



Media Release

It's time for an Amnesty!

Kurdish Lobby Australia urges a one-off AMNESTY for all detainees on Manus Island and Nauru

The Co-Chair and President of Kurdish Lobby Australia (KLA), Mr. Eziz Bawermend, calls upon leaders of all major political parties to support a non-partisan once-in-a-lifetime amnesty for all unfortunate detainees on Manus Island and Nauru.

Mr. Bawermend said that he is well aware of the repeated claims by Prime Minister Scott Morrison and others that these detainees will never be allowed to settle in Australia, and that there is a common perception that a political leader who changes her or his mind is perceived to be weak, or at least indecisive. However, Mr. Bawermend asks all Australian political leaders to answer the question asked by the distinguished British economist, John Maynard Keynes: **'I change my mind when new facts come to light. What do you do, Sir?'**

The present facts are:

- The boats have stopped arriving and the drownings at sea have come to an end.
- The people smugglers' business model no longer appeals.
- The detainees have already suffered a great deal.
- The claim that boats will start coming if current detainees are given a one-off AMNESTY and are allowed into Australia after six years of incarceration is unproven and scaremongering.
- The potential indefinite incarceration of these people for the 'crime' of seeking asylum has greatly tarnished the image of Australia as a compassionate liberal democracy.
- Keeping these refugees & asylum seekers in detention is costing Australian taxpayers millions!

So what would you do?

It's time to delicately re-build and restore Australia's image internationally and give **a one-off AMNESTY for all detainees on Manus and Nauru**. Let us remember that the founder of Westfield Shopping Centres would not qualify as a migrant to Australia today. There are even claims that he falsified documents so he could enter this great country! His contributions since have more than made up for his 'illegal' entry. Some detainees on Manus and Nauru have already shown their potential to make a significant contribution to Australia. One of them, Mr. Behrouz Boochani, who happens to be a Kurd from Iran, secretly sent texts using his mobile phone to a publisher. These texts became a book titled **"No friends but the mountains"** that has just won Australia's most prestigious literary award: the \$125,000 Victorian Premier's Literary Prize.

For this and multiple other reasons, **KLA says it's time for a one-off non-partisan AMNESTY!**

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