

2016 12 24 Refugee Action Coalition Media Release

Manus Refugee Medivacced to Australia in Critical Condition

A 27 year-old Sudanese male refugee, Faysal, has been medivacced from Manus to Australia after collapsing and suffering head injuries inside Oscar compound on Thursday night, 22 December. The refugee has been held on Manus since October 2013.

He was kept in the IHMS clinic at the Manus detention centre on Thursday night before being medivacced to Brisbane on Friday afternoon, 23 December.

It is believed he is in a critical condition. It is not known if the immediate emergency is a result of the head injuries sustained when he collapsed or because of underlying medical conditions that lead to his collapse. He had suffered numerous black-outs and collapses over the past months.

The medical emergency has again thrown a stark light on medical failures of IHMS (the medical provider) and the lack of proper medical treatment on Manus.

The refugee has made numerous complaints to Border Force and IHMS because of a lack of treatment or medical attention by IHMS. He has suffered ill health for around one year – including long-standing heart problems.

Only last week, more than 60 Manus refugees signed a complaint letter regarding IHMS's failure to properly treat the refugee. On his last few visits to the IHMS clinic, he was only seen by a clinic nurse, not a doctor.

Only a week ago, a fellow Manus Sudanese refugee wrote a complaint to IHMS and Border Force on behalf of Faysal.

IHMS and Border Force has been at the centre of questions over medical negligence at the inquest in to the death of Hamid Khazaie who died in Brisbane in 2014 after being evacuated from Manus with blood poisoning.

“We have grave concerns for Faysal's welfare,” said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition, “Faysal is yet another casualty of the systematic neglect that characterises Manus Island and offshore detention.

“The PNG Supreme Court ordered that Manus be closed last April. It is still open only because the Australian government has refused to accept the decision of the Supreme Court.

“The government should stop playing with refugees' lives and bring them to Australia where they can get the protection an medical attention they need.”

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