

2018 01 24 Refugee Action Coalition Media Release
Manus Refugees Arrive In La - But Hundreds Of Others Have No Solution

Forty refugees from Manus Island have arrived in Los Angeles - around 3pm Australia summer time (photos and video clip attached).

From Los Angeles, the refugees will take flights to their final destinations which include: Philadelphia, San Diego, and Chicago.

With the 27 from Manus who were resettled in the US last September, this means only 67 refugees have been resettled in the US in over 14 months since the deal was announced. There are still around 700 refugees in PNG who need safe, third countries.

"The US deal simply does not have enough places to provide resettlement for all the refugees who are on Manus and Nauru. The Australian government consistently rejects the New Zealand government's offer to resettle 150 refugees a year, but it has no other safe third countries that will offer resettlement to refugee who are Australia's responsibility," said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition.

The recent Human Rights Watch report on Australia found, "Refugees and asylum seekers on Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Manus Island have suffered repeated violent attacks and robberies by locals, with inadequate hospital care on the island and no action by police."

Nauru is no better. Iranian and Somali refugees protesting on Nauru yesterday (23 January) unsuccessfully sought answers about how long Trump's ban on their entry to to US would delay their resettlement to the USA. A petition to Australian Border Force signed by over 500 refugees demanded that they be taken to Australia while resettlement options are finalised.

"There is an urgent need for refugees and asylum seekers to be brought to Australia," said Rintoul.

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