

Sri Lanka is Not Safe for Tamils

The Sri Lankan prime minister is urging people held in Australia's detention centres to come home, saying his country is healing. Ranil Wickremesinghe claimed although the Sri Lankan asylum seekers had broken the law they would not be prosecuted if they returned.

The Sri Lankan government talks of "transitional justice", but so far this remains more rhetoric than reality. The new government is a coalition dependent on diverse and often disorderly groups and there is a lack of real political rapport between the major ethnic and religious groups on the island.

Deakin Uni is awarding the Sri Lankan PM an honoury doctorate in law for his efforts in "reconciliation".

Good governance and reconciliation with the minorities are still only promises and suspected Tamils cannot feel safe if returned to Sri Lanka.

There is little information available on asylum seekers being forcibly returned to Sri Lanka from Australia. Given the poor human rights record the security forces have, this is of huge concern.

- There are still hundreds of people detained without trial under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.
- Organisations such as the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) and the International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) have verified that abductions, torture, detention without trial and rape have occurred, even under the current regime.
- A disproportionately large military presence is imposed upon Tamil areas with incidents of harassment reinforcing the Tamils' feelings of vulnerability and intimidation.
- Military bases occupy large areas of land owned by Tamils. Their Tamil owners are unable to return to their homes and farms.
- There are restrictions on free speech. It is illegal to advocate an independent Tamil state, even by non-violent means.

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OF VICTORIA



THE "US DEAL" IS NO SOLUTION - BRING THEM HERE
NO MUSLIM BAN • NO WALL • NO CAMPS

SPEAKERS:



Refugee Action
Collective (VIC)
www.rac-vic.org

ADAM BANDT MP GREENS MEMBER, MELB

CORINE GRANT COMEDIAN, MEDIA & ARTS ENTERTAINMENT ALLIANCE

ABDUL-HADI MATAR SUDANESE COMMUNITY LEADER FROM DARFUR

MIREAM SALAMEH SYRIAN REFUGEE AND ARTIST

Organised by Refugee Action Collective (VIC). Visit www.rac-vic.org,
facebook.com/racvic or call Chris 0403 013 183 for more info

& more upcoming events!

- Bring Them Here: Why The US Refugee Deal is No Solution Forum with Graham Thom (Amnesty Int'l) & Chris Breen (RAC)
6:30pm Mon 27 Feb Multicultural Hub, opp. Queen Victoria Market
- 2017 Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees
2:00pm Sun 9 Apr State Library of Victoria (Cnr Swanston & LaTrobe St)