

2016 11 22 Refugee Action Coalition Media Release

## Sydney Protest Against Turnbull's Refugee Lifetime Ban Bill

The Refugee Action Coalition is holding a protest at Circular Quay this afternoon, Tuesday 22 November, 5.15-6.15pm, (Custom's House Square) against the Turnbull government's attempt to impose a lifetime ban on asylum seekers sent offshore from ever entering Australia,

Speakers at the protest will include: Mehreen Saeed Faruqi, NSW Greens MP; Mark Goudkamp Refugee Action Coalition; Shelvy, Bersih Malaysia Sydney; Anwar Sha, Rohingya Association; Larry Vincent, Labor Party member.

The lifetime ban proposal has been widely condemned as a draconian extension of the government's anti-refugee deterrence policies.

Even New Zealand Prime Minister Key has said New Zealand would not accept such legislation that would discriminate against a future citizen.

Contrary to suggestions by the government, the lifetime ban is not a part of the third country resettlement arrangement with the United States.

"We need to make sure that the lifetime ban bill is defeated," said Ian Rintoul from the Refugee Action Coalition. "Just like Peter Dutton's attack on Lebanese Muslims, it is another piece of creative extremism from the failing Turnbull government."

The protest comes as concerns are growing that the USA resettlement arrangement will not provide a comprehensive outcome for all the asylum seekers and refugees on Nauru and Manus Island.

"It is clear that under the US deal, many people will be left behind. Turnbull's lifetime ban legislation is another attempt to distract attention from the gaping holes in the US deal," said Rintoul.

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