Senator the Hon…………

8 October 2017

Dear Minister………………

**Re: No more deaths on Manus and Nauru. Speak out to close the camps.**

Senator, I am urgently calling on you to show the kind of leadership displayed recently by your Labor colleagues Andrew Giles and Lisa Singh, and join them in speaking out publicly against offshore detention.

Another confirmed refugee death at Manus hits the news headlines on October 2. Rajeev Rajendran’s sucide was the second on Manus in two months, the 7th death in offshore detention in four years. This was a tragic demonstration that Turnbull’s so called “US deal” is not solving the offshore detention crisis.

The Australian government has imprisoned refugees on Manus and Nauru for close to 5 years now. Manus was declared illegal well over a year ago, and is supposed to close again at the end of October, but the refugees will still be there. They are fearful of being dumped on Port Moresby streets or forced to Lorengau. Foxtrot compound has had water, power and sanitation cut and there have been daily protests in response. Refugees who have been already forced to Lorengau live in fear of ongoing serious attacks. Refugees on Nauru have been jailed recently for peaceful protests.

There are 150 Rohingya refugees languishing on Nauru and Manus who, if deported, will face extermination.

The Law Council of Australia has clearly indicated that Australia is responsible for the health and safety of asylum seekers transferred to offshore camps. These obligations cannot be transferred to other States.

The majority of ALP voters now think that refugees on Manus and Nauru should be brought to Australia. The $5 billion that has now been wasted on offshore detention could have been invested in community and resettlement services.

**I am calling on you to condemn the Liberals’ offshore detention policy as brutal, expensive, unnecessary. I ask that you condemn offshore detention policies for having claimed seven lives, including Rajeev Rajendran’s. I am calling on you to add your voice to the growing movement advocating for the immediate evacuation of the camps, with full resettlement rights for refugees in Australia.**

Yours sincerely

Name:

Address:

**The following people have lost their lives as a result of**

**Australia’s offshore detention policy:**

**RAJEEV RAJENDRAN.** On Manus Island, a 32 year old Tamil refugee, was found hanging next to the Lorengau hospital kitchen in the early hours of Monday, 2 October 2017. His death is the second suicide on Manus in less than two months. The 32 year-old Tamil man had been sent to the hospital three days ago, after a self-harming incident at the East Lorengau Transit Accommodation centre.

**HAMED SHAMSHIRIPOUR**. A 31 year old asylum seeker from Iran, who was held at an Australian Detention camp on Manus Island was found dead hanging from a tree on Monday August 7 2017. Hamed was brought to Australia for medical treatment in 2015. He had been injured and traumatised in the attacks on the Manus detention centre that killed Reza Barati. He should never have been sent back to Manus Island

**FAYSAL ISHAK AHMED**. A detainee on Manus Island. His fellow detainees brought medical ailments to the attention of the camp doctors over many months, but they were neglected. He was finally flown to Brisbane after he fell and suffered severe brain injury. He died in hospital on Christmas Eve 2016.

**OMID MASOUMALI**, died after setting himself on fire at Nauru Detention Centre 29th of April 2016. There was a 24 hour delay in medi-vaccing him to a Brisbane hospital. His wife remains in an Australian detention centre.

**FAZEL CHEGENI**, died in detention on Christmas Island on 8 November 2015. His claim for refugee status had been accepted by Australia, and yet he spent his last 1000 days in a brutal detention centre.

**HAMID KEHAZAEI,** died because of delay in treating his infection at Manus Island on 2nd September 2014.

**REZA BARATI** was beaten to death when locals attacked the Manus Island Detention Centre on 17th February 2014.