



The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Email: Scott.Morrison.MP@aph.gov.au

29 April 2019

Dear Mr Morrison,

**Ref: A one-off AMNESTY for all detainees on Manus Island and Nauru
It will be good for them and GREAT for Australians!**

I call upon you to show some real leadership. Most people are aware of your public pronouncements that the detainees on Manus Island and Nauru will never be allowed to settle in Australia. There is also a common perception that a political leader who changes her or his mind is weak. However, I urge you to consider the question posed 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:

- You have stopped the boats and the drownings at sea.
- The detainees have sufficiently suffered to deter others from seeking refuge.
- The claim that boats will start coming if current detainees are allowed into Australia after six years of incarceration is unproven and scaremongering.
- The indefinite incarceration of these people seeking protection has greatly tarnished the image of Australia as a compassionate liberal democracy AND predominantly Christian.
- Some are in their 20's and may live to the average life expectancy of over 82 years! Keeping these refugees & asylum seekers in detention is costing Australian taxpayers millions of dollars!

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, has won Australia's prestigious literary award: the \$125,000 Victorian Premier's Literary Prize for his book titled "No friends, but the mountains" which is a Kurdish proverb born of experience.

Let us recall that when the Jews were expelled from Spain around 1500 AD, the most powerful Islamic Empire of the day, the Ottomans, welcomed them with open arms. Not a single boat was turned back and not a single Jew was refused asylum! It was a true Islamic AND true Christian act of offering safety and protection to fellow human beings in dire need just like the detainees are today.

You are neither weak nor indecisive. I therefore urge you to change your mind unabashedly as Keynes would **and declare a one-off AMNESTY in a non-partisan manner.**

God bless you and your family!

Eziz Bawermend, Co-Chair and President, M 0402 964 627
Kurdish Lobby Australia
www.KurdishLobbyAustralia.com