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Refugee Activists Scale Parliament House with Call to Close the Bloody Camps

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ACTION CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS

Date: 01/12/2016

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Politicians have arrived at Parliament House this morning to find two climbers suspended off the roof with a banner reading “Close The Bloody Camps #Justice4Refugees”. Outside Parliament, members of Whistleblowers Activists and Citizens Alliance (WACA) have also turned the water feature into a bloody pool, representing deaths from turnbacks at sea with signs reading ‘Turnbacks Are Murder’ and ‘Blood On Your Hands’

Today’s action is a continuation of yesterday’s interruption of the House of Representatives by members of WACA, where they unfurled banners reading “You Are All Complicit – Close the Camps Now” and “Stop Trading Lives –

Close the Camps Now” while others super-glued themselves to the gallery.

WACA spokesperson Kat Moore stated, “We are here today to tell the Australian Parliament they are all complicit in the murder, rape, torture and child abuse of refugees. This is a state of emergency and a humanitarian crisis. Manus Island, Nauru and Christmas Island are death camps. Every single person in offshore detention must be evacuated immediately and the camps shut down. There are also many asylum seekers who have languished for years in onshore detention facilities, these people must also be resettled immediately in the community.”

Over fifty refugee supporters congregated in Canberra from around the country for two days of actions culminating in today's banner drop of Parliament House. Neither the Government nor the Opposition can be taken seriously whilst Manus Island, Nauru and Christmas Island remain open. Both sides of politics continue to violate human rights, through indefinite detention, supporting turnbacks, and by refusing to take responsibility for the resulting deaths at sea.

WACA spokesperson Zianna Fuad stated, “It is clear that the Government’s offshore detention policy has failed. Instead we have become world leaders in cruelty, traumatising thousands of people who came to us seeking asylum and safety. The policy is in direct violation of the UN refugee convention. The Government’s US Deal is nothing but a desperate attempt to disguise the establishment of a permanent island prison on Nauru.”



WACA has maintained pressure on the Government and Opposition all year through peaceful direct action, including an [interruption of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull’s keynote speech at a CEDA event](#) in August, when a

member of the group successfully invaded the stage with a sign reading “FFS Close the Bloody Camps”.

Ms Fuad added, “The Government and the Opposition are playing politics with people’s lives. The continued violation of human rights means that members and everyone else complicit in the detention industry should expect growing, widespread protests and civil disobedience until the camps are permanently

For further information:

#CloseTheCamps

#Justice4Refugees

@akaWACA