

## *Submission 91 (translated)*

1/4

27/5/2014

To Mrs. Gillian Triggs

I will begin this letter, hoping that it is effective. As a 16-year-old youth, I have a lot of things to say. Being in Australian Immigration Detention and being punished for offenses we have not committed. We only arrived at the wrong time and wrong place and we all came to take refuge but the way we are treated is very different. My family and I travelled to Christmas Island by boat from Indonesia. On route, the boat broke down, everyone nearly drowned and 5 people lost their lives.

101 people were saved, including me and my family. This was a very severe trauma, but unfortunately, we never even succeeded in seeing a psychologist. About the conditions on the island of Nauru, here we live in marquees and due to being close to the equator, the weather on the island is very hot. And we can only use fans. At times, during the day, we have no electricity and we cannot even use the fan. The weather here is so hot that if you sit outside in the sun for a period of time, you lose consciousness.

Regarding health, we do not have many facilities here. We have many physical and mental issues, but nothing is done about them. We need to speak to psychologists and many people need surgery to treat physical problems, but as the doctors here says, if the list of ill people here that need to be sent to Australia is given to Immigration, this department will refuse all and will not allow easy exit from Nauru, even for treatment. Every month, when we go to IHMS, they only repeat one sentence: Drink more water.

My eyes are getting weaker every day, but no optician will ever visit this island and the nurses say you can hope that they may come next year.

Our marquees are very dirty. Because of the weather, after sometime, there is mould in the marquees and because of the strong sun, the roof of the marquees has holes and when it rains, we get a lot of water inside the marquees. There is so much water that we have collect all our belongings and empty the water with buckets.

In this hot weather, we have access to the showers for only 3 minutes and this is not enough. In the past month, we have had more problems due to lack of water and there have been days when we even have not had access to 3-minute showers and there has been no water to flush the toilets. These put together causes filthiness and increase the number of flies. The toilets are very dirty and unhygienic. Most of them do not work and are unusable. The bathroom floors are always covered in dirty water and small children need specific bathrooms. Playing facilities for children is very limited. I have, on many occasions, encountered scenes of children under the age of 6 playing with dirty stones and polluted water from rainwater in puddles on the ground. Due to this pollution, they get skin diseases and the nurses as always say: Drink more water.

If anyone develops stomach aches or diarrhoea, they are sent to the quarantine marquee, which is a very, very dirty and hot place and they are told the usual sentence. Drink more water.

The treatment we receive from the officers is very violent and unfair. They differentiate between people. They shout at us, swear at us, and I have even seen one of the officers push a woman out of her room. The way they treat us is very bad, to such an extent that they treat us like domestic animals. They throw food or stuff in front of us. They call us "Harry" and pick on us for very minor issues.

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During the day, the mess is open for meals three times a day. We are not allowed to take any food out of the mess, even fruit or milk, and children and sick people, throughout the day, need fruit and milk. But they even deny us this. They are even prepared to throw the food into the bins, as they do every day, but not give it to us. The food they provide tastes really bad, very spicy and bad tasting. The condition under which the food is delivered is also unhygienic. I saw a woman pause for 30 seconds before serving the food, put her finger into her nose and then serve the food with the same hand to me! Many people do not set foot into the mess because of the bad-tasting food and hence get sick. The food is very spicy and hot, to such an extent that after eating them, the mouth, throat and stomach burns.

Our means of communication is also bad. We have access to the internet once a week and for only one hour. The internet speed is very low.

Every four or five days, normally, we have access to the telephone for 15 minutes. But most times, due to having no electricity or thousands of other reasons, we have no access to the telephones. During the Persian New year, we had no access to the telephones for 10 days and this was really saddening as we had no news of our families and they had no news of us and this is at a time when some people can use the telephones or internet outside the designated times allocated to them and as I said there is no justice here.

As an adolescent, I will not have a good future here. We go to school but will not receive any degrees, and this is nothing but a waste of time, wasting years that will never return to us. It is close to one year that we have been deprived of a simple right and that is going to school. We are told that we will be on this island for five years. This place is only 21 square kilometres and has nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing.

I hope that someone will read this letter and listen to what we have to say

With respects

[REDACTED]



I AM NOT HAPPY  
IN DETENTION

[REDACTED]