

United Nations Human Rights Council, 41st session, 24 June 2019

Item 3 Clustered ID with Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants and Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity

Oral statement by the Human Rights Law Centre

Delivered by Abdul Aziz Muhamat

Mr. President,

My name is Aziz.

For the first time in 6 years I am free. Until recently I was one of over a thousand refugees trapped by the Australian Government in offshore detention on Manus Island and Nauru.

Many hundreds are still being detained. And they are being completely destroyed, physically and mentally.

12 people have died. In just the last month, over 100 have attempted suicide on Manus Island. How many more will it take?

We don't have time. Not a day, not a week, not a month. People are attempting suicide every hour. This is a humanitarian crisis that requires urgent action.

Each day it is getting worse and worse. I fear for the lives of over 800 vulnerable people stuck in limbo on Manus Island and Nauru.

Mr President, politicians in Australia and across the world continue to dehumanise refugees and use them for their own political agenda. The voices of refugees must be heard and acted on.

After 6 years of false imprisonment, my brothers and sisters on Manus Island and Nauru are calling for a future where they can rebuild their lives in safety. They urgently need resettlement. What must we do to make this happen?

Mr President, we welcome the [special procedures press release](#) on Australia.

We urge your mandates and the Council to continue to hold the Australian Government accountable for this breach of human rights.

Thank you.