



Late April Media Summary

Australia's Government Is Refusing to Support Myanmar's Anti-Coup Movement

For Australia's conservative government, keeping Myanmar open for businesses is more important than justice for massacred anti-coup protesters.

Australian authorities have added their voices to the international condemnation of the crackdown, making it seem as if they have nothing to do with the Tatmadaw and its actions. But this could not be further from the truth. Just as Australia's rulers have supported repressive regimes in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region, they are intimately involved with Myanmar's military ruling class.

04.17.2021

<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/04/australias-government-is-refusing-to-support-myanmars-anti-coup-movement>

'I still have nightmares': Surviving Australia's Kangaroo Point

In the early hours of the morning, security guards at an inner-city motel and serviced apartment complex in Brisbane would begin knocking on each door. They were conducting a headcount, checking that everyone was still inside their room, and still alive, just as they had every day since the start of 2019.

This was Brisbane's Kangaroo Point Central Hotel & Apartments, a makeshift immigration detention centre which the Australian government terms "an alternative place of detention" (APOD)

18 Apr 2021

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2021/4/18/i-still-have-nightmares-surviving-australias-kangaroo-point>

The asylum seekers who were removed from Brisbane's Kangaroo Point last week have been flown to Melbourne

Seventeen asylum seekers are being flown to Melbourne after Queensland Health ordered the Australian Border Force to move them out of a Brisbane quarantine facility.

The 17 men had been held in the Kangaroo Point Central Hotel and Apartments for more than a year after being brought to Australia for medical care from detention centres Nauru and Manus Island.

19/04/2021

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-asylum-seekers-who-were-removed-from-brisbane-s-kangaroo-point-last-week-have-been-flown-to-melbourne>

'A great disappointment': Triggs issues rallying cry over treatment of women

Gillian Triggs says the ongoing poor treatment of women is a great disappointment, and she is incredulous debates about gender equality are still taking place.

"The pandemic has had a very significant impact on refugees and the more than 80 million people displaced globally," Professor Triggs said.



“We’ve seen a very significant setback to refugee protection, but also, because of the social and economic impacts, a huge setback to education. And we sadly think particularly for girls, where advances had been made in recent years, we’re now seeing a very significant regression.

April 19, 2021

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/a-great-disappointment-triggs-issues-rallying-cry-over-treatment-of-women-20210416-p57jv9.html>

Please, send this family home to Biloela

On my third night on Christmas Island a group of local residents invited me around for drinks. We sat on the veranda overlooking the Indian Ocean, sipping gin and soda. It was all very nice, except for the topic — what it is like to live on the frontlines of the people-smuggling business.

These ordinary Australians first heard the cries for help when SIEV-221 broke apart in rough seas in front of their homes in the early hours of December 15, 2010.

APRIL 21, 2021

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/please-send-this-family-home-to-biloela/news-story/feb47dbd2e5e2a67b6114cccc2d61223>

They’re dead’: Family that ‘lives in a box’

°The Sri Lankan family are living in "a box with two rooms" after being "forcibly" removed from their home in Queensland and taken to an immigration detention centre.

The Labor frontbencher visited the family on the weekend after an outrageous battle with former Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton last week to gain access.

21st Apr 2021

<https://m.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/theyre-dead-family-that-lives-in-a-box/4241821/>

Asylum seekers in PNG 'scared and devastated' after reportedly being held at gunpoint

Traumatised asylum seekers moved from Manus Island to the Papua New Guinean capital are fearing for their lives after being held at gunpoint during an early morning attack on their accommodation this week, refugee advocates say.

The Refugee Action Coalition said an armed gang of six to eight people kicked down doors at a Port Moresby Citi Serviced Apartments complex early on Tuesday morning.

22/04/2021

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/asylum-seekers-in-png-scared-and-devastated-after-reportedly-being-held-at-gunpoint>

Role of Communities in Refugee Resettlement

Volunteers can help address real problems facing refugees’



Among the high-profile anti-immigration policies that characterized the four years of Donald Trump's presidency was a dramatic contraction in refugee resettlement in the United States. Under President Trump, the federal government instituted the lowest annual refugee admission ceilings of any administration to date, according to the Migration Policy Institute. Last week, the Biden administration shifted course on its earlier proposal to accept up to 62,500 refugees in the current fiscal year, but claims to support accepting up to 125,000 refugees in Fiscal Year 2022.

APRIL 21, 2021

<https://www.miragenews.com/role-of-communities-in-refugee-resettlement-547244/>

Refugees handcuffed, moved again

Asylum seekers held in a Brisbane hotel have been transferred to Melbourne without warning, while others are being arbitrarily released into the community. Advocates argue immigration detention is out of control.

April 24, 2021

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2021/04/24/refugees-handcuffed-moved-again/161918640011525#hrd>

Lest we forget the KP120

ANZAC DAY has been the subject of division over its purpose since it was first held in 1916. Its great potential is as a day of mourning — a call to remember the horrors of war and conduct ourselves with greater humanity so that we may never repeat them.

The KP120 refers to 120 people who fled situations of war and unrest to seek asylum in Australia. That is their legal and human right. We imprisoned them for many years in offshore internment camps built on Nauru and Manus Island. Last year, the KP120 were shuttled into hotel detention in Kangaroo Point, Brisbane. In hotel confinement, their conditions remained cruel, inhumane and punitive. Theirs is only the latest chapter in Australia's punishment of people for seeking asylum from war. To remember this arrogance and brutality, this year I say, lest we forget the KP120.

24 April 2021,

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/lest-we-forget-the-kp120,1501>

It's time to move on from Gallipoli

On this Anzac Day, allow me to reprise a theme. For we Australians really are a weird mob, and I only ever really got my head around just *how* weird after doing 10 or so books on our wartime experience through the ages.

April 25, 2021

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/it-s-time-to-move-on-from-gallipoli-20210423-p57lww.html>

Australia needs to take action after an attack on refugees in PNG



The Australian Government is being called on to take action after an attack on refugees and asylum seekers in Papua New Guinea.

Last week armed gang members reportedly overwhelmed security guards at an accommodation complex in Port Moresby where 15 asylum seekers are housed by the Australian Government

27 April 2021

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/441272/australia-needs-to-take-action-after-an-attack-on-refugees-in-png>

Fed govt in court over detainee's suicide

Criminal charges alleging Home Affairs broke the law before an immigration detainee's suicide were filed at the "last minute", a court has heard.

Comcare, the federal work health and safety authority, charged the federal government department and its refugee healthcare provider on March 3 with breaching work health and safety laws.

The charges state each defendant failed to comply with its health and safety duty, and exposed the detainee to a risk of death in early 2019.

27 April 2021

<https://thewest.com.au/news/crime/fed-govt-in-court-over-detainees-suicide-c-2696366>

Refugees unlawfully detained in NT: lawyer

Five refugees detained in a Darwin hotel for more than a year are taking the federal government to court for false imprisonment and negligence after witnessing their friend self-immolate.

The Australian government has breached its duty of care both on Nauru and at the Mercure Hotel in Darwin," lawyer John B Lawrence SC told AAP on Wednesday.

28 April 2021

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/refugees-unlawfully-detained-nt-lawyer-231600197.html>

Refugees detained at Darwin hotel take federal government to court for negligence and false imprisonment

Five refugees detained in a Darwin hotel for more than a year are taking the federal government to court for false imprisonment and negligence after witnessing their friend self-immolate.

Iranians Afsaneh Khademi, 43, Mojtaba Hamedani, 37, Behnam Rangzan, 25, Afsaneh Ghodsi, 40 and Mojtaba Haghghat, 39, came to Australia by boat in 2013.

30 April 2021

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/refugees-detained-at-darwin-hotel-take-federal-government-to-court-for-negligence-and-false-imprisonment>



Australian government slammed for 'punitive' policies that keep refugee families separated

Every night when Mary tucks her daughter to sleep in their home in regional Australia, the little girl asks when she'll finally be able to see her father and siblings again.

"I don't know what I can say," Mary says.

"I tell her, 'They can't come, because the Australian government won't allow it!'"

29 April, 2021

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/australian-government-slammed-for-punitive-policies-that-keep-refugee-families-separated>

Multiculturalism: The Greek questions which went unheard at the Multicultural Leaders Forum

On 28 April, 2021, I represented the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria (GOCMV) at a meeting on COVID-19. My advocacy was from a Greek-Australian perspective, and I wanted to address the needs of all people in the country, especially pensioners, refugees, migrants and their children and grandchildren, with the objective of creating a more egalitarian society.

With this article I wish to bring to the attention of a wider readership, the questions I sent in advance to the forum though they weren't touched upon during the meeting:

29 April 2021

<https://neoskosmos.com/en/197663/multiculturalism-the-greek-questions-which-went-unheard-at-the-multicultural-leaders-forum/>

Tamils in Australia condemn Border Force's gifting of surveillance drones to Sri Lankan authorities

Members of the Tamil community in Australia have condemned the federal government's gifting of drones to Sri Lankan police, amid fears they could be used negatively against the country's ethnic minority.

Earlier this month, the Australian Border Force announced it had given Sri Lankan police five surveillance drones for use in "a wide range of activities" including natural disaster scene assessment and recovery, transnational crime investigation and countering maritime people smuggling.

29 April 2021

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/tamils-in-australia-condemn-border-force-s-gifting-of-surveillance-drones-to-sri-lankan-authorities>

I'm homesick for Australia but it isn't mine any more. It's an unwell country in crisis

I'm on the Dfat flight waitlist, but nothing is leaving Paris. We lament all this on the "Stranded Aussies" forum. Home's out of reach. Lately I'm reminded of that Neil Diamond song – with tweaked lyrics it would go:
"Nowadays, I'm lost between two shores / France is fine, but it ain't home / Australia is home, but it ain't mine no more."

30 Apr 2021



<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/apr/30/im-homesick-for-australia-but-it-isnt-mine-any-more-its-an-unwell-country-in-crisis>

The issues on the minds of Tasmania's migrants ahead of this weekend's election

Tasmanians will vote on Saturday in a state election that was called just five weeks ago.

Some people will be casting a ballot in an Australian election for the very first time, including refugee Karna Gurung.

“[My partner and I] spent many years in Bhutan, but then we had to go to Nepal because of some political problems,” he told SBS News.

30 April 2021

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-issues-on-the-minds-of-tasmania-s-migrants-ahead-of-this-weekend-s-election>

Asylum seekers attacked in Port Moresby

Refugees formerly held on Manus Island have been robbed at gunpoint in Port Moresby. With Covid-19 cases rising in Papua New Guinea, advocates fear for these men and the others still awaiting resettlement after years in detention

1 May 2021

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2021/05/01/asylum-seekers-attacked-port-moresby/161979120011572#hrd>