

END THE MANUS SIEGE

The situation on Manus Island is at a crisis point.

As of Tuesday October 31st, food, power, sanitation, drinking water and medicine were cut at the the Australian-run detention centre on Manus Island in an attempt to starve refugees into submission, and force them from one prison to an even worse one. After four and a half years it is long past time the refugees were freed.

The PNG Navy doing Immigration Minister Dutton's dirty work has tried to prevent the delivery of food to the refugees. They have also sabotaged water supplies refugees have collected themselves from rain water, by destroying water tanks. Water, like freedom, is an absolute human right. Around 100 refugees have become sick from drinking unhygienic water, having no sanitation, and running out of medication.

The Turnbull government has refused to guarentee the saftey of refugees forced to new locations in Lorengau, and is lying that the new locations will provide sufficient food or health services. Refugees have been subject to numerous and ongoing robberies, bashings, and violent attacks in Lorengau, including with machetes and bush knives that have cut to the bone.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton is terrorising these refugees for attempted political gain. But just as the movement for equal marriage has pushed back the Coalition conservatives, the movement for refugee rights is also making political ground. The continuing struggle of the sick, hungry, and thirsty men on Manus is humiliating the Coalition government.

Turnbull's rejection of the NZ offer to resettle 150 people is yet a further indication that the US deal is just a fig leaf. Offshore processing is inherently cruel and unstable. The only real way to solve the crisis and provide long term solution for all on Manus and Nauru is to Bring Them Here.

“We have been denied our basic needs, water and food and electricity. That does not mean that we are going to surrender. We have been in this place for four and half years, and we have not committed any crime” *Sudanese refugee Aziz*

“The past week, we have been travelling with starvation. There is no food or water in this detention centre....We send a clear message to the PNG and Australian government, that we are not going to leave this detention centre to go to another detention centre. We only want freedom in a safe country...” *Kurdish journalist refugee, Behrouz Boochani*

