

Nine men in the camp are confirmed to be on hunger strike, many more claim they are on one. One hunger striker, Omid, has not eaten for over 40 days. He told the delegation that he has lost 19 kilograms but that "my psychological condition is even worse than my p8

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August [2012], asylum seekers would be released into the Australian community.<sup>2</sup>

In December 2012, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

[refugee status determination] procedures, and its deleterious impact on the mental and physical health of refugees and asylum-seekers if this is not addressed very promptly.<sup>3</sup> It also reported that:

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<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International, *Nauru Camp A Human Rights Catastrophe With No End In Sight* (23 November 2012) <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/20000/asa420022012en.pdf> 1, 4.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, 4.

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, *UNHCR Mission to the Republic of Nauru: 3-5 December 2012* (14 December 2012) <https://www.refworld.org/docid/50cb24912.html> 10.

According to medical staff, the sense of injustice, along with the hot and crowded detention conditions, a sense of isolation and abandonment, and a lack of information about their processing and future prospects, has led to widespread depression, instances of self-harm

about the physical and mental health of the asylum-

return-orientated

unaddressed, will inevitably have a detrimental impact on the physical and psycho-  
social health of asylum seekers, particularly vulnerable individuals.<sup>10</sup>

UNHCR also noted that:

According to medical and security staff, the sense of injustice, along with the hot and crowded detention conditions, a sense of isolation and abandonment, and a lack of information and clarity about their processing and future prospects, has led to widespread depression.<sup>11</sup>

deterioration of psycho-

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In December 2013, Amnesty International published a lengthy report on how the conditions

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2014

indefinitely on Nauru are suffering from extreme levels of physical, emotional, psychological

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In May 2014, Amnesty International published a lengthy follow-up report on how the

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In November 2014, the UN Committee Against Torture noted, in relation to Nauru and PNG,

the uncertainty about the future reportedly creates serious physical and mental pain and

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In 2014, the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee conducted an inquiry into the incident at the Manus Island RPC from 16 February to 18 February 2014. The report of that inquiry documented evidence from many witnesses and experts about deteriorating mental health on Manus Island. This evidence pertained to the periods both prior to and following that incident, for example:



problems and suffer overwhelming despair self-harm and suicide attempts are frequent. All face prolonged uncertainty about their future <sup>24</sup>

In October 2016, \_\_\_\_\_, reported after a visit to Nauru:

The distressing and heartbreaking accounts of deteriorating mental health, discrimination and violent attacks, sexual violence, inadequate medical care and harassment that I heard from mothers, fathers, adults and children as young as six, paint a picture of people driven to absolute despair.<sup>25</sup>

Mental illness and incidents of self-harm among refugees and asylum-seekers on Nauru are shockingly

researcher met on Nauru in July 2016 reported mental health issues of some kind: high levels of anxiety, t6.903>215-841.92 reW\*nBT/TT0 9.96 Tf100.34 592.78 Td[(l)5(e)-8.8 T04C5<4.0592.78 Td2445

<sup>29</sup> noting that 88 per cent of asylum seekers and refugees surveyed on Manus Island were suffering from a depressive or anxiety disorder and/or post-traumatic stress disorder, while 83 per cent on Nauru suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and/or depression.<sup>30</sup> Moreover, a number of very severe psychiatric disorders had been identified on Manus Island, including gross psychopathology consistent with psychosis as well as psychotic dissociation.<sup>31</sup> On Nauru:

The interviews by the medical experts, revealed prevalent despair, desperation and a sense of injustice among asylum-seekers and refugees. Many felt that they had no future or sense of hope. Parents interviewed reported acute experiences of hopelessness, stemming from a loss of self-agency, inability to care for their families and safety concerns.<sup>32</sup>

observed in Nauru and PNG could not be addressed in those countries, and that the data being gathered on self-<sup>33</sup> Finally, it reported:

UNHCR has observed over time an escalating situation with respect to mental illness and distress that is not likely to reduce under the present circumstances and that the establishment of mental illness, distress and suicidal ideation are pervasive and hyper-endemic within the asylum-seeker and refugee population.<sup>34</sup>

2017

In April 2017, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants noted that in Nauru:

Mental health issues are rife, with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression being the most common ailments. Many refugees and asylum seekers are on a constant diet of sleeping pills.



