

"THE MOST HUMANITARIAN, THE MOST DECENT, THE MOST COMPASSIONATE THING YOU CAN DO IS STOP THESE BOATS BECAUSE HUNDREDS, WE THINK ABOUT 1200 IN FACT, DROWNED AT SEA DURING THE FLOURISHING OF THE PEOPLE SMUGGLING TRADE UNDER THE FORMER GOVERNMENT."

— FORMER PRIMER MINISTER TONY ABBOTT IN RESPONSE TO UNITED NATIONS REPORT CRITICISING AUSTRALIA'S TREATMENT OF ASYLUM SEEKERS IN OFFSHORE DETENTION.

"AUSTRALIA SIGNED UP TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE 30 YEARS AGO. WE DID SO BECAUSE AS A NATION WE AGREED WITH THE IMPORTANT MINIMUM STANDARDS OF TREATMENT IT GUARANTEED. YET HERE WE ARE 30 YEARS ON, KNOWINGLY BREACHING THOSE STANDARDS AND CAUSING SERIOUS DAMAGE TO OUR REPUTATION."

— HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CENTRE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL ADVOCACY DANIEL WEBB IN RESPONSE TO THE SAME REPORT.