

Refugee Action Coalition

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MEDIA RELEASE

**TRAGEDY AVOIDED BUT MINISTER MUST RELEASE SAEED AND ALL  
THOSE INDEFINITELY DETAINED**

The Refugee Action Coalition has welcomed the news that Iranian hunger striker, Saeed Hansonloo, has ended his hunger strike.

Now the Minister must release Saeed, his brother and the 40-odd other Iranians being held in indefinite detention.

Despite the Minister's public comments, Saeed's case has not been finalized. The Department initiated a "International Treaty Obligations Assessment" process in January this year.

Hundreds of others in a similar situation are living in the community on bridging visas.

"The Minister has to explain why Saeed and his brother were not released on bridging visas," said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition.

"Peter Dutton has assiduously avoided explaining why he didn't do the obvious. Saeed and his brother were living in the community on bridging visas until 2012.

"Twice this year, Iranian asylum seekers have come close to dying in detention. The Minister is completely blinkered by domestic politics. Unless Peter Dutton releases Saeed and the others, it is only a matter of time before this happens again. Some of the Iranians in Darwin, in similar situation to Saeed, have now been re-detained for nine months. The government's policy is senseless."

"The responsibility still lies with the Minister. He can do nothing and wait for the next crisis, and waste more lives and money or he can do the sensible and decent thing."

For more information, contact Ian Rintoul 0417 275 713