

heavy hearts & knowledge of the worst of humanity.

After four years we have gained the ability to see right through the lies & indifference of policy makers who have held us here.

The Australian government says it is stopping the boats & saving lives at sea. This lie denies the fact that Australia pushes the boats out of its waters & people drown somewhere else.

Australia is slowly killing us. Aren't our lives worth saving too?

And finally, we have gained a small but precious army of people who care.

Thanks so much to all organisations who are standing for us & with us.

Thank you to our advocates & friends.

Thank you to the people who act. Who are writing to their MP's & talking to their friends about the injustice of this place.

Thank you to the religious who take the love for your neighbour seriously.

Thank you to the people who know the equality in humanity & act upon it. You have empowered us & given us a small voice.

Please let me finish by asking you to keep speaking for us, to yell for us, to scream for us.

Please keep putting peaceful, loud, democratic pressure on the people who hold our freedom in their hard hands.

To the Australian Government

Please consider our lives as important & end the pain detention inflicts upon us.

Please show some humanity & compassion.

Please bring us to Australia. We will give you our hearts, we all long for love. With every action we will show our thanks.

Or please let us to go to New Zealand so we can start our peaceful & happy life there.

Thank you



WALK TOGETHER
FOR FREEDOM

**A MESSAGE
FROM MANUS**

Hi. My name is Walid Zazai.

I have been held against my will in Manus Island Detention Centre since, at the age of 20, I fled Afghanistan & came to Australia seeking asylum.



This is the situation:

The Australian government has treated us badly for more than 4 years. We suffered many horrible things. Six friends have died, two in the last two months.

Most of us now suffer from traumatic stress & depression.

Now Australia will close Manus detention centre and make us live in a place we know is not safe for us. We thought Australia will give us freedom and safety, but that did not happen.

While closing one detention centre, Australia is opening three more in dangerous places on Manus Island. West Lorengau Haus is in the jungle. The other two are also in dangerous places in Lorengau Town.

Many of us have already been attacked with machetes, robbed & beaten by locals. The local people don't want us here.

The Australian government knows we are not safe here but will force us to settle in PNG.

Australia made a deal with the US to take refugees from Manus & Nauru. A year after Malcolm Turnbull made the deal, only 24 refugees from Manus have gone to the US. Prime Minister Turnbull told President Trump the US only had to process refugees and that the US did not have to actually take any. We don't know if the US will take more. We believe we have been given false hope & more of our life has been taken from us.

We are political prisoners used by racist politicians to stay in power. The Australian government admits to using us to get a message out to anybody that tries to come to Australia by boat that they will be treated with the same cruelty. We are Australia's human shields. We are rocks to stop the boats.

The immigration minister has made us look like bad people. We are not. We are just people needing a peaceful life to share our love. And we all are refugees.

Australians, we are human beings just like you. We want a peaceful life in a safe place. Please stop using us & playing with our lives.

Last week, Australia said we can go to Nauru. Many of you know that there's nothing on Nauru except kids, women & men suffering the same harsh treatment as us.

New Zealand offered to take some of us. The Australian government said 'No.' They said we will use New Zealand as a back door to enter Australia. We promise that if New Zealand takes us, we will agree to never come to Australia.

We have suffered here since 2013. The hardest thing for us is not knowing if we have a future.

We want our liberty back. We want freedom in a safe country. We need to get out of Manus & PNG.

About living in the camp:

In short: the food is often terrible. The hygiene is poor. There are putrid smells. The heat is sticky & oppressive. The rooms are tiny for many men. There is no privacy & we are treated like criminals every day.

This is what we have lost:

The ability to see our families - the families we left or for many of us also the families we were trying to reach.

Here on Manus we have lost the benefits of normal loving relationships.

We have not seen or hugged our parents, siblings, fiancés, wives or children for more than four years.

We single men have lost the opportunity to meet women who one day might become our wives.

From more than 4 years we have lost the opportunity to study, learn a trade or gain employment skills so that we can find work when we are finally free.

We have lost the opportunity to work & we cannot use our skills & our abilities.

We couldn't even help our families to put food on their tables.

We have lost the chance to contribute to society.

And we have lost our six friends who died here from this cruel policy.

This is what we have gained:

We have gained a maturity & understanding of the world well beyond our years.

We gained the unbelievable burden of our families mourning for us.

We gained a rest that has nearly driven us insane. From more than 4 years we have not been able to do ANYTHING. The same nothing everyday for over four years.

We gained nightmares of the horrors we have seen & experienced. We cry ourselves to sleep & we pretend we don't notice when our friends do the same. So, after four years many of us have gained the need for sleep medication.

We have gained a dependence on medication to try to ease depression that screams, "This is worse than before, you can't handle much more of this."

When we asked Australia for asylum, many of us were just boys. Now we are men, but men with