

**Pax
Christi
Australia**

**International
Christian Peace Movement**

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June 5, 2014

Mr Clive Palmer MP
House of Representatives
Parliament House
PO Box 6022
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Palmer

Speech in Parliament

I wrote to you recently (June 3, 2014) in another capacity as a member of, and on behalf of, the of the Social Justice Committee of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes (CLRINSW). I have been asked to also write to you on behalf of Pax Christi Australia which is part of the international Christian Peace Movement Pax Christi International, based in Brussels, which has members throughout Australia belonging to three state branches (Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria).

The membership was keen that I express again the thanks of our organisation to you for your bold and powerful speech in the House of Representatives on May 27. As I stated in my previous letter, your speech did not receive much media publicity but has since been attracting much welcome attention on social media. Pax Christi Australia supports your strong challenge to the Government and the Opposition to brutal and inhumane treatment of people whose only crime is to seek protection from persecution which their own governments do not afford them. It also supports your call for compensation to be given to the family of Mr Reza Berati who was murdered whilst in our care and under our protection, as well as compensation to all those who were injured during the violence on Manus Island.

Recently, I along with a number of other clergy and committed young Christian leaders were arrested after carrying out a prayerful and nonviolent sit-in at the Prime Minister's electoral office to draw attention to the plight of asylum seekers and in particular the 1023 unaccompanied children in detention. There was a simultaneous sit-in by clergy and religious people at the office of the Leader of the Opposition in Melbourne. It was interesting that a statement on the issue of asylum seekers by Pope Francis was not accepted by the staff at the Prime Minister's electoral office. Recently (May 8, 2014) the Australian Catholic Bishops released a powerful media release which was largely ignored by the Australian media. This statement supported the stand of the Papua New Guinea Conference

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It regards justice and human rights as central to peacebuilding
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of Catholic Bishops which opposes the use of Manus Island for detaining asylum seekers. Of course, the Anglican Bishops also released a statement which has not received much publicity. I am enclosing a copy of the statement by the Australian Catholic Bishops for your information.

As I said in my previous letter to you, there will come a time when a prime minister will have to stand up in Parliament and offer an apology to the people who have suffered such injustice in our name for seeking asylum, as did Kevin Rudd to the Stolen Generations and Julia Gillard to the children who were transported to Australia from England and Ireland. Let us hope that it will not be too long for the sake of these people.

Again, thank you Mr Palmer, for taking your stand and challenging the Parliament and to the Australian people.

Yours sincerely

(Father) Claude Mostowik msc
National President

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