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Melbourne  
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Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

**Inquiry into the provisions of the Migration Amendment  
(Designated Unauthorised Arrivals) Bill 2006**

I am writing to object to the proposed legislation on the following grounds.

1. That the experience of the previous excision of islands from the migration zone and the subsequent removal of asylum seekers to Nauru and Manus was outrageously expensive in both human and economic terms.  
Small sample for example- currently Australia is paying  
\$1.800,000 annually to maintain Manus Island with no detainees  
\$1.000,000 per month to keep two Iraqi's locked up on Nauru  
\$700,000 to transport West Papuans in a Hercules to Christmas Is.
2. That despite claims from Minister Ruddock at the time that the detention, and later described reception, of asylum seekers would be of short duration, these people remained on Nauru until February 2006 and indeed two persons are still there awaiting resettlement.
3. **That despite claims made by this Government that these people will never set foot on Australian soil, that of the 1509 people taken to offshore detention in 2001.**  
**586 went to Australia**  
**360 to New Zealand**  
**19 Sweden**  
**10 to Canada**  
**6 Denmark**  
**4 Norway**  
**482 went back**-these were the Hazara's who were threatened and cajoled into going back to Afghanistan. Dave Corlet's book '*Following them Home*' describes the consequences for some of the returnees.  
**32 unaccounted for** - DIMA refuse to release details of destinations- most presumed to have come to Australia.

4. That this legislation places us in breach of our signed commitment to the Refugee Convention article 31.
5. Apart from the deterioration in both mental and physical health suffered by these people's incarceration in limbo, there were human costs in loss of life.

(i) 2 women drowned during Operation Relex - their bodies retrieved by the Australian Navy. One woman was pregnant and afraid of jumping in the water as ordered. She held her husband's hand and they jumped together but got separated when they hit the ocean and when she was dragged aboard a Navy duck she had a pulse but died soon after. The other woman was elderly and had never swum before.

<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/s531993.htm>

(ii) 353 men women and children drowned on the SIEVX

(iii) Fatima aged 27, mother of three died on Christmas Island after being harassed by Immigration to return to Afghanistan. She had blinding headaches and high blood pressure for days. This was treated with Panadol. The blood vessels in her brain exploded under the high blood pressure. She was flown to Perth, unconscious. Life support was turned off 3 days later. <http://www.safecom.org.au/fatima.htm>

(iv) One young man in his twenties woke up in the night cried out and died. Cause unknown. No Coronial inquiry. Deaths in Nauru detention camps not investigated.

(v) Many of the long term detained are still receiving medical care from the physical and mental health effects of being held in the Nauru and Manus Island Camps.

New Zealand MP Keith Locke stated in the Financial Review May 2006 that

"New Zealanders were happy to take the refugees from the Tampa because it was our way of sharing the load," he says.

"But I don't think we would be happy to be used by Australia to get out of her Refugee Convention responsibilities," says Locke.

Please reconsider this ill-judged, inhumane legislation, the passage of which can only bring more pain and despair to asylum seekers and shame to all Australians.

Yours Sincerely,

Pamela Curr