

SRILANKAN ASYLUM SEEKERS,
MIGRANT PROCESSING CENTRE,
THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU.
22/06/2007.

**HUMBLE REQUEST
OF THE TAMIL SPEAKING SRILANKAN ASYLUM SEEKERS
HOUSED IN NAURU
TO THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE**

The period of 17th to 23rd June each year is celebrated all over the world as the refugee week. These days are spent so that attention is focused to raise voice on behalf of the people who have been made refugees all over the world and to look after the welfare of these people. We underwent enormous hardships in our country and fled fearing persecution and now we have sought refuge from the Australian government and the Australian people. In this backdrop, we are now putting forward to the Australian people and the government a humble request as we have not yet been granted refugee status. as we have not yet been granted refugee status, we now live in Nauru, filled with the feeling of deception, after making claims for refugee status hoping that the Australian government and the people. World focus has now turned on world refugees. During these days we wish to put forward our request to you to make our future better.

When we were fighting for our lives in deep seas the Australian navy rescued us and gave us life. When we landed in the Christmas Island, the welcome accorded to us made us to feel that we have been given another life. When the Australian department of Immigration and Citizenship interview us we all described the atrocities and mistreatment we underwent in our country. We waited until our problems could be redressed by completing all the necessary processing and resettling us within a certain period of time. Enabling us to live like free people, like every other human being. Although his was the case we were told that we will be taken to Nauru Island for processing of our cases. We arrived in Nauru Island respecting the decision made by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship and without causing and problems.

Although we are unable to get all the basic facilities, our expectations were positive in relation to future. As we expected officers of DIAC came for the interviews very soon. They would have by now known our claims for refugee status. Our expectations after that were that we will have a safe and good future. However so far we have not received any results. The present situation has created a hopeless situation for us all, after we suffered in our home country, in which there in no respect for human rights and human life and came to Australia for refugee, a country which respects human rights and human life. We came to seek refuge for our life but even now we are just living corpses.

It is true that each and every one of us is still filled the hope that the future will be safe and secure. we are very worried that we are just wasting our time energy and young people , instead of building our life. This is the time in which the international community condemns and criticizes the atrocities and cruelties in Srilanka and we suffered at their hands and left that country. We feel deceived as we have not yet been recognized as refugees. We are desperate because, although we suffered. Mistreatment in our country, we have not yet been granted safety and recognized as refugees. Many others in srilanka are unable to flee the country and some of them have sought orders from judges to be in prison so that they could be safe there. They live there with three meals and safety. Like them we feel that we are in a prison, in an open country, in which we have already lived three months. (We had already lived in the Christmas island for one month) those who are in the prisons in our country have the opportunity to meet their relatives and spend time with them we are very worried over the fact that although we hoped and relied on the Australian government and country we have now been left in isolation.

We are well aware of the fact that we entered the Australian territorial waters illegally. We were compelled to this option and we did not have any other alternative to save our lives. We are in the fact ready to apologize at any time to the Australian people and the Australian government. We now feel that we have now been punished for this particular act. Are we facing the punishment in the island of Nauru in a very similar manner to the situation in Quantanamo bay detention centre in the US? We are now filled with this fear. As far as the inmates there is a sentence time. But in our case there has not been any time which we have to spend in Nauru. So we are desperately. Waiting day by day, counting each day. Sri Lankan is at least advanced in literacy rate. We left from such a country and we will never pose any threat or danger to Australia. You would have known this though the srilankan who live in Australia.

Every country has its planning and implementation and time is essential for all these procedures. It is true that Australia, which is one of the western country, is very efficient in administration that Sri Lanka. In our situation whenever we ask someone, we get the answer that the proper time has not yet come. We therefore live now with indefinite expectation. but you, Australians, have the power to change this situation. We entirely rely on you and sincerely ask to you spend some time for us to remember our plight. You could put some pressure or raise your voice for us and expedite the processing of our cases and our resettlement. Therefore we humbly request you to speak on our behalf so that our cases will be proceed expeditiously and our resettlement is carried out quickly.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Yours faithfully

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