

RESEARCHERS AGAINST PACIFIC BLACK SITES

PRESS RELEASE

7 September 2015

REMEMBER THOSE SLOWLY DYING OF AUSTRALIA'S DETERRENCE POLICY

'After the incidents in Europe and their help to refugees why Australian immigration will not even help one girl'.

These are the words of Nazanin's 20 year old brother, desperate for her to remain in Australia and receive the medical treatment that she needs. Under current policy, and according to all indications, Nazanin will be returned to Nauru as soon as she is deemed physically well enough to travel.

The current wide spread concern for refugees drowning in the ocean must not be divorced from the slow deaths and tortures that refugees are experiencing in Australian run detention centres. A writer detained for 26 months on Manus Island has written a letter stating: 'I wish I too had died in the ocean'.

Poet Kaveh Arya released a poem on facebook following the circulation of images of the young Kurdish boy Aylan Kurdi who had drowned whilst seeking asylum with his family. The final line of the poem being: '*we love dead children more*'.

Natasha Blucher, former STC worker on Nauru reminds us in a letter published in the NT Times that we must also '[g]rieve for the 110 children in detention in Australia, who are not dead but are still becoming lifeless'.

While we indulge in grief and sorrow for the beautiful boy lost on the shores of Europe, we cannot allow ourselves to forget that children, men and women who have are being punished in our deterrent detention camps for making precisely the same voyage by boat to our shores.

Nazanin and her remaining family made that voyage. Nazanin is also someone's child. Her mother is grieving the rape and subsequent trauma that Nazanin has suffered under the watch of the Australian government and the unbearable separation she is forced to endure as she remains detained in Nauru with little access to information on how her daughter is, whilst always aware that Nazanin could be returned at any moment.

'If Nazanin comes back she will die. We know she will kill herself. We have watched for long time how scared she is. There is no safe place here. She needs to be in safe place', says her family.

Trauma Specialist Dr Helen Driscoll reiterates this: '*To return Nazanin to Nauru violates every foundation imperative in clinical and human responses to her life threatening trauma and consequent impact . . . To return her is dooming her to die. No ethical clinician in the field of trauma would support a return to Nauru*'

Researchers Against Black Sites calls on the people of Australia to demand that Nazanin is not returned to Nauru and that her mother and brother are brought to Australia to be with her.

We call on all involved in the GetUp Light the Dark Vigils to remember this family and take action.

We also call on all present at the GetUp Light the Dark Vigils to remember all those held in Australian run detention centres in Manus Island and Nauru.

Researchers for Pacific Black Sites: Professor Suvendrini Perera, Professor Joseph Pugliese, Janet Galbraith

Consultant: Dr Helen Driscoll.

Media Contact: Janet Galbraith