

2016 11 04 Refugee Action Coalition Media Release

## PEN International Appeals To The Australian Government For Manus Refugee

PEN International, who adopted Kurdish journalist and Manus refugee, Behrouz Boochani has again written to the Australian government to request that Boochani asylum claim be considered in Australia. (see <http://www.pen-international.org/newsitems/australia-process-kurdish-iranian-journalists-asylum-claim/>)

(The letter to the Australian government can be read here: <http://www.pen-international.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Letter-to-Peter-Dutton-MP-of-Australia-regarding-the-case-of-Iranian-journalist-Behrouz-Boochani.pdf>)

Boochani was adopted by PEN in September 2015, but it requests to the Australian government have been ignored since then. He has been found to be a refugee on Manus Island despite never applying to be processed in PNG.

PEN's appeal to the Australian government further highlights the complete desperation of Malcolm Turnbull's proposal for a lifetime ban on refugees and asylum seekers sent offshore.

In April 2106, the PNG Supreme Court found that the Manus detention centre was unlawful. Around 800 individual signatures have now obtained for a further application to the PNG Supreme Court to consider compensation for the multiple breaches of their human rights and orders for the return of all those taken illegally form Australia to Manus Island to be returned to Australia.

Thousands of people are expected at rallies in Sydney and Melbourne, Saturday, 5 November to call for the closure of Manus and Nauru and to bring all the refugees and asylum seekers to Australia. In Sydney, the rally is focussed on the Doctors March for Refugees – details below.

“Momentum is growing for the ‘Bring Them Here’ campaign,” said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition, “Turnbull's lifetime ban is a shameful stunt; playing with refugee lives, as the government falls in the opinion polls.

“Saturday's rallies will add to the growing call to ‘kill Turnbull's bill.” For more information, contact Ian Rintoul 0417 275 713. Behrouz Boochani contact available on request.

Sydney: Doctors March for Refugees, 1pm Hyde Park North

Speakers will include:

Barri Phatarfod and David Berger – Doctors for Refugees; and

- Dr Kean-Seng Lim, Vice President of AMA NSW,
- Professor Munjed al-Muderis, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and former Australian immigration detainee, who arrived in Australia by boat,
- Dr Bastian Seidel, President of the Royal Australian College of GPs,

- Dr Stewart Condon, Medical Director of MSF Australia
- Mr Evan Davis, a former teacher on Nauru
- Ian Rintoul – Refugee Action Coalition

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