**Proforma MEDIA RELEASE**

**19th July 2019 marks 6 years of offshore detention on Manus Island and Nauru – 6 years of unnecessary suffering - 6 years TOO LONG.**

(name of your group) will hold an action at (place) on (date and time) to mark the passing of 6 long years of unnecessary suffering for people sent to Manus Island and Nauru just because they exercised their right to seek asylum in Australia.

“The suffering of people held on Manus Island and Nauru has been constantly in the news for the last 6 years and it must be brought to an end” says (your spokesperson). “Nearly all of these people are recognised as refugees, and have waited in very difficult conditions for safe resettlement options. Australia must now resolve this situation, by taking up the offer from New Zealand, and also resettling people here also, especially those who have family members here.”

The situation is now urgent, with more than 90 acts of self-harm and suicide attempts in just four weeks after Australia’s federal election. The situation **must** be resolved – these people cannot be abandoned.

Billions of dollars have been spent to maintain these arrangements, Australia has put unreasonable pressure on the governments of PNG and Nauru to co-operate, and nearly 2,000 people, including around 300 children have suffered abuse and psychological harm. This is a very sad chapter in Australia’s history, and one which must be brought to an end NOW.

“Australia can no longer deny responsibility for these people, and it is shameful that the Morrison government is proposing to remove the protection of the medivac legislation, to once again deny people access to medical treatment they so badly need” says (your spokesperson).

Behrouz Boochani, who has been held on Manus Island for nearly six years, says there is an increased sense of desperation and hopelessness among the island’s refugee population.

About 500 people have been resettled in America, and about 55 are still waiting – some for more than 2 years, to find out whether America will offer them resettlement. There are still several hundred people on Manus island and Nauru who have no resettlement options.

 “We are calling on the Morrison government to immediately bring this cruel regime to an end by bringing people to safety, or arranging other safe resettlement options for them” says (your spokesperson).

**We will be delivering this 'Message in a bottle'**  to Local MP  (your local MP) on (date and time).

For further information contact name, email and phone contacts for any media follow-up.

**#6YearsTooLong #CloseManusCloseNauru #SafeResettlementNow**