

Submitted to The Sydney Morning Herald Letters to the Editor page but not published.

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To: SMH/editor (letters@smh.com.au)

Subject: sprung

The Minister for inhumanity towards asylum seekers [castigates](#) his policy's critics for giving some 2 000 refugees and asylum seekers abandoned for three years in PNG and Nauru, "false hope".

Is that preferred to the false hope of his "settlement services" contract with Connect, which tries to provide settlement support for proven refugees on Nauru where permanent settlement on the 21 km square island with 10 000 Nauruans is ruled out by their Government? Is this why refugees and asylum seekers have daily protests asking for freedom these past 70 days, why children and adults self harm, have nervous breakdown, kill themselves, go mad with despair? When all hope is extinguished there is (sic) anything to live for?

Frederika Steen