

# Project SafeCom News and Updates

Tuesday, 31 July 2018

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## 1. Ahed Tamimi: 'I am a freedom fighter. I will not be the victim'

Day after her release, teenage Palestinian activist says she hopes to become lawyer and lead cases against Israel

The Guardian

Oliver Holmes and Sufian Taha in Nabi Saleh

Tue 31 Jul 2018 03.40 AEST

The teenage Palestinian activist Ahed Tamimi has said she used her eight months in prison as an opportunity to study international law and hopes to one day lead cases against Israel in international courts.

“God willing, I will manage to study law,” the 17-year-old from Nabi Saleh in the occupied West Bank told the Guardian a day after her release. “I will present the violations against the Palestinians in criminal courts. And to try Israel for it and to be a big lawyer, and to return rights to my country.”

Tamimi, who rose to global prominence as a child living under military occupation, said she and other Palestinians in her all-female prison unit would sit for hours and learn legal texts. “We managed to transform the jail into a school,” she said.

To an outcry from rights groups, the teenager was arrested in December after slapping and kicking Israeli soldiers on camera outside her home. The soldiers had been deployed at one of Nabi Saleh’s weekly protests, where residents have thrown stones at troops who have responded with teargas, arrests and, at times, live ammunition.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/30/ahed-tamimi-i-am-a-freedom-fighter-i-will-not-be-the-victim-palestinian-israel>

## 2. Randa Abdel-Fattah: Go ahead, white Australia, eat your kebabs while you remind us of your 'values'

When I think about white fragility and its moral pretensions I marvel at the great hoax of it all

The Guardian

Randa Abdel-Fattah

Sat 28 Jul 2018 12.17 AEST

I know who I am. Most racialised people do. History matters to us. We know that the answers to who we are as a nation lie in a story that did not start with the last election or 9/11 or Tampa or deaths in custody or the stolen generations. We know that if we were to approach the question of who we are as a nation the way we would a jigsaw puzzle then the most logical and coherent approach is to first assemble the pieces that make up the frame to see its shape and how the border determines the shape and fit of all the pieces inside.

We know that the frame of Australia is race. As a white-settler colonial outpost of the British empire, it could only ever be race. The dispossession, genocide and exploitation on which this country was founded; the legacy of its status as a British settler colony; past efforts to build a racially exclusionary nation via the White Australia policy; its evolution from “racial” to “cultural” dominance through the vehicle of a highly politicised policy of multicultural-ism; and, above all, the denial of Indigenous sovereignty – racialised people know that this is where any discussion of this nation’s identity must start.

And so, who am I? I am writing this essay on the land of the Darug people. I was born in Sydney in the year that the National Aboriginal Conference called for a treaty between Aboriginal people and the Australian government. A treaty that has, 39 years later, still not been achieved. I am here only because my father had the good fortune to migrate on a scholarship to Sydney University in 1972, a time when the last vestiges of the White Australia policy were being dismantled. My father was a stateless Palestinian because the same imperial government that colonised Australia set the course for the theft of my father’s homeland, Palestine.

I am writing this on the land of the Darug people and not in, say, Cairo, my mother’s birthplace, because my mother migrated to Australia in 1974. Her family saw no future in Egypt after Gamal Abdel Nasser’s nationalisation of Egypt’s economy. My mother’s family left a country in the throes of resisting years of British colonialism and imperialism only to migrate to a former British colony because its government decided their brown skin was now palatable.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/28/go-ahead-white-australia-eat-your-kebabs-while-you-remind-us-of-your-values>

### 3. Binoy Kampmark: The global push against refugees

Eureka Street  
Binoy Kampmark  
11 July 2018

Cometh the time, cometh the exploitable prejudice. With millions of globally displaced persons, states are retreating from the business of treating the condition as one of dysfunction inflicted by war, famine and poverty. It has morphed from a matter of humanitarianism to one of social ill and unease.

The issue of fault has been shifted, to the individuals themselves, and their colluding agents, the people smugglers. What is salient now to the issue of state security is who has the best drawbridge, the most suitably booby trapped moats, and the least interested agent who might assess any worthy claims. If there is processing to be done, someone else is to take the tab.

In Hungary, Victor Orbán has made it clear that he is holding some sort of blazing torch for European civilisation. The fact that the Avars were themselves fairly indifferent to dispossessing, plundering and marauding is simply too ironic for patriotic junkies like the Hungarian prime minister. In the visage of purity and values, he is leading the charge against refugees, drawing strength from his colleagues within the Visegrád group of states.

The latest innovation from Budapest is legislation that targets organisations and individuals who help refugees through the provision of assistance. 'The primary aim of this legislation is to intimidate, by means of criminal law, those who fully legitimately assist asylum seekers or foreigners,' noted the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, a local human rights group.

The sinister sting here is the punitive angle taken against the entire process of seeking asylum or refuge. In this, an air of inspiration is being drawn, notably, from the attempts of the Australian parliament to do the same. Refugees are to be repelled rather than processed, expelled rather than integrated. This notwithstanding that niggling ethical and legal point on whether a person facilitating the furtherance of a right might be punished for doing so.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=56006>

### 4. Richard Ackland: Offshore detention won't be fixed by politicians. Can the high court help?

If politicians are incapable of fixing this stain on our humanity, our history and our dignity, what about the judges?

The Guardian  
Richard Ackland  
Fri 27 Jul 2018 03.13 BST

By this stage in the evolution of our destiny it is clear that the main political parties are unwilling to retreat from their locked-in positions on offshore abuse of refugees and asylum seekers.

It won't be fixed politically because both major parties want to exploit offshore detention for their electoral prospects. As Iranian-Kurdish refugee Behrouz Boochani on Manus Island said, "the movements within civil society, and the work of refugee activists have been incapable of forcing change within Australia's political system".

So what next? If politicians are incapable of fixing this stain on our humanity, our history and our dignity, what about the judges, in particular those at the pinnacle of the judicial food chain, the high court of Australia?

The high court is the guardian of the constitution, a document about which many Australians are pitifully unaware. But judges are acutely conscious of the patch they occupy in the distribution of power between the branches of government.

The theory is that actions of the executive or parliament that trespass onto the judicial patch will be struck down as unconstitutional. Judicial power under chapter III of the constitution cannot be exercised by the other components of government just as judges can't exercise executive power.

The power to punish is typically the preserve of chapter III courts, not politicians. But what does that mean for refugees and asylum seekers who are detained by politicians for extended periods? Why aren't the courts saying that five years on Manus or Nauru amounts to punishment and is therefore unconstitutional?

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jul/27/offshore-detention-wont-be-fixed-by-politicians-can-the-high-court-help>

## 5. 'I'll make a sign and hold it up': Isobelle Carmody takes her activism to the streets

The Australian fantasy author, a vocal opponent of Australia's offshore detention, calls taking a stand the 'best kind of power'

The Guardian  
Angela Elizabeth  
Sat 28 Jul 2018 21.00 BST

"I've always thought of myself as a bit of a coward," says Isobelle Carmody. "A lot of my writing is about courage – learning what courage is, trying to find our own courage, that sort of thing – because I didn't feel very brave at all when I was young."

It's a surprising admission from the acclaimed writer. For three decades now, Carmody has been one of Australia's most beloved fantasy authors, for children and adults alike. At just 14 she began work on her first book, Obernewtyn, which was published in 1987 and spawned the fantasy series of the same name. Her novel *The Gathering* was a high school favourite for many Australian teens and won her both the 1993 Children's Literature Peace prize and the 1994 CBCA Book of the Year award.

But Carmody has also earned a reputation for bravery thanks to her vocal activism against the Australian government's offshore processing of refugees.

In person, Carmody is articulate and outgoing, with vibrant red hair and silver jewellery. She sits across the table from me at a local cafe and gestures expressively with her hands as she talks. Beside us, resting against the table leg for our fellow customers to read, is her latest protest sign. Carmody is deeply passionate about a number of causes, among them China's bile bears. But it is the plight of the refugees on Nauru and Manus Island that holds most of her attention and her heart.

She hasn't always been as much of an activist as she is now. "I cared about these things, I was informed, and it seemed that I was doing a lot, so it never occurred to me that I should do anything more," she tells Guardian Australia. "A lot of writers feel the way I do, but because they write about it they give themselves a pass on doing anything more, and I was one of those people."

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/jul/28/ill-make-a-sign-and-hold-it-up-isobelle-carmody-takes-her-activism-to-the-streets>

## 6. Julian Burnside: What is happening on Nauru should shock the conscience of every Australian

It is important that we all know the truth of what our government is doing to innocent people

The Guardian  
Thu 19 Jul 2018 06.58 BST  
Julian Burnside

In the middle of 2016 Guardian Australia published the Nauru files: more than 2,000 incident reports recording things that had happened in Australia's refugee gulag on Nauru. The incident reports – made by people directly or indirectly employed by the Australian government – contained reports of assaults, sexual abuse, self-harm and child abuse. They gave an insight into the living conditions endured by asylum seekers held by the Australian government. Unsurprisingly, they painted a picture of routine dysfunction and cruelty.

A few key facts: Nauru is an island republic in the South Pacific. It is about 4,000 kilometres from Sydney. It is almost exactly on the equator, so it is fairly hot. It is very small: about 2 square kilometres smaller than Tullamarine airport in Melbourne. It has a population of about 9,500 people: less than most Australian suburbs.

Nauru was first used by Australia as a place of detention from late 2001, after the Tampa episode, until about 2007. Its use was revived in 2012. It is used primarily as a place where families and unaccompanied women and children are sent. Manus Island (part of PNG) is used as a place for unaccompanied men.

Almost all the people held on Nauru now have been there for five years. It costs Australian taxpayers about \$570,000 per refugee, per year to keep them in Nauru. And that's just the financial cost: think what it is doing to the soul of our country. Australia is increasingly seen as a country which is intentionally cruel to innocent people.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jul/19/what-is-happening-on-nauru-should-shock-the-conscience-of-every-australian>

## 7. Omid Tofighian: Writing from Manus prison: a scathing critique of domination and oppression

Behrouz Boochani spent almost five years typing passages of his book into a mobile phone. The result resists classification

The Guardian  
Omid Tofighian  
Tue 31 Jul 2018 16.39 AEST

What is more horrific: immigration detention centres constructed as anomalies of a liberal democracy, or systematic state torture imagined as something distinct from fascism?

Behrouz Boochani finished his book, *No Friend but the Mountains: Writing From Manus Prison*, approximately a month after being forcibly removed from the original Manus Island immigration detention centre. He completed it following the intense 23-day siege of the prison and the horrific experiences associated with the standoff, eviction and transfer of refugees.

He spent almost five years typing passages of various chapters into his mobile phone and using Whatsapp to text message them to Moones Mansoubi who filed the writings. She then arranged the text messages into chapters based on Boochani's instructions and subsequently sent to me for translation. Early on in the writing process, Boochani had his phone confiscated during one of the brutal early morning raids and for a period of time was forced to write on paper and dictate to Moones using voice messaging (who obviously had to transcribe the new sections).

"Horrorified mothers ... mothers wrapped their children within the instincts of motherhood and escaped to the mountains. Young girls were searching for their dreams within the hearts of men rounded up into groups – so many groups – and being led down a road to the front lines of war. Groups – so many groups – returned as corpses. Again, it is those same chestnuts that became the solace for buried dreams."

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jul/31/writing-from-manus-prison-a-scathing-critique-of-domination-and-oppression>

## 8. Ben Doherty: Each time Australia delays bringing a sick child from Nauru, the stakes get higher

The government is playing a dangerous game with the lives of refugee children

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty  
Wed 11 Jul 2018 19.00 BST

Last week, three children held in Australia's offshore immigration regime on the island of Nauru were moved to Australia following court order or threat of legal action.

In six months, eight cases have been brought before the Australian courts of children suffering life-threatening psychological or physical illness that cannot be properly treated on Nauru.

Every one of those cases has been won. Children have been moved to safety. And more cases will follow, this week and the week after, and the week after that.

Slowly, literally one by one, through Australia's legal system, the children on Nauru are finding a path to the care their doctors have been insisting – in some cases for months – that they need.

But the impact on those left behind on the island is profound.

On Nauru they refer to the "contagion". It is a small place, and the refugee and asylum seeker communities are tight-knit. Everyone knows everyone, and knows how they are faring: who is "doing well", who is struggling, who is close to breaking.

A child attempts suicide or commits self-harm, and soon, it is seen, they are moved with their families to Australia where they can access appropriate care. For the next child, the example is starkly apparent. Some workers in that place have even talked about a "saviour complex" developing, where children believe they can, indeed must, save their family through drastic and dangerous action.

The regime the Australian government has put in place, where children must be allowed to become life-threateningly unwell before a move can be contemplated is exceedingly dangerous.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/11/each-time-australia-delays-bringing-a-sick-child-from-nauru-the-stakes-get-higher>

## 9. Australia is wilfully damaging the health of children on Nauru to make a point – and it is appalling

Sydney Morning Herald  
By David Isaacs, Alanna Maycock  
12 December 2017 — 4:07pm

When we visited Nauru as paediatric specialists three years ago, we were asked to see 30 of the 100 children being detained on the island. Among them was a six-year-old girl who had tried to kill herself and a two-year-old boy with such severe behaviour problems a doctor had prescribed anti-psychotic medicines. Their parents were in despair. They had fled persecution, trying to save their children from harm, but had ended up imprisoned on a remote island, without hope. We left with the view that these were the most traumatised children we had ever consulted on, far worse than children we had seen in Australia, Africa, Asia or Europe.

Three years later, 43 of those children remain on the island. Officially they are now free to move around, but reports of attacks by locals show Nauru is not safe and so they remain in the "Regional Processing Centre". In 2014, the Australian Human Rights Commission reported that children at this centre were deeply traumatised psychologically, and had even been abused. Their detention was harming them. When Australia introduced mandatory detention in 1992, it took 10 weeks on average to process an application for refugee status. Now it takes years. As the numbers of children in detention fall, the length of time in detention rises. This is deliberate: wilfully damaging children's health to deter others from seeking asylum.

About 90 per cent of people who arrive by boat seeking asylum are classed as "genuine refugees". The United Nations Refugee Convention says countries shall not punish people for seeking asylum. It also says countries should never return refugees to their own country of origin. We signed that convention. So if those families on Nauru are not coming to Australia and not going home, what will happen to them?

Australia has forgotten those 43 children on Nauru whom we visited three years ago. They are hidden out of sight on a remote island. The media struggles to report on them because the Nauru government charges a journalist \$8000 to apply for a visa, which can be refused without right of appeal, no money back. When Alanna talked about Nauru at The Women in the World summit in New York in April, the Americans were shocked: "Not even Donald locks up children indefinitely".

FULL STORY AT <https://www.smh.com.au/opinion/australia-is-wilfully-damaging-the-health-of-children-on-nauru-to-make-a-point--and-it-is-appalling-20171212-h035cq.html>

## 10. UN body condemns Australia for illegal detention of asylum seekers and refugees

Those unlawfully held remain in indefinite detention, where they have been held for up to nine years without charge

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty  
Sat 7 Jul 2018 23.54 BST

A key United Nations body has condemned as arbitrary and illegal Australia's indefinite incarceration of refugees and asylum seekers, issuing critical statements on five separate cases in a year. But those unlawfully held remain in indefinite detention, where they have been held for up to nine years without charge.

The working group on arbitrary detention is a key part of the UN's Human Rights Council, on which Australia now sits after a years-long public and diplomatic campaign for the position.

The working group is an independent body of human rights experts that assesses cases of alleged arbitrary detention and reports to the council.

Since June of 2017 the arbitrary detention working group has published five opinions critical of Australia's open-ended detention of asylum seekers and refugees. It has consistently argued Australia's indefinite detention of some refugees and asylum seekers is unlawful.

In each of the five published opinions, the working group has recommended Australia immediately release the men held and pay them "compensation and other reparations" for their unlawful detention.

None of the men have been released. The youngest is 29 years old, the oldest 45. They each face detention without charge – in theory, potentially until the end of their lives.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/08/un-body-condemns-australia-for-illegal-detention-of-asylum-seekers-and-refugees>

## 11. Australian customs deliberately sailed asylum seekers via Ashmore Reef

Attempt to excise reef from Australian migration zone so asylum seekers could be sent offshore overturned

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty  
Mon 23 Jul 2018 23.00 BST

Australian customs ships intercepted asylum seeker boats and sailed those on board for days, not to Australia but to remote Ashmore Reef, so the asylum seekers could then be sent for offshore processing.

By sailing asylum seekers in Australian government vessels through Ashmore Reef – far closer to the coast of Indonesia than Australia – those asylum seekers were judged to be “offshore entries” to Australia, and therefore eligible to be sent to immigration centres on Nauru or Papua New Guinea.

Some of those taken through the reef remain in immigration detention still, more than five years later.

But that “offshore entry” connivance has been found to be unlawful.

A court judgment this month found that Australia’s attempted excision of the Ashmore and Cartier islands (of which the reef is a part) was invalid, and up to 1,600 asylum cases may need to be revisited because of careless legislative drafting.

The excision was believed to have existed for 11 years – between 2002 and 2013 – but the court found it was never valid because the lagoon at Ashmore Reef, declared a “proclaimed port” by the then immigration minister, Philip Ruddock, was never a port at all.

“The area was an area of water within a reef. It was, it seems, navigable, but it was not disputed that the area was not, and could not be, used for the transfer of goods or passengers from vessels,” Judge Justin Smith said in the federal circuit court.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/24/australian-customs-deliberately-sailed-asylum-seekers-via-ashmore-reef>

## 12. Coroners examine deaths in Australian immigration detention

Hamid Kehazaei died after infection on Manus and Fazel Chegeni Nejad was found dead on Christmas Island

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty  
Mon 30 Jul 2018 04.00 AEST

Deaths inside Australia’s onshore and offshore immigration detention regimes will be examined by coroners on opposite sides of the country this week.

On Monday in Queensland the state coroner Terry Ryan will deliver his findings from the inquest into the 2014 death of 24-year-old Iranian asylum seeker Hamid Kehazaei, who died after a routine infection, contracted inside Papua New Guinea’s Manus Island detention centre, was inadequately treated, developing into sepsis and ultimately, a series of catastrophic heart attacks and multiple organ failure.

On the same day in Perth, the coroner Sarah Linton will begin a two-week inquest into the 2015 death of Fazel Chegeni Nejad, who died on Christmas Island after escaping from the detention centre there.

Nejad’s case workers from within the then immigration department – now the Department of Home Affairs – had repeatedly pleaded with superiors in the government to release him from detention and adequately treat his mental and physical health issues.

Kehazaei, whose name is more accurately translated Khazaei but whose Australian government documents list the former spelling, died in a Brisbane hospital in September 2014 after his life-support machine was turned off when doctors saw there was no prospect of his survival.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/30/coroners-examine-deaths-in-australian-immigration-detention>

### **13. Hamid Kehzaei: Australia responsible for 'preventable' death of asylum seeker**

Coroner Terry Ryan finds systemic flaws caused Iranian man's death from infection contracted on Manus

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty  
Mon 30 Jul 2018 15.22 AEST

The family of the Iranian asylum seeker Hamid Kehzaei, whose death from infection on Manus Island was caused by a cascading series of errors and systemic failures in the Australian-run offshore detention centre, say "nothing will replace the life of their beloved son and brother".

But they have urged the Australian government to heed the findings of the Queensland coroner Terry Ryan, which were handed down on Monday.

Ryan found that Kehzaei's death was preventable and recommended that healthcare on the offshore islands be properly funded and run – and under the control of doctors – or asylum seekers and refugees be moved to Australia.

"The coroner's findings of inquest is an exhaustive and powerful document and it will take some time ... to process it," the family said.

"The family thanks the coroner for the thoroughness of his investigation and his findings and urges the Australian government to take his honour's recommendations seriously."

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/30/death-asylum-seeker-hamid-kehzaei-preventable-coroner-says>

### **14. Guilty! Coroner's findings damn offshore detention**

Refugee Action Coalition  
Monday July 30, 2018  
Ian Rintoul mobile 0417 275 713

The coroner's findings in regard to the death of Hamid Khazaie have damned the government's offshore detention policy.

The coroner noted that the Pacific Solution Mark II version of offshore detention was created after the Expert Panel reported to the Gillard government in 2012 and deliberately included "disincentives" to asylum seekers arriving by boat.

While the coroner did not attribute responsibility to any particular individual, had Hamid's 'rapid deterioration been recognised, and responded to in a timely manner', Hamid would still be alive.

"The coroner has confirmed what the refugee movement has said all along; the lack of proper medical treatment and the bureaucratic delays killed Hamid," said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition.

In particular, the coroner called for the Department of Home Affairs to produce a written policy on dealing with medical transfers and said that approval for transfers should be entirely a matter for treating doctors. And that the cost of medical transfers should not be a consideration.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.refugeeaction.org.au/?p=6997>

### **15. Asylum seeker Hamid Khzaei's death from leg infection was preventable, Queensland coroner finds**

ABC News  
By Josh Robertson and staff  
Updated Monday July 30, 2018 at 4:08pm

The death of Iranian asylum seeker Hamid Khzaei was preventable and the result of "compounding errors" in health care provided under Australia's offshore immigration detention system, the Queensland coroner has found.

Coroner Terry Ryan found 24-year-old Mr Khzaei, who died in a Brisbane hospital in September 2014 after he contracted a leg infection in Manus Island detention centre, would have survived had his rapid deterioration been recognised.

Mr Khzaei suffered severe sepsis from a leg infection and was first moved to Port Moresby before being flown to Brisbane where nothing could be done to save his life.

Mr Ryan found his death followed a series of clinical errors and delays, including a lack of antibiotics on Manus Island to treat tropical infections and a failure by Australian immigration officials to urgently grant a doctor's request for Mr Khazaei's transfer to Australia.

He found the Australian Government had not met its responsibility to detainees such as Mr Khazaei to provide health care that was "broadly comparable" to that available in Australia.

The coroner recommended a systemic overhaul of healthcare responses in offshore detention, including a new policy to allow doctors on the ground, rather than Canberra officials, to approve medical transfers.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-30/asylum-seeker-hamid-khazaei-coronial-inquest-death-preventable/10050512>

## **16. Former border force chief says Australia should investigate all deaths in offshore detention**

Roman Quaedvlieg says current system leads to speculation and criticism, and a failure to address systemic problems

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty  
Tue 31 Jul 2018 12.32 AEST

The former head of the Australian Border Force has said all deaths within Australia's offshore immigration regime should be investigated by an Australian judge or coroner.

Roman Quaedvlieg said the current system – where deaths are rarely formally investigated – led to speculation and criticism, and a failure to address systemic problems.

"As it currently stands, the facts of a death are held across participating jurisdictions and across multiple agencies and individuals, and this fragmentation of information results in uninformed speculation, criticism, and debate," he told Guardian Australia.

"My experience has been that coroners' offices, except for the occasional anomaly, are not generally activists and could be relied upon to undertake forensically based inquiries to determine cause of death and produce recommendations to avoid or minimise future deaths."

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/31/former-border-force-chief-says-australia-should-investigate-all-deaths-in-offshore-detention>

## **17. Fazel Chegeni's escape set off alarms but detention centre guards 'failed to act'**

Asylum seeker's body was found two days later, 50 metres from Christmas Island centre, inquest told

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty  
Tue 31 Jul 2018 04.00 AEST

A refugee who scaled fences at an immigration detention centre and died in the Christmas Island jungle triggered two security alarms during his escape but guards failed to act, an inquest has heard.

Stateless refugee Fazel Chegeni Nejad, 34, survived being repeatedly tortured in Iran but had a history of mental health problems when he died in November 2015.

His body was found lying face down about 50 metres from the detention centre in an area that had already been searched almost two days earlier.

The cause of death was consistent with ligature compression of the neck, the West Australian coroner's court heard on Monday.

Known most commonly as Fazel Chegeni, the Faili Kurd used a fake passport to travel from Iran to Indonesia, before arriving in Australia by boat in October 2011.

He spent 1,477 days in detention and was transferred between facilities and community based detention.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/31/fazel-chegenis-escape-set-off-alarms-but-detention-centre-guards-failed-to-act>

## 18. Cambodia's Hun Sen 'preparing' to receive more refugees under deal with Australia

ABC-TV - Four Corners

By Sophie McNeill, Sashka Koloff and Patricia Drum

Monday July 30, 2018, 2:25pm

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen says his country is "preparing" to receive more refugees from Australia in a controversial deal that has already been labelled a failure and cost the Federal Government almost \$50 million.

Speaking exclusively to Four Corners, Hun Sen said he told Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull that Cambodia is ready to "accept more" refugees from Australia's offshore detention centres.

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton did not respond to Four Corners' questions regarding Hun Sen's comments, or whether the deal — which is due to expire in the coming months — will be extended or renewed.

In 2014, Australia signed the four-year deal with Cambodia, committing an extra \$40 million in aid in exchange for resettling refugees from the offshore detention centre in Nauru.

Another \$15 million for "resettlement" services was also pledged, of which \$7.88 million has been spent.

That deal is seen as an expensive failure with just three of seven resettled refugees from Nauru remaining in Cambodia.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-30/cambodia-preparing-to-receive-more-refugees-under-australia-deal/10052234>

## 19. Australians Protest Five Years of Offshore Detention Policy

New York Times

By Megan Specia

July 21, 2018

Thousands protested in cities across Australia on Saturday to mark five years of a policy under which asylum-seekers and migrants have been turned away and detained on remote Pacific islands.

Messages were read aloud from those still languishing in deteriorating conditions on the islands, years after being detained.

Since 2013, anyone trying to reach Australia by boat has been sent for processing to the islands of Manus, which is part of Papua New Guinea, and Nauru. In 2013, Kevin Rudd, then the prime minister of Australia, unveiled a policy that barred the migrants from being settled as refugees in Australia as part of a resettlement arrangement with Papua New Guinea.

In the years that followed, thousands were sent to offshore detention centers on the small Pacific islands as a result of the policy. Subsequent Australian administrations maintained the policy despite repeated calls from the United Nations Refugee Agency and international human rights groups, as well as Australian citizens, to end the detentions.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/21/world/australia/australia-refugee-policy-protest.html>

## 20. 1600 asylum claims could be reopened due to poorly drafted regulation

A court judgment has ruled the government's attempt to excise Ashmore Reef from Australia's migration zone 16 years ago was invalid.

The Guardian

Ben Doherty

Fri 20 Jul 2018 23.12 BST

There's not much to the Ashmore and Cartier Islands, 600 kilometres north of Broome: no settlement or buildings or anchorage.

Indonesian fishermen still occasionally take shelter within the tiny archipelago, but the whalers and miners of the 19th century have long since abandoned the place. No one is permitted to set foot on the islands.

But a poorly drafted government regulation from 16 years ago – and a court case that turned on what, precisely, makes a port – could re-open protection applications for more than 1,600 asylum seekers in Australia who "arrived" in Australia through Ashmore Reef. It could also expose the government to significant compensation payouts for unlawful detention.

In 2002, then immigration minister Philip Ruddock gazetted the lagoon near West Island at Ashmore Reef to be a “proclaimed port” so that it could be excised from Australia’s migration zone. The effect of this was to bar any asylum seeker who entered Australia through Ashmore Reef from making a claim for permanent protection.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/21/1600-asylum-claims-could-be-reopened-due-to-poorly-drafted-regulation>

## 21. Attorney-General intervenes to send APS free speech case to High Court

Canberra Times  
By Doug Dingwall  
18 July 2018 — 12:00am

Attorney-General Christian Porter is intervening in a government appeal against a decision finding the Immigration Department unlawfully sacked an official for anonymous tweets, sending the case to the High Court.

The federal government challenge to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal finding could test freedom of speech for public and private sector employees as lawyers spar over former public servant Michaela Banerji’s right to post criticisms of asylum seeker policy while working for the department.

Lawyers for Ms Banerji, who was dismissed over the tweets in 2013, are not expected to oppose the move sending the case to the High Court and will look for a senior legal counsel to represent her when it hears the government’s arguments against the appeals tribunal decision.

The Australian Human Rights Commission also intends to enter the case and make submissions about human rights issues it raises including the right to freedom of expression and the right to participate in public affairs, but will not represent Ms Banerji.

A government spokesman said Mr Porter would remove the government’s Federal Court appeal against the finding and send it to the High Court. The move flags the case’s potential implications for the government’s policy on its employees’ social media use.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/politics/federal/attorney-general-intervenes-to-send-aps-free-speech-case-to-high-court-20180717-p4zryv.html>

## 22. Dutton says Australia won't 'surrender our sovereignty' by signing UN migration deal

Minister takes umbrage with parts of global agreement which insist migration detention should only be used as a last resort

The Guardian  
Amy Remeikis  
Wed 25 Jul 2018 04.20 BST

Australia will not sign a United Nations migration agreement it helped negotiate “in its current form”, Peter Dutton has declared, insisting it is a matter of sovereignty.

Confirming the contents of an article which appeared in the Australian earlier this week, the home affairs minister told Sydney radio 2GB that Australia would not sign the UN global compact for migration, which aims to address migration issues in a “safe, orderly and regular” way, if it stayed in its present incarnation.

Australia has taken umbrage at parts of the final draft, which insist “migration detention” should only be used “as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives”.

The final draft also includes a commitment to “review and revise relevant legislation, policies and practices related to immigration detention to ensure that migrants are not detained arbitrarily, that decisions to detain are based on law, are proportionate, have a legitimate purpose, and are taken on an individual basis, in full compliance with due process and procedural safeguards, and that immigration detention is not promoted as a deterrent or used as a form of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment to migrants, in accordance with international human rights law”.

Dutton told Alan Jones that while Australia was happy to negotiate “in good faith”, “we’re not going to sign any document that’s not in our national interest and it’s not in our national interest to sign our border protection policy over to the UN”.

“We’re not going to sign a deal that sacrifices anything in terms of our border protection policies,” he said.

“We’ve fought hard for them,” he said, adding Australia would not sign at all if it was deemed by the government to be “not in our national interests”.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/25/dutton-says-australia-wont-surrender-our-sovereignty-by-signing-un-migration-deal>

## 23. 'A dangerous precedent': NZ teen held in immigration detention centre

The Age  
By Chloe Booker  
30 June 2018 — 2:35pm

A New Zealand teenager has spent four months in a Melbourne adult immigration detention centre far away from his family in NSW.

Immigration lawyer Greg Barns said the 17-year-old was struggling with his mental health as he languished at the Melbourne Immigration Transit Centre in Broadmeadows for an indefinite time.

He said the teen had been detained at a NSW youth detention centre for “stock standard” crimes when he was suddenly removed by the Australian Border Force and taken to Melbourne.

“[Immigration Minister Peter] Dutton has used [section] 116 of the Migration Act to revoke his visa,” Mr Barns said. “That’s the section that says ‘I can remove your visa if I think you’re a danger to the community’. “It’s a very broad power and in the hands of someone like Dutton, it’s dangerous.”

Mr Barns said the crimes the teen committed were “not exceptional at all” in his view. “There is nothing in his offending that would make him such a danger to the community he has to be removed,” he said. “This represents a very dangerous precedent that Dutton is seeking to remove under-age people from Australia.”

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/a-dangerous-precedent-nz-teen-held-in-immigration-detention-centre-20180629-p4zokk.html>

## 24. Release teenager from Australian immigration detention, urges acting New Zealand PM

Winston Peters says Australian government is ‘clearly in breach’ of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Guardian  
Eleanor Ainge Roy and Ben Doherty  
Wed 4 Jul 2018 04.10 BST

New Zealand’s acting prime minister Winston Peters has spoken out against the country’s closest neighbour, urging the Australian government to release a New Zealand teenager from an immigration detention centre.

Foreign minister Peters – who is standing in while prime minister Jacinda Ardern is on maternity leave – said Australia was failing to live up to its obligations as a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by detaining a 17-year-old New Zealand minor in a Melbourne detention centre.

The boy has been in detention since March, and so far the Australian Border Force has given no indication why he is being held, or for how long it will continue.

“This person is regarded as a child or a minor, and I’m just reminding the Australians – you’re a signatory, live up to it,” Peters said on Tuesday.

“They are clearly in breach of it. There’s no complication. They know that, we know that.”

Peters’ frank words are the strongest condemnation issued by a New Zealand leader thus far against Australia’s detention policies, with Australia having forcibly deported more than 1000 Kiwis in the last two years.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/04/release-teenager-from-australian-immigration-detention-urges-acting-new-zealand-pm>

## 25. Why New Zealand Is Furious About Australia’s Deportations Policy

New York Times  
By Sylvia Varnham O’Regan  
July 3, 2018

On the night of Sept. 11, 2015, security cameras in a prison in Goulburn, a city southwest of Sydney, recorded a final, desperate act.

A dark pool of blood and water spilled out from underneath a locked cell door. Alone inside, Junior Togatuki, 23, was bleeding heavily from a cut to his left wrist. He had sounded the alarm twice, but no one had come to his aid.

Mr. Togatuki, a New Zealand citizen of Samoan descent who had moved to Australia when he was 4 and who had a history of mental illness, was found dead the following morning.

He had been due to be deported.

The cancellation of Australian visas on the grounds of "character" has soared since December 2014, when the government amended its immigration law. Last year, more than half of those visas belonged to New Zealanders, almost 1,300 of whom have been deported since January 2015. They are now the largest group in Australia's immigration detention centers, whereas before the legal changes New Zealanders were not even in the top 10.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/03/world/asia/new-zealand-australia-deportations.html>

## **26. Bad neighbours? Australia and New Zealand 'not friends' after deportation row**

Detention of 17-year-old in adult facility in Melbourne prompts accusation that Australia is not acting like a friend to NZ

The Guardian  
Eleanor Ainge Roy in Dunedin  
Thu 19 Jul 2018 19.00 BST

A deepening row over the deportation of New Zealand citizens from Australia has pushed relations between the neighbours to new lows, with politicians in Wellington branding their counterparts in Canberra "venal" and calling into question the long-standing friendship between the two nations.

Australia has deported more than 1,000 New Zealand citizens in the past two years but the recent detention of a 17-year-old New Zealander in an adult detention facility in Melbourne prompted politicians to speak more bluntly than ever before.

Since changes to Australia's Migration Act in 2014, the number of deportations of foreign nationals on character grounds has soared, with New Zealand citizens making up the vast bulk of those removed. Some have been issued with deportation orders despite having no family connections or friends in that country, or anywhere to go.

Earlier this week, the New Zealand justice minister, Andrew Little, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that Australia's deportation of New Zealanders had a "venal, political strain" to it, and questioned the country's commitment to humanitarian rights and ideals.

Australia "doesn't look like our best friend, our nearest neighbour", Little said.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/20/bad-neighbours-australia-and-new-zealand-not-friends-after-deportation-row>

## **27. Pezzullo calls on top-ranking staff to counter Home Affairs 'behemoth' claims**

Canberra Times  
By Doug Dingwall  
12 July 2018 — 12:10am

Home Affairs Department boss Michael Pezzullo wants his top-ranking staff to counter claims the agency is a "behemoth" threatening personal freedom, telling them to promote its work without resorting to "spin".

In a 1900-word letter to senior public servants the secretary also urged them to be "especially attentive" to the rule of law, warning the department's reputation could be changed in a "highly contested space" that could let others wrongly define the newly-created agency.

Mr Pezzullo's letter, first reported by Crikey, comes after he mounted public defences of the department against claims its creation concentrated too much power and added another layer of bureaucracy.

He has also previously made the case for the massive machinery of government change that created Home Affairs in a wide-ranging, sometimes colourful public speech drawing on The Lord of the Rings and AC/DC lyrics, saying the new department would protect Australia in a world of globalised security threats.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/politics/federal/pezzullo-calls-on-top-ranking-staff-to-counter-home-affairs-behemoth-claims-20180711-p4zqua.html>

## **28. MEDIA RELEASE: Heartless Border Force denies Fariborz's mother's wishes**

Refugee Action Coalition  
July 5, 2018  
Ian Rintoul 0417 285 713

Australian Border Force authorities on Nauru have rejected Fariborz mother's wishes that Fariborz's body be sent to Australia for burial.

Fariborz's mother wrote a plea to Border Force on 27 June. More than 200 refugees also presented a petition to Border Force requesting that Fariborz body be sent to Australia and for help for his wife, mother and younger brother.

Border Force officers insisted the only options were to send Fariborz's body to Iran or arrange the burial on Nauru.

The family have rejected both options as it would mean permanent separation of the family from Fariborz's final resting place.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.refugeeaction.org.au/?p=6933>

## **29. Mother of Nauru refugee who killed himself begs to bury him in Australia**

Australian Border Force tells Fazileh Mansour Beigi that Fariborz Karami will be buried either on Nauru or in Iran

The Guardian  
Saba Vasefi and Ben Doherty  
Fri 6 Jul 2018 00.51 BST

The mother of an Iranian asylum seeker who took his own life on Nauru last month has been told his body will be repatriated to Iran against her wishes.

Fazileh Mansour Beigi has told Guardian Australia she will stand vigil by the container where Fariborz Karami's body is being held inside the Australian-run regional processing centre.

She vowed to "stand by this container until the Australian government arrives to throw my kids and my body into the sea and release all of us together".

She has told Australian Border Force that she wishes for her eldest son to be buried in Australia, where her sister can perform a burial service, and visit his grave.

And she has written – through the camp management company Canstruct and the ABF – to the home affairs minister, Peter Dutton, pleading for compassion.

In it she says:

I thought for a mother that nothing would be as torturous as seeing her children suffer for five years, in the heat above 40 degrees, in a tent filled with mould, dirt and a rusted fan. But, now, as a mother, more painful for me is seeing my son's dead body, disrespected in front of my eyes, in a fridge inside a rusty container for 19 days ...

My only wish is that you bury Fariborz's body with respect in Australia, as soon as possible, so he can rest in eternal peace and my 12-year-old son won't have the same destiny as his older brother.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/06/mother-of-nauru-refugee-who-killed-himself-begs-to-bury-him-in-australia>

## **30. MEDIA RELEASE: Nauru petition calls for Fariborz's body and family to be brought to Australia**

Monday July 2, 2018  
Refugee Action Coalition  
Ian Rintoul 0417 275 713

More than two weeks since Fariborz Karami died on Nauru, the Australian Border Force (ABF) has made no arrangements to meet his family's request that his body be buried in Australia.

The Iranian community on Nauru has initiated a petition calling for the ABF to respect the family's wishes and make immediate arrangements for Fariborz's body to be brought to Australia.

Over 200 refugees and asylum seekers have signed the petition which is circulating in all of Nauru's refugee camps including RPC 2, which holds single men, and RPC 3 Family camp where Fariborz lived with his family.

The petition was presented to the Australian Border Force on Sunday 1 July, after the government had ignored calls by Fariborz's wife for his body to be brought to Australia

FULL STORY AT <http://www.refugeeaction.org.au/?p=6922>

## **31. Nauru asylum seeker's body flown to Brisbane after emotional standoff**

Anonymous donors give thousands of dollars for funeral of Fariborz Karami, who killed himself

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty and Saba Vasefi  
Tue 17 Jul 2018 04.38 BST

The body of Fariborz Karami, the Iranian asylum seeker who took his own life on Nauru more than a month ago, has been flown to Brisbane after an emotional standoff about where he would be buried and donations from anonymous philanthropists in Australia to cover the cost of his funeral.

Extended family members in Australia have taken responsibility for Karami's funeral and burial. Anonymous donors have given several thousands of dollars to cover the cost of flying his body to Australia, and for funeral and other costs.

The Australian Border Force initially told Karami's mother, Fazileh Mansour Beigi, she could either agree to have him buried on Nauru or repatriated to Iran. Mansour Beigi refused, saying in either place his grave would not be able to be visited by family.

Mansour Beigi staged a vigil outside the conex container where her son's body was held inside the Australian-run regional processing centre on Nauru, saying she would not allow her son to be taken unless it was into the care of family in Australia.

After a tense and emotional standoff – Mansour Beigi and her surviving 12-year-old son have been acutely unwell – the ABF ultimately relented and allowed for Karami's body to travel to Australia. It landed in Brisbane late on Sunday.

But on Saturday, the ABF formally rejected a request from Mansour Beigi to be allowed to attend her son's funeral or burial: "The ABF does not support your request," the ABF's letter said.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/17/nauru-asylum-seekers-body-flown-to-brisbane-after-emotional-standoff>

## **32. 'They are breaking him': the stateless refugee Australia may never release**

Akam\* has not known a day of liberty since arriving on Christmas Island in 2013 aged 16

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty  
Tue 3 Jul 2018 19.00 BST

In the quiet shores of an Indonesian island half a decade ago, Gulistan\* packed her young son into a leaky boat for the journey over the horizon to Australia: seeking a place, finally, they might call home.

Gulistan and her 16-year-old son, Akam\*, had been running months already, having fled Iran, where their ethnic minority, the Faili Kurds, have faced generations of systematic and unremitting persecution.

In Iran, Faili Kurds are regarded as Iraqi interlopers, forced over the border by Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime, and left isolated by the brutal war between the two countries in the 1980s. In the decades since, many Faili have eked out an existence at the margins of Iranian society – denied citizenship or basic human rights, healthcare or education.

The precariousness of Gulistan's family's situation was compounded by her son suffering a developmental disorder, and mental health issues exacerbated by the trauma of his father's death. The family lost its "white" Amayesh card, a system of refugee registration in Iran, and with it the precious few rights they held.

As the net of Iran's security forces closed around her family, Gulistan sought sanctuary for herself and her son elsewhere, a promise offered by a people smuggler's boat to Australia.

After days at sea, they arrived on Christmas Island on 25 August 2013. Since that day, Akam has not known a day of liberty, and he faces the possibility of never being released, despite facing no criminal charges.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/04/they-are-breaking-him-the-stateless-refugee-australia-may-never-release>

### **33. MEDIA RELEASE: Mobile video footage reveals abuse by Villawood guards**

Refuge Action Coalition  
Wednesday July 11, 2018  
Ian Rintoul mobile 0417 275 713

Refugee advocates are calling for a full inquiry into an incident recorded on mobile phone footage inside Villawood detention centre revealing nine male guards using unnecessary force arresting a single female detainee.

Towards the end of the footage, the guards can be seen holding her on the ground, and probably (although it cannot be discerned), restraining her with handcuffs or flexicuffs, the use of which is also standard detention operating procedure.

Tensions have risen in Lima compound since Monday, when, without warning or explanation, Border Force officers announced that Lima would be effectively locked down and separated from the Villawood complex. Female detainees are now confined to the Lima compound, and are only allowed out of the compound if they are escorted by guards. Confinement to the compound was previously used as a punishment; now all women are confined.

FULL STORY AT <http://www.refugeeaction.org.au/?p=6949>

### **34. Refugee girl at risk of suicide to be moved from Nauru to Australia after court action**

Exclusive: earlier calls to move 14-year-old were refused but decision reversed as court action began

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty  
Fri 6 Jul 2018 21.00 BST

A 14-year-old refugee girl who had attempted suicide on Nauru by trying to set herself on fire will be moved to Australia within days – the eighth child moved from the island following a court order or the threat of legal action.

The Australian Border Force had rejected recommendations from doctors on the island to immediately move the girl to an Australian hospital for acute psychiatric treatment that isn't available on Nauru.

An urgent application, brought by the National Justice Project, to have the girl moved was set to be heard in the federal court on Friday morning in Sydney but, just as proceedings commenced, the Australian government agreed to move her and her family to Australia.

Some details of the circumstances cannot be reported but sources on Nauru have confirmed that the girl from Iran has been held on Nauru for nearly five years with her family. The family have been recognised as refugees. Australia is legally obliged to protect them.

Repeated and escalating concerns had been raised by doctors about the girl's mental health, which has deteriorated dangerously in recent months.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/07/refugee-girl-at-risk-of-suicide-to-be-moved-from-nauru-to-australia-after-court-action>

### **35. Australia agrees to take seriously ill refugee girl from Nauru as case reaches court**

At least seven sick children have been moved from offshore detention after court orders or just before hearings

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty  
Wed 4 Jul 2018 19.00 BST

The Australian government has agreed to move a seriously ill refugee girl from Nauru to Australia within days. She is at least the seventh child to be moved from offshore islands after legal action on their behalf.

The young girl, who has been held on Nauru with her parents for several years and whose name and age cannot be reported, is suffering from acute mental health issues.

The National Justice Project brought an urgent interlocutory hearing in the federal court on Wednesday afternoon seeking orders to bring the girl and her family immediately to Australia.

Just prior to the hearing before Justice Tom Thawley, the government agreed to move the girl. The court heard the girl and her mother would be brought to Australia for medical treatment “on or about Friday of this week”.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/05/australia-agrees-to-take-seriously-ill-refugee-girl-from-nauru-as-case-reaches-court>

## **36. Court orders Nauru refugee and son, both ill, to be flown to Australia**

Exclusive: Case of mother and 17-year-old to be transferred on Friday is at least ninth legal win for medical intervention

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty and Saba Vasefi  
Thu 12 Jul 2018 19.00 BST

An Iranian refugee and her 17-year-old son, both acutely physically and mentally ill on Nauru, will be brought to Australia after winning a federal court order to be moved to high-level medical care. It is at least the ninth legal challenge won for medical intervention from Australia’s offshore processing regime.

The woman – whom the court has ordered be referred to as BAF18 – and her son (BAG18) are set to be flown to Australia on Friday, after a court heard from doctors that BAF18’s heart condition and mental health issues could not be treated on Nauru, and that her son was at acute risk of suicide if left on the island.

Justice Mordecai Bromberg, sitting in the federal court in Melbourne on Wednesday, ordered that both be removed from Nauru “within 48 hours” and provided the specialist physical and mental healthcare their treating doctors have been recommending. He further ordered BAF18 and her son must not be separated, nor returned to Nauru.

Guardian Australia has documented BAF18’s case in a series of articles since January – by which time doctors had been campaigning for 18 months for her transfer on the grounds that she needed life-saving heart surgery that could not be performed on Nauru, as well as needing specialist mental healthcare.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/13/court-orders-nauru-refugee-and-son-both-ill-to-be-flown-to-australia>

## **37. Australia deports Tamil asylum seeker despite father's murder**

Kavi’s mother and sister are missing and his brother was killed in 2009

The Guardian  
Shira Sebban  
Fri 27 Jul 2018 03.06 BST

A Tamil asylum seeker has been deported to Sri Lanka despite a last-minute plea to re-examine his case, after his father was shot dead and his mother and sister disappeared earlier this year.

The 25-year-old asylum seeker, known as Kavi, had been detained in the Yongah Hill immigration detention centre near Perth for four months, since his bridging visa expired.

He had been in Australia for six years, having fled Sri Lanka after the brutal 26-year civil war in which his brother was killed in 2009.

Kavi’s full name is being withheld to protect him from potential danger in Sri Lanka. In a statement addressed to the home affairs minister, Peter Dutton, Kavi wrote: “On 5 January 2018 I received a very distressing call from my mother.

“My mother and sister were crying on the phone and she said my father had been shot dead on the farm. Up to now, no death certificate has been issued by the Sri Lankan authorities.

“I have now lost contact with my mother and sister. The last I spoke to them was on 28 March 2018. The Red Cross has been contacted to search for them. But until today I have no news about my mother and sister who are still missing.”

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/27/australia-deports-tamil-asylum-seeker-despite-fathers>

## 38. Australia deports Tamil asylum seeker, separating him from baby daughter

Thileepan faces permanent separation from his wife and child, who have been granted safe haven visas

The Guardian  
Ben Doherty  
Tue 17 Jul 2018 10.50 AEST

A 30-year-old Tamil asylum seeker faces permanent separation from his wife and 10-month-old Australian-born daughter, after being deported more than six years after arriving in Australia.

Thileepan (like many Tamils he only uses one name) had been in Australia since arriving by boat in June 2012. He lived in the community for most of his time in Australia, marrying in 2016. He was taken into immigration detention earlier this year, after his claim for protection was rejected.

He was issued a removal notice on Friday, and was removed from Australia in the middle of the night Monday.

His wife, who arrived separately in September 2012, and 10-month-old Australian-born daughter, were among the demonstrators gathered at the gates of Villawood, in Sydney's west on Monday.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/16/australia-to-deport-tamil-asylum-seeker-and-separate-him-from-baby-daughter>

## 39. MEDIA RELEASE: Thirty more refugees fly to the US but despair grows

Refugee Action Coalition  
July 8, 2018  
Ian Rintoul 0417 285 713

Around 36 refugees have flown from Nauru to the US today, Sunday, 8 July. The refugees are Afghan, Pakistani, Rohingya and one Tamil family.

There are no refugees from Iran or Somalia, or any countries among Trump's list of travel-ban countries, which account for around a half of all refugees on Manus and Nauru.

The flight today leaves behind over 900 refugees and asylum seekers on Nauru, including around 130 children.

"Every time a plane flies to the US without Iranians and Somalis, it is a reminder that the Australian government has no plan to secure the future of the people on Nauru and Manus Island," said Ian Rintoul from the Refugee Action Coalition.

"And every plane that leaves only adds to the despair of those left behind. Refugees are still shocked by the death of Fariborz, and the government's refusal to allow his body to be sent to Australia."

FULL STORY AT <http://www.refugeeaction.org.au/?p=6940>

## 40. Toddler born on Nauru to be brought to Australia for vital health tests

Court rules against plan from home affairs department to continue treatment in Papua New Guinea

The Guardian  
Calla Wahlquist and Ben Doherty  
Tue 3 Jul 2018 06.03 BST

A toddler born in immigration detention on Nauru will be brought to Australia to receive critical tests after the federal court ruled against a plan from the home affairs department to continue treating her in Papua New Guinea.

The two-year-old girl and her mother were flown from Nauru to Port Moresby last month amid concerns the girl was dying of encephalitis. The hospital there had said it did not have the necessary equipment or specialist staff to treat her.

She is the fourth refugee child held on Nauru brought to Australia either by court order or by threat of court action in the past seven months.

FULL STORY AT <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/03/toddler-born-on-nauru-to-be-brought-to-australia-for-vital-health-tests>

#### 41. Nauru blocks ABC access to Pacific Islands Forum, arguing 'blatant interference' in domestic politics

ABC News

By political reporter Matthew Doran

Updated July 02, 2018 17:58:18

The Nauruan Government is refusing the ABC access to a regional forum later this year, which Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull will be attending.

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is the region's leading political and economic dialogue, and will be held in September.

In a statement posted online on Monday, the Nauruan Government argued it was within its right to "choose who is allowed to enter".

"It should be noted that no representative from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation will be granted a visa to enter Nauru under any circumstances, due to this organisation's blatant interference in Nauru's domestic politics prior to the 2016 election, harassment of and lack of respect towards our President in Australia, false and defamatory allegations against members of our Government, and continued biased and false reporting about our country," the statement said.

A spokesperson for the ABC responded, saying the broadcaster, "vigorously defends our role in doing independent reporting on our region".

The Nauruan Government has criticised the ABC in the past for its reporting on the island's asylum seeker processing, which is funded by the Australian Government, and for airing allegations the nation's president Baron Waqa and some of his ministers were bribed by an Australian businessman.

The Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery in Canberra described Nauru's decision as an "outrageous restriction on press freedom".

FULL STORY AT <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-02/nauru-government-blocks-abc-access-to-pacific-forum/9932318>