violence and death from those in authority.

My life was precarious in my own country. That is why I escaped when I should not have left. I fled my country to find a safe country which I can call my own and could live without fear of death.

I eventually managed to come to Australia by boat on 13th September, 2013. I was on Christmas Island for one and a half months and then I was forcibly moved to Manus Island PNG. I arrived on Manus Island on 29th October, 2013.

Now I am being held in this offshore processing centre for unlimited time. I was just fifteen when I got here. I didn't tell Immigration about my age because I didn't want to lose my friends. I was anxious and frightened of living alone, without my friends.

After a few months, I realised that I couldn't live with adults, I didn't know what to do. I spoke to my Mother and she told me to let Immigration know about my age. I have continually made them aware of my being underage for the past one and a half years. Immigration have kept delaying their decision regarding my age and have tried to disprove it, by asking a lot of irrelevant questions. They asked me if I have evidence to support my claim. I spoke to my Mother about it and she told me she has a paper which shows my date of birth.

As a matter of fact, when the teachers see their students have no pens or notebooks their instinct and human nature dictates that they would like to provide their students with these items if they have them in their baskets. However, they are not allowed to give anything to their pupils. Often the teachers who are sympathetic towards asylum seekers and refugees, don't last for long here. We don't know if they are sacked or resign. That is to say, if they see a person crawling on the ground and suffering from hunger and thirst, they are not allowed to save a life by serving a bottle of water, instead you are expected to watch them die. Basically, these days procedures are significantly more important than the lives of human beings.

In regards the class rooms, in Delta compound we had no class rooms for over 15 months. The classes therefore were held under the coconut trees, in a corner or in a passage.

Rohingyan people are not given any document from the Burmese authorities. They have a register of who belongs to which household and a photo of each family member, which is checked at least twice a year. It took one and a half years, and my Mother putting her life at risk, for me to get the original copy sent to Manus Island. She had to go to Bangladesh by boat at night and stay in Bangladesh for one day to post the document, then went back to Myanmar at night by boat. If the Burmese authorities had known this had occurred, my Mother would have been killed. From my personal experience, I can say that the way we were being tortured and killed, makes me think a Rohingya life is worthless.

As soon as I received the original document, I spoke to Immigration and their lawyers about my claim of being underage.

I wholeheartedly believe there is no process, no system, no laws and no human rights, with the whole concept intentionally designed to destroy our lives by detaining us for an unlimited time.

The Immigration people and their lawyers have done nothing about processing my claim. They told me my documents have been sent to Australia a long time ago, but nothing has changed. I feel they are lying to me.

These days I cannot eat properly and cannot sleep at night at all, because I am so scared of being with adults. I wonder if the people who control my life might do something wrong to me. As a stateless Rohingya I would not be able to do anything if they did anything illegal to me, because I haven't got a shadow of any country or a person who would stand up to ask questions about me.

The reason I have written this letter is to let people know what is happening and how people are playing with this stateless Rohingya's life.

Mohammad Anamullah
EMP-34
Date of Birth: 26/08/1998

There were interruptions every five minutes; conversations between other people drowning out the words of the teacher or rain in the middle of the class and we have to run with our notebooks. Additionally, from time to time people get angry when the noise from the class wakes them up.

We put up with all of these and now at least we have classes in our compounds. However, the classrooms are designed to provoke depression and harassment. Let me explore the obstacles so you have a clear picture of our situation. Attending classes and becoming educated is something we can do to keep ourselves occupied. However the classrooms are very small. There are classes with 50 or 60 people enrolled but only 30 or 40 can fit in. We used to have elective classes, in which everyone was welcome on Tuesday and Wednesday. We used to go mad on those days. For example there are 300 people in Oscar compound, however, the classroom in Oscar can only contain 35 or 40 students. It means that 260 people will have nothing to do. It is a dire process that only causes fights, unhappiness and above all, it breaks relationships between friends. Incidentally, with sheer luck when we do get the opportunity to attend the class, there is no doubt that we will be boiled by the heat that the class room produces. It is made of plastic, no insulation, just ineffective cooling with a tent filled by hot men.

In short, despite providing well qualified teachers, we have lost the knowledge that we already have rather than gaining something new and our brains have been debilitated. In spite of every effort by the teachers and the investment of substantial money, there is little to show for it. We have had access to the teachers, whereas we haven't been given the basic things that we can use in order to improve our knowledge. Such as it is extremely difficult to get dictionaries and the books which we are familiar with. All in all, we would have effectively and efficiently achieved more if we were free in the community.

Written during the relocation of refugees and asylum seekers to different compounds

April 2016:

"I was crying and shading tears with rage when they demolished my place. They had no sympathy for my books and the shocking thing was that they threw my Holy Quran on the floor. I was only given 2 minutes to pack my stuff. I was respectfully following their instructions. However, they treated me like rubbish and stabbed me under their military shoes. It was so agonisingly painful. I could not take it any more and had to sleep on top of my stuff on my bed. I don't have any space to study, move, get changed, dressed.

There are bunks all around my bunk and therefore it will be extremely hard for me to get in and out of my bed. If they had put some poison in my food and killed me, it would have been so much easier for me rather than killing me every minute that I pass. Anyway, thanks Australia for your generosity and excellent hospitality. It is appreciated and acknowledged. However, please don't treat human being like the way we are being treated. We are not animus....."

We are living in cramped rooms in Oscar compound. There are 30 people in each room and more sadly, there is no privacy and space for us to get dressed and undressed.





Above: Sleeping accomodation in Mike compound. It was not meant to be a sleeping room, however we sleep here because we can't breath in our rooms which are made by containers. Being in those containers feels like we are being boiled on a frypan.



Above: Sleeping area in Foxtrot. We sleep in a small container with four people and a small fan. However, this is an area where no-one lives but the irony is , it has got air-conditioning.



These are two of the washing machines which have been broken a long time ago. Despite putting numerous requests and complaints, nothing has been done to fix these machines.

We always experience this sort of hardships.

CANTEEN AND WELFARE POINTS:

Canteen is a shop that is provided for us to buy whatever it has to sell, using our welfare points as money. Basically it sells cigarettes which cost 8 points per packet, biscuits that take 3 to 5 points per packet. A phone card is 5 points and a drink like Coca Cola and Fanta each costs 1 point. Every now and again, we get chips and nuts.

The welfare points, we receive the base allowance of 25 IAP points per week. We can earn extra 25 points by attending the activities provided. Officially this means we can earn up to 50 points.

On the other hand, they always impose severe restrictions on how many people can attend activities. There are not enough activities in place so that all inmates can attend in order to occupy their mind as well as receive points. Thus, that is to say, there is always a great pressure on the inmates to get enough points to survive. On the other hand, this is a type of pressure that one can't feel or see or touch or can't even sense it, if they are not experiencing it themselves. However, the strength of this pressure drives us mad. We have always experienced this whenever they bring something new to the canteens. Undoubtedly they run out before everyone can buy one. It causes emotional frustration because they have never been able to ensure the consistency of service to us.

In the old days each canteen would sell different things. It caused resentment to see that just across the fence, your friends could have a cold drink in Oscar but we were left without in gruesomely hot weather. We had points when our canteens had nothing to buy except cigarettes and phone cards.

The irony is that after waiting for months there are now things in the canteens to buy but we don't have points now. In other words, those who are found to be genuine refugees are terribly being punished. This is called "Comparative Measures" by Transfield.

*What are the comparative measures?

- Transferees are limited to 1 internet session per week.
- Transferees will not receive the base allowance of 25 IAP points per week
- Transferees will only be eligible to attend IHMS once per week.

It was a deliberate provocation to make our lives harder. They wanted us to leave the Manus Island Regional Processing Centre by applying a lot of unbearable and unpleasant hardships on us so that they could show the world that resettlement was working in this country.

They haven't done anything for us apart from making us suffer. I mean, there are people who come up to the canteen and gaze into the canteen with their faces against the window, yet they can't buy a packet of biscuit or a drink. It breaks our hearts into thousand pieces, conversely there is no one to console us. So we find a corner so that we can cry as much and for as long as we want. Worst of all, we couldn't talk to our families for months as we didn't have any phone cards.

As a matter of fact, the canteens are run by local staff and they have access to our points. There are stories that almost every day someone's points disappear. We didn't understand at the beginning. We put in complaints and sought help from the management through our case managers. In spite of doing everything that we thought would help, we got nowhere and sadly, we were accused of being liars. On the system it showed that we bought cigarettes but we hadn't.

Despite suffering this and knowing all of this, we could never have proved that it was the local staff, who were operating the computers, stole our points with our names. The obvious consequence is the asylum seekers and refugees are the victims any case. In fact, we are informed by reliable sources that when the management receive our complaints or requests, their initial reaction is to assume that we were lying.

All in all, the system makes it look like we have been provided with opportunities and facilities. We survivors can tell you with a guarantee that these services have never worked in our favour. It is like a thorn in our flesh and a stain on our brain.

In other words, it is a corrosive system which only make people suffer from great depression, stress and strain.



Above: We were being shot at randomly during the outbreak of riot in 2014. Welfare!

PHONE CALLS:

On Manus Prison, fortunately, we have been facilitated with phone calls. Subsequently, we can communicate with our families and friends. Obviously, it is a general agreement that everyone can understand. However, nobody outside of this prison knows how it has been run and further pain that it has caused to us in this unbearable situation.

We have to spend our 5 welfare points to buy a phone card out of 25 that we are given each week. Furthermore, we are scheduled into different groups and each group has at least 15 people. We can only call our families once a week and it lasts for 35 minutes.

Now let me tell you the depressing things that were set up intentionally in order to create a situation in which any human being will lose their strength.

Incidentally we are pushed to do extreme things such as fighting with each other, doing self harm and setting ourselves on fire. If we were not in these situation we would have never done all of these things.

We go to a room where there two rows and 15 phones are set up on the two rows. Fifteen people, who speak different languages, try to talk to their families out loud at once whilst sitting next to each other.

First, it is excruciatingly difficult to get through to our families with this poor connection. However, if you do make it, you can barely hear one or two words. As a result, many horrible things occur without our willingness.

Secondly, we keep dialing our families numbers until the last moment. That is to say, with sheer luck from time to time we manage to get through to our families, yet we have only 5 or 10 minutes left. As a matter of fact, we are escorted out of the phone room when we have just heard our mothers say our names.

Consequently, we don't know what the next word is. We therefore fall into a profoundly deep pool of depression.

There are immense events that have left many people completely disturbed. Such as, one of the inmates(Mizan) whose wife was pregnant. One night he spoke to his wife and he was told that his wife would give birth sometime tomorrow. His wife was in a dire situation. He was desperately frightened, almost fainted, and was in constant fear that something terrible would happen to her. The next day Mizan asked his friend to ring his family to see how his wife was when he was going for his phone call. Mizan's friend find out that his wife had liver pain and either the child or mother died.

He pleaded for a phone call and asked everyone who could have helped him. Despite seeking for help, he was not provided with a phone call. Coincidentally, the boss who didn't give him a phone call, heard that his wife had passed away. However the boss was lucky and was sent back to Australia that day. I don't think anyone can even begin to understand the grief that the inmate Mizan felt. He has been in great depression ever since he lost his beloved wife and their new born child. There is nothing in this world that can console his heart now. He is alive, yet he doesn't know what he is saying, what he is doing, where he is looking. That is to say, he is like a dead body.

In this small world of ours, everyday there is someone in this prison who loses their mother, father, sister, brother, wife, daughter or son.

MY STORY:

As I mentioned earlier, my name is Imran Mohammad and I am from Myanmar (Burma), I am 22 years old. Before coming to Manus Island, I could barely speak English, however I could understand English speaking people.

My ethnic minority is called Rohingya. We are a group of people who have been isolated from the rest of the world until now. Despite the fact that our forebears were born in Myanmar, we haven't been given any documentation by our government that will embody which part of the world we belong to. We don't even have a birth certificate and most of us therefore don't know our actual date of birth or how old we are.

The hardships facing Rohingya people are enormous and every thing is highly controlled in order to keep all the inhuman and degrading treatment of our people hidden from the rest of the world.

The world may know about the lives of Rohingya people, however it's not informed about the facts how cruelly we have been tortured and traumatised.

It is almost impossible for someone to comprehend who has never experienced or gone through the hardships that we go through in our everyday life.

To illustrate, a significant number of Rohingya women are raped every day, a vast number of young boys are taken away and subjected to extremely hard labour, battered unbearably or killed.

Our movement is restricted and we are deprived of our basic human rights. As a result, we are in a very delicate position and are compelled to leave every thing behind in order to escape discrimination, persecution and most notably from the constant fear of being killed.

With a little bit of luck, I managed to flee my country at a very young age with a belief that there would be a tiny space in this huge world for me, where I would have no fear of death. Nevertheless, I didn't know I would have to suffer many hardships through this journey in my young life.

I have lived in many detention centres for almost 5 consecutive years and now ended up on Manus. It is a place which was set up intentionally in order to destroy human lives and push the people into a position where they behave like animals.

The system was created in a way so as to demolish the roots of human hearts. As a consequence, the people who are involved in this place as workers and detainees have been deteriorated and dehumanised without anyone's knowledge. It is a deliberate substantial torture on refugees that has been imposed by Australian government.

However, they have been doing it behind the sign of PNG. It is definitely a crime, they are using human lives for their own ulterior motives and their cruel acts are causing so many physical damages and variety of plague in people's brain and above all deaths.

Obviously, we are going to have a long term effect in our lives for being in a prison like Manus for so long as we are just wounded, not cured. It will only leave us with a vast number of sufferings. It is like someone has planted a tree, it is being watered meanwhile it is being cut at its roots. It is obvious that the tree will die.

Now question yourself why someone has planted a tree, looked after it and let it die. What would be the benefits of doing all of this.

OFFSHORE PROCESSING OR TORTURE?:

- Imagine you are walking down the street one day, minding your own business, when a man grabs you and pulls you into his car. He takes you to a house out in the middle of nowhere where he locks you in his garage. You remain there for several weeks wherein he beats and tortures you almost constantly. He feeds you just enough to keep you alive so that he can continue to torture you. Sometimes he hits you so severely that you believe he will beat you to death.
- We have been imprisoned for three years. There has been no actual refugee processing. Instead of the Australian government torturing us in the name of offshore processing, by now we should have been set free in a country where we feel safe.
- Billions of dollars has been invested with our name of resettlement refugees on Manus. However, just a few people have moved from one dangerous place (Processing Centre) to another dangerous place (Transit Centre) after 34 months. It feels as if the processing of asylum seekers will never end on Manus Prison.
- It is understood that we will never be resettled in Australia. It is a policy of a country and we definitely respect it. On the other hand, there are countries which are willing to accept us as their citizens like New Zealand, yet the offers have been rejected. This means, we will be imprisoned forever.
- 55 million dollars has been sent to Cambodia with our names. It is reported that it is a total waste of Australian public's money.
- Many lives have been lost through this cruel Policy.

In fact, your money has been used to destroy refugees lives directly or indirectly. To illustrate, Reza Barati was killed. Hamid was killed due to poor medical treatment. Omid and Rakib died because indefinite detention caused so much damage to their brain and put them in a desperate position where the human mind lost control. One can do extreme things when pushed to their limits. For example, they can take their own lives. In this instance it is called suicide.

- Remember the officers who raped a local Manusian woman. They were flown out of Manus and were never questioned or charged, or taken to the PNG court. Remember those staff members who helped Joshua to kill Reza Baratti? They were also flown off Manus and never returned to face court.
- This system and these companies, TRANSFIELD SERVICES, BROADSPECTRUM, SALVATION ARMY, G4S and WILSON SECURITY did not, until recently allow the refugees access to the PNG police, they did not pass on our complaints either. Moreover, our complaints are investigated within these companies and obviously the outcomes have always been in their favour. That is to say, if any staff member commits a crime, he or she is assisted by these organisations.

Let me tell you about an event in which one of the inmates who alleged he was assaulted and abused. He was one of the fragile inmates who can't speak any English. Nevertheless, the investigation officers came to talk to him without an interpreter, to investigate! It was totally unfair on him. There are many victims who suffer everyday. Our voice has never been answered.

TRANSFIELD SERVICES
Security Services, Manus RPC

Feedback & Complaints Resolution Letter

Transferee ID: Compound: Date Received:

Dear:

We acknowledge the complaint you placed with us on the above date in regards to concerns with a staff member Client Services Officer John. You allege that CSO John has verbally abused you when you were going into the mess.

On the 15/08/2015 Senior Investigator Zac came in your compound and spoke to you about your complaint. You told Senior Investigator Zac that you were complaining about that you were waiting at the Oscar mess when Client Service Officer John has asked transferees from a different line to enter. You said you have approached CSO John where you both had a conversation. You then made an allegation that CSO John was rude, called you an animal and swore at you.

Investigations were unable to support the allegations you raised. There were no witnesses to the conversation and CCTV footage supports that 10 transferees rushed at the door. CSO John does admit to saying to you, "This is my country. I am a local, you respect me and I will respect you. If you come to your country I will respect you. If I don't do my job the catering staff will tell on me". CSO John denied that he was rude and there is no evidence that he swore or called you an animal.

At the conclusion of the conversation with Senior Investigator Zac you expressed satisfaction of the investigation outcome. Senior Investigator Zac asked you if you would like to participate in a mediation session with CSO John, you declined this offer. You then stated you required no further action be taken in the matter.

We would now like to take this opportunity to inform you that the matter is closed.

Thank you

The Investigation Team

Date Closed:
 Ref No: FC3907a
 Date Response: 16/08/2015

FAUX FREEDOM:

Despite the fact that the PNG supreme court ruled this camp is illegal, they (PNG and Australia) haven't shut down the camp and therefore they have not honoured the Supreme Court decision.

As a matter of fact, we can't still have an e-reader which has no WiFi and internet capabilities.

The first complaint that I wrote regarding my e-reader is as follows:

“Broadspectrum,

I would like to write a complaint about my e-reader. My family has sent me an e-reader by post. Even though it has no Wi-Fi and internet capabilities, it wasn't issued to me. The property officers put it in my personal property instead of giving it to me. I won't use it for anything except for reading a book or watching movies.

My request to you is I would like you to help me with this complaint and provide me my e-reader.

So dear Broad, I really hope you will prioritise my complaint and it will be dealt with in due course.

Signed: “

Broadspectrum
Security Services, Manus RPC

Feedback & Complaints Resolution Letter

Transeree ID: EMP065 Compound: Oscar Date Received: 04.05.2016

Dear: Imron Mohammad FAZAL HOQUE

We acknowledge the complaint you placed with us on the above date in regards to your E-reader that was not issued to you by the Property department.

On the 4th May 2016 the Property Team held a discussion with you in Oscar compound. You were advised that as your E-reader has a recording device, this will remain in trust. You were thankful to the Property Team for this explanation.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the matter is now closed.

Thank you

The Complaints Coordinator on behalf of the Wilson Security Team.

Date Closed: 04.05.2016
Ref No: FC5724a
Date Response: 05.05.2016

They didn't give it to me. I have attached an evidence that will explain this matter more clearly. My complaint I wrote after receiving the Feedback is as follows:

"I am writing this complaint regarding the feedback that I received today about my e-reader. First of all, I am excruciatingly disappointed to read the words that are written in that feedback.

You were saying that I was thankful to the Property team for their explanation because I was content that my e-reader would remain in your trust. However, this is the reverse of what I was told. They told me that I would be given my e-reader within 3 or 4 days. That's what I was thankful about.

In relation to this, being respectful doesn't doesn't mean I am happy about being deprived of my fundamental human rights. I will obey the procedures in place and take action against the property team and Broad if I need to.

Furthermore, I didn't ask my family to send me an e-reader in order for it to be kept in my property. Obviously, your act is demonstrating that you want me to suffer from lack of stimulation that will lead to further incidences of severe depression by preventing me from accessing what is mine.

As I was saying, it is an e-reader that will not help me with anything apart from reading books and watching movies.

I really hope you will take everything into consideration and will issue the e-reader within the timeframe that I was told.

Thank you for your assistance

Signed: "

RESETTLEMENT:

Resettlement in this country has never been realistic or possible and there is a lack security and stability provided in the resettlement.

Ranked 153rd out of 187 countries on the United Nations human development index, Papua New Guinea is currently struggling to look after its own people. It is plagued with extremely high levels of corruption and political instability.

There is no true social security system for its population, and excruciatingly high living costs, unemployment and crime. Though Papua New Guineans are extremely welcoming people, there is a growing resentment towards the idea of settling refugees in their country, believing that PNG is being used as a dumping ground for Australia's problems, and fearing they will receive preferential treatment over locals, many of whom are struggling to meet their own daily needs. There are also concerns about how Muslim refugees would be integrated into PNG, with its strong Christian majority.

We see everything with our eyes, however our voice has never been respected. Let's go through some facts so that you can understand better.

For example, our rooms are searched by Wilson Security and PNG police every 3 or 4 months. It has always been experienced that our belongings are missing at the end of the search. In spite of seeing all of this, we can't say anything.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court decision has left this camp in an extremely vulnerable position. The safety of our lives has dropped significantly since this centre was found to be illegal.

Thus, things have been stolen which are supposed to be distributed to the refugees and above all, it's noticed that the authority turns a blind eye to every corruption and crime that occurs in place.

In conclusion, we were just seeking safety in our lives from Australia, however we didn't know that it would turn out to be a life and death situation.

The irony is that we were rescued from the death sea and we now have been pushed to death on the land.

We go through too many heartbreaking events everyday. There is much to be said about our lives in indefinite detention prisons. If we used all the water in the sea as ink to describe our sufferings here, we would definitely run out before explaining everything.

No one takes a journey on foot across the desert for fun. No one puts themselves on a boat knowing the chance of death is 95% certain, just for fun.

There are no tears left in our eyes to shed, our hearts are not beating anymore. We have been tortured beyond our endurance. We wander around confused, tormented, distressed and with addled minds. We are dying one by one. We desperately need your help and support in order to end this political game. We are neglected, abandoned, tortured, humiliated, beaten to death and most notably accused of being criminals and terrorists without committing any crimes.

All in all, this is not a time to say that the water is cold in the pool, so you go first. This is a time we should all get into the pool together in order to defend the human lives who are in desperately need help.

This is no longer a matter of politics or policy.

This is a matter of human lives.



A letter from Imran Mohammad 26th April, 2016 reads as follows (Ed):

My dear friends, please share this so that people know what is really happening here.....

I am one of the refugees who has been detained on Manus Island prison under relentless torture, humiliation and discrimination. My fellow inmates and I have managed to survive under such deliberate and inhumane cruelty inflicted by Australia.

Dear friends, although we are being damaged, we appreciate your food, clothes and shelter which are provided to us by your money through your government. However, your money has been used to destroy our lives in this prison. They have played a lot of games and put too many restrictions on our lives over the last 3 years.

Now they are going to play another game with us by opening the gates of our compounds. If we go out, it is not clear if we will be allowed in again, if this is a deliberate ploy to force us out into the community and what the consequences will be if we agree to their plan and let buses take us into town. We are already broken, vulnerable and hopeless, damaged physically and mentally. They are striving to show the world that we are criminals and bad people. You may have questions in the back of your mind about how they will do this.

They have always strived to push our buttons, take every option away from us and make us believe we have nothing left to lose, but now it's become worse. I have heard from some reliable sources that your government has paid money to the local girls to continue to engage in and seek relationships with refugees. They are trying to accuse us of rape and sexual assault, to prove to the world that we are bad people.

We have had more than enough of this torture. We are in a situation in which it is difficult to choose what to do because whatever we do, there are negative consequences. Wherever we turn, we are faced with these situations. We are not provided with clear answers, not given the right to access legal representation and at every turn, we are manipulated and fed false information, which has built more desperation, mistrust and heartache amongst us.

My dearest friends of those living in Manus Island Prison, I know that we are already dead as our blood had been sucked from our bodies by enormous pain. However, we have come so far and now we can't give up as it's time to take our rewards. It will only be possible if we can cross this minefield cautiously and avoid the mines hidden along the way. I know it is going to be extremely tough; nevertheless we have to persevere in our attempt to obtain this victory.

We need to remember that we want long term solutions. By this I mean that if one part of our bodies is affected or injured, we want a permanent solution. We don't want a palliative solution. We have to win this battle at any cost.

To sum up, this is a message from a place of isolation to the whole world. I am a Rohingya boy from Myanmar(Burma). I am 22 years old now. I have been persecuted and deprived of my basic human rights since I was born right up until now. I have never known safety or peace, and I have never known citizenship or a right to call any country my own.

I am writing this letter on behalf of all the asylum seekers and refugees who have been detained on Manus Island offshore processing prison. I am hoping that every living person will take a few minutes to read this message, raise their voice to protect our lives and preserve the unity of humanity.

My eyes have no more tears as they have dried out and my body doesn't feel pain any more. It's like a long tree that has no life in it and it gets beaten by every passing living thing, like a driftwood that gets lashed by tides. However, there are lives that you can still save from this dead sea. There is nothing left that we can use to survive.

We believe this is you, the people, who can bring change to our lives. In human history, people saved other people's lives. This is the definition of a human being.

We are here to give you our best interest in order to create one nation in which every creation is safe, can live peacefully and is equally respected.

We are here to build your country, and above all, we are here to share our love with others. We want nothing except your love and a small place to rest without having the constant fear of death.....

Thank you
With kind and best regards.
Voice from Manus Prison

“This is no longer a matter of politics or policy.

This is a matter of human lives”.

*Imran Mohammad
May, 2016*


UNHCR

 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
 Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

UNHCR

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Date of Issue / Tanggal Pengeluaran: 12 April 2013

Date of Renewal / Tanggal Memperbaharui: 18 April 2014

UNHCR REFUGEE CERTIFICATE

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Name of Applicant | Mohammad Imran |
| UNHCR File No. | 353-12C00672 |
| Date of Birth | 10-Apr-1994 |
| Place of Birth | Khawazar Bill, Maung Daw, Arakan |
| Nationality | Myanmar |
| Date of entry in Indonesia | 26-Feb-2012 |


TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that the above-named person has been recognized as a refugee by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, pursuant to its mandate. As a refugee, he is a person of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and should, in particular, be protected from forcible return to a country where he would face threats to his life or freedom. Any assistance accorded to the above-named individual would be most appreciated.

Questions regarding the information contained in this document may be directed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at the address above.

UNHCR Representation Jakarta

Surat ini menyatakan bahwa yang namanya tersebut diatas, sesuai dengan mandat UNHCR (Komisi Tinggi PBB Urusan Pengungsi) telah diakui sebagai pengungsi. Sebagai seorang pengungsi, yang bersangkutan menjadi perhatian UNHCR, dan secara khusus mendapatkan perlindungan dari ancaman pendeportasian paksa ke negara asal tempat dimana kehidupannya dan kebebasannya terancam. Segala bantuan yang diberikan kepada yang bersangkutan akan sangat dihargai.

Segala pertanyaan yang berkaitan dengan isi dan dokumen ini dapat disampaikan kepada kantor UNHCR melalui alamat yang tersebut diatas.

Important notice on the validity of this document is printed overleaf.
 Catatan penting mengenai validasi dari dokumen ini dicetak dibalik kertas ini.

No: 43584

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**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & IMMIGRATION
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER**

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Applicant's First Name/s | Imran Mohammad |
| Applicant's Surname | FOZAL HOQUE |
| Date of Birth | 4 October 1994 |
| Client ID | EMP065 |
| File Number | EMO065 |
| Client Location | OSCAR COMPOUND, MANUS ISLAND REGIONAL PROCESSING CENTRE, MANUS PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA |

Dear Mr Imran Mohammad FOZAL HOQUE,

NOTICE OF REFUGEE DETERMINATION

This is to notify you of the final decision with regards to your application for refugee determination, pursuant to Section 15A of the *Migration Act 1970*.

Your application for refugee status has been considered and I am pleased to advise that it was successful. I am satisfied that you meet the relevant criteria to be recognised as a refugee under the law of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The reasons for this decision, in accordance with section 15(2) of the *Migration Regulation 1979* are attached to this letter.

You will receive information from officials about your rights and obligations and about assistance that may be provided to you to apply for an identity document and visa, and to prepare for life in PNG.

Should you choose not to remain in PNG, you may receive assistance to voluntarily return to your country of origin or another country where you have a right of residence within 12 months of receiving this determination. After that time all travel from PNG will be at your own cost.

Please keep a copy of this letter in a safe place for future purposes.

Yours sincerely

Rimbink Pato, OBE, LLB, MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs & Immigration

Date: 12/11/2015