

Submitted to the Courier Mail Letters to the Editor but not published by them.

From: Steenfred
Sent: Tuesday, 17 May 2016 10:17 AM
To: 'letters@couriermail.com.au'
Subject: anyone listening ?

15 May 2016

I put aside the Peta Credlin opinion piece (“Mutiny in the ranks”, May 15) channelling her former boss’ “stop the boats, whatever it takes” in the Sunday Mail as well as Andrew Bolt pompous piece, (“Candidates who jump ship” 16 May), still banging on about illegal immigrants when most readers know that refugees seeking protection are not illegal, no matter how they arrive.

More relevant is your exclusive report “Manus ready to erupt”, by on the scene reporter Peter Michael, which describes the reason for the tensions building. Clearly the sovereign nation of PNG has fully accepted it’s Supreme Court decision from two long weeks ago, that holding Australia’s asylum seekers in detention for three years was illegal, and is just cause for protest by men still in that camp.

Also reported (“Nauru asylum-seeker stable after caesarean”, 16 May) is yet another emergency medical evacuation from Nauru to Brisbane, a young asylum seeker Naima Ahmed (22) who after a known, complex pregnancy, had her premature baby boy Anas by caesarean section in Nauru’s inadequate hospital. Baby is stable, mother is critical. Her husband is still to arrive.

Have the 17 ALP candidates Bolt identifies as not supporting current ALP asylum policy not got good cause? For sure the LNP has members and supporters deeply troubled by the human consequences of three years of detention of non criminal men women and children, funded by us in foreign places when this has proven to be illegal. Is everyone not horrified

at the suicides, the self harm, the endemic mental illness proven to be caused by indefinite detention of innocent human beings, most of whom really are refugees?

Frederika Steen AM