

ANTI-DEPORTATION INFO SHEET



The Australian government has deported three ethnic Hazara asylum seekers to danger in Afghanistan since August 2014. Zainullah, deported, in August was captured and tortured a month later by the Taliban. Abdullah, deported in October, remains stuck in Kabul with no support and too terrified to travel to Ghazni province where he is originally from. Gulistan was deported in December and we have grave fears for his safety. The US State Department advised in September that 'no province in Afghanistan should be considered immune from violence.' The Australian government website <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au> warns Australians 'Do Not Travel' to Afghanistan and states 'An Afghan-Australian dual national was abducted and killed on 20 September 2014 in Ghazni province.' This is where the three deported Hazara asylum seekers were from.

Sri Lankan asylum seekers have been returned to danger via 'enhanced screening' before they even make fair claims, and those in the community who are 'out of process' and with expired visas are at risk of deportation to possible imprisonment, torture or rape. The Iranian government won't accept forced deportations, but the Australian government has detained an Iranian man indefinitely after his asylum claim was refused; he recently spent 51 days on hunger strike.

The passing of the Coalition's 'asylum caseload' legislation removes the appeal rights of all asylum seekers who arrived after August 2012. It will mean more people at risk of deportation to danger. The Refugee Action Collective is committed to opposing this legislation and trying to stop deportations. **Wei, a Chinese asylum seeker who exposed drugs in sport, had his deportation stopped in December after activists in NSW leafleted passengers on his flight. Wei stood up and gave a speech and seven passengers refused to sit down. This forced Wei to be taken off the the plane. He can now make another asylum application as he had technically left the country. Steph O'Donell, a passenger who refused to take her seat, said 'Seven people were able to achieve a small victory... People need to know that it is them that make the difference.'**



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP STOP DEPORTATION

1. Join anti-deportation actions and the campaign to end legislation that allows deportations to danger. **To find out about anti-deportation actions add your mobile number and email via our website: <http://rac-vic.org/subscribe>** or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/racvic> and Twitter@racvictoria. A Facebook event page will be created for each action and updated if plans change.
2. If you have any information about possible deportations contact RAC: refugeeactioncollective@gmail.com Phone: Chris 0403013183 or Amanda 0423013245
3. If you are an asylum seeker who is 'out of process' (i.e. has no legal application being considered) and has a visa that has expired, be aware that if you attend any appointment with the Immigration Department you will likely be detained and potentially deported. Immigration can also seize you from your house if it knows the address where you are staying. Get advice before you go to any interview with Immigration.
4. If you find yourself on a plane with a deportee, refuse to sit or buckle your belt until the person is taken off the plane; complain about safety concerns to airline staff.

For more info contact Refugee Action Collective

Call Chris 0403 013 183 **Email** refugeeactioncollective@gmail.com **Web** rac-vic.org

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How do anti-deportation actions work?

When we get news that someone is going to be removed from detention for deportation on a particular date, we try to organise an action that will prevent the person being removed. If there are enough people we can form a blockade to physically prevent the vehicle carrying the person from leaving the centre. There might be an overnight vigil and/or a protest at a set time. We may also go to Tullamarine airport if we have any flight information. As well as trying to stop deportations, these actions are important for creating awareness that deportations are happening, and showing solidarity with people being removed and others in detention. Delaying a person's removal can also give lawyers time to act on any remaining legal avenues to keep the person safe.

I don't wish to participate in a blockade. Can I still get involved?

Absolutely. We need people to hold up signs and banners, take photos and video, post updates to social media, and make sure people arriving know where to go. Just talk to one of the organisers when you arrive at the venue, and we will make sure you have something meaningful to do.



How do I get to an anti-deportation action?

Check whether the action is at the Maribyrnong (MIDC) or Broadmeadows (MITA) detention centres, or Tullamarine Airport. If we are able to organise any car-pooling, details will be included in the Facebook event or email we send out.

Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre (MIDC)

53 Hampstead Road Maidstone Vic. 3012

Public Transport: #57 tram from Elizabeth St City, or #82 Tram from Footscray Station

Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation (MITA) Broadmeadows

Maygar Barracks 150 Camp Road Broadmeadows Vic. 3047

Public Transport: Train to Broadmeadows (Craigieburn line) and then take the 902 Chelsea bus, hop off at Main Rd.

Tullamarine Airport - SkyBus runs from Southern Cross Station, every ten minutes.

If we go to the airport we will have flyers to hand passengers. Deportations are dangerous for asylum seekers and potentially other passengers, as people are being taken against their will; asylum seekers are sometimes dangerously physically restrained. Passengers can complain to the airline staff that there are safety issues involved in removing asylum seekers. They can legally stand up and refuse to be seated or to buckle their safety belt until the asylum seeker is taken off the flight.

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