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Immigration Minister Is Stalling On Manus

Will Another Australian Guard Avoid Justice?

While Australia and PNG haggle over the future of the asylum seekers and refugees on Manus, the abuses inside the detention centre continue.

Concerns are being raised that another Australian guard at Manus Island may flee the island before PNG police can interview him in relation to an alleged assault on a refugee inside the Manus detention centre.

The alleged assault happened on Sunday 7 May, when the refugee from Delta compound was trying to visit friends in the Foxtrot compound.

According to the complaint, the guard, "Cameron", stopped the Iranian refugee at the Foxtrot gate and refused him entry. Despite confirming with Delta compound that the visit was authorised, Cameron still denied him entry and an argument started.

It is then alleged that Cameron punched and pushed the refugee in the chest. As a crowd gathered at the gate, a Wilson's supervisor arrived, and quickly allowed the refugee into Foxtrot and Cameron was ordered out of the compound.

A complaint was lodged on Monday 9 May with detention managers, Broadspectrum (attached).

The refugee also complained to the PNG and is expecting to be interviewed by the PNG police today.

But the refugee is concerned that Cameron will be allowed to leave the island before he can be interviewed by the PNG police, just as has happened in previous instances of complaints being made against Australian guards.

On 25 April, the PNG Supreme Court rules that the Manus Island detention centre was unlawful.

"It is pathetic watching Peter Dutton denying the obvious. Every day Manus remains open, is another day that the Minister and the PNG government are breaching the human rights of those held there," said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition.

"There will be more legal action in the PNG Supreme Court on Friday this week. Peter Dutton is just prolonging the agony and stalling to try to keep Manus open til after the election. Dutton should end the abuse by bringing all the asylum seekers and refugees to Australia.

"In the meantime we will see if Cameron is allowed to leave the island before the PNG police can investigate the assault."

For more information contact Ian Rintoul 0417 275 713

Posted by: Ian Rintoul <<u>rintoulian10@gmail.com</u>>

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