

## To Whom It May Concern

I am a Rohingya. An oppressed stateless people from Burma. The Burmese military has long oppressed Rohingyas and been involved in an ethnic-cleaning program to prevent the creation of a Rohingya state.

My life in Burma was very hard my family house was demolished two times by authorities and as a result we had move to my mother's native village. Every person in that village was subjected to violent abuses, fines, extortion, military harassment and corporal punishment. I am aware that at least 100 villagers are still in detention and many have died in detention. My father was died for the subsequent detentions. My siblings detained in 2008.

After I passed matriculation, I sneaked out Aachen to Rangoon to continue my study. If I did not go leave in secret my family would have had to have paid a large bribe which they could not afford. In Rangoon I was involved in research into the natural resources, as a lot of my research I was harassed, beaten and detained by government authority. My colleagues managed to release me through a bribe.

To avoid further punishment, I escaped Burma to Thailand. In Thailand, I survived by selling bread. I could not stay long Thailand because of tension directed towards Burmese people. I then went to Malay-border. In Malaysia, I was detained many times as Rohingya people bounded a constant cycle of humiliation, harassment and abuses. I was involved with Rohingya refugee organizations and Burmese political opposition groups based in KL. Then, I worked odd jobs in mechanical and electrical works.

Once I was detained, I sold by corrupt immigration officials to people smugglers. I was then sold to a large fishing boat and forced to work at the threat of being shot at sea on the fishing boat. I managed to escape the boat when it came into land to collect ice and I ran from the boat and away from the boat.

In order to avoid further persecution, I came to your country via a

risky boat journey from Indonesia. We a group of ten Rohingyas reached Ashmore Reef on 29 Dec 2009 and for the first time no fear for any more persecution. I was happy as I was sure I would find safety in Australia. I was found to be genuine refugee by DTAC since the end of May 2010. Since that time, I have been waiting for my security clearance. I am provided with good accommodation and food in detention in Australia, some officers here are willing to listen my concern.

My life in detention however is very hard on my mind. I have been detained for 18 months this makes me very depressed and I am tired by enduring both physical and mental pains as a result of my detention. I have to take medicine for that. I feel as though I can't continue any longer to be detained like this. I have received many promises in detention. I was told in November 2010, that I should wait until the Christmas festival to be free. I was told many times that we may be able to be moved into community detention and be able to live free whilst I wait for my security clearance. On 17 March, the government notice told everyone that their security clearance would be completed by April. I and my friends were happy to hear this news after a long wait. I was told that us Rohingyas would be a priority case, I waited all of April for my clearance and have now been informed recently that it will be delay again.

I feel like sailing with hopeless end isolated and I am an innocent refugee. I have been asked to go to a different country so I can escape this pain but this can't happen. I do not know how long I will have to suffer from this indefinite detention. I have seen some friends attempted suicide including by setting themselves on fire, I had to help move a friend down from a tree after he attempted to hang himself with a sari, a friend has banged his head a large number of times against a wall, some have cut themselves.

I am trapped for an unknown reason. I am not a terrorist, I do not support terrorists and hate terrorists and my family has been the victim of many terrorist incidents from the Burmese authorities.

I should not be detained for being a refugee. Therefore, I would like to approach the Australian communities to come together to call Australian Government to look kindly into the matter and why its notice is undermined.

Respectfully,

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longterm detainee Burmese Refugee Asylum seeker  
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