

Leaders slam refugee policy

By **Marilyn Rodrigues** - July 25, 2019

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The Bishop of Parramatta, Vincent Long OFM conv, has issued a strong statement condemning the crackdown on some asylum seekers. PHOTO: Robert Hiini

Enough is enough, says Catholic refugee advocates

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, a former refugee, says the human cost of the ir asylum seekers is "mounting by the day".

In a statement on the sixth anniversary of the introduction of the so-called 'stop Commission for Social Justice said that 12 young men have already died during harm "out of utter despair".

"International agencies have been appalled by the conditions under which they self-respect," said Bishop Long.

Pope Francis, with whom the Australian bishops discussed the refugee crisis dur "deeply concerned", he said. Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced the I that no person seeking asylum by boat would ever be resettled in Australia.

Under the policy, named Operation Sovereign Borders, all asylum seekers would

or Nauru, and details of boat arrivals would not be made public. Today about 80

“As a bishop and a former boat person, I deplore the detention of our brothers ;
Long said.

“WHILE RECOGNISING THE EFFORT OF THE GOVERNMENT SAY WITH MANY FELLOW AUSTRALIANS THAT

“The harsh treatment of this relatively small number of people – most of whom
past six years is more than a shame, a disgrace, or something that we can say

Time to end ‘torture’

Meanwhile, the Darwin diocese wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison
dismantling of the offshore detention centres and re-assuming of on-shore processing

Darwin vicar general Father Malcolm Fyfe MSC said that indefinite detention is a

“With relentless regularity, Government ministers have blatantly repudiated and
Nations personnel, the Human Rights Commission, church leaders, medical and
other highly principled members of the public,” he said.

Bishop Long called on government and political leaders to an end to a “deplorable
“conscionable” solution.

“It is time to bring them here or to New Zealand, which has offered a helping hand
to the US could then migrate when their vetting processes are complete. The others
lives here in safety.

“Those who are not refugees can be held here in secure detention until they are

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Marilyn Rodrigues is a journalist for The Catholic Weekly (print and online). She has worked for the publication intermittently since 2000 and sees the CW team and readers as part of her extended family. She writes about faith, mental health, and life issues. Marilyn blogs in her five minutes of free time at marilynrodrigues.com.
