To: Human Rights Commission Visitors

To whom this may concern,

It's more than one year that we have been here in the detention center of Christmas Island; although it seems that we've been here for years. Because this time has passed by with a lot of difficulties.

When we left our countries, we were hopeful to reach a peaceful land, to reach a land which accepts us and treats us as human beings; but how bitter was it to hear that "We are the victims of the new policy to stop the boats." These are the words we were told by the Migration Organisation visitors when they came here. Also when we are upset and worried about our uncertain future, during our visits with our immigration case managers, they look at our tears and tell us: "We are very sorry, but you are the victims of the new policy to stop the boats; you are unlucky and nobody can help you." And how cruel is it to say these sentences to the people who have left their homes and have tolerated a lot of difficulties through this journey, just to reach "peace", "hope" and "freedom".

Don't you think that it's unbelievable in the 21st Century to keep a lot of innocent children in detention centers, far from education and a real life, just because they have desired to live in a peaceful land, without a dictator government? And while children around the world are playing with the developed toys and are educating in the best schools, these innocent children here just desire to walk through a real street freely, to live in a real house and sleep in a real room. And how difficult is it for parents to see the envy in their kids' eyes and explain to them these differences.
There are lots of parents here who have bad depression; and they need to be in a better situation for treatment. But, here, taking the soporific (sleep) medicines is just treatment that they have to have; and this process of treatment has certainly bad effects on their children. Because they get indifferent after taking these medicines; so it’s difficult to understand for their kids why their parents are so feeble and too tired to spend time with them.

In addition, a lot of people here have taken action to suicide; so the word of a suicide is not an unknown word for our children anymore. They are growing up with these bitter words. Last week, a lot of mothers took action to suicide in C.C Compound. All children were scared and crying. How can we remove these bad scenes from our kids’ memories?

The days come and go; each day lasts like a year, for us; parents are frustrated; children are witness to their parent’s arguments everyday; the future is uncertain and we don’t have any answers to our children’s questions.

Whatever I’ve written in this letter, is just a bit of what we and our kids are coping with.

Please help us. You are just hope that we have in this situation.

Thank you.