

FREE THE REFUGEES. THEY ARE OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS.

DOWN WITH RACISM A TOOL OF IMPERIALISM!

KICK THE RACISTS OUT OF PUBLIC OFFICE.



The Norwegian container ship, The Tampa, under the command of Captain Arne Rinnan, is anchored off Christmas Island, Australian Territory, with 450 refugees on board. The refugees had been rescued by the Tampa from their leaking craft on its way from Indonesia to Australian territory, according to The Law of the Sea. The Australian Government has refused to allow the refugees to land, who include two pregnant women and 43 children.

The Australian Government despatched to the ship SAS troops against the wishes of the Captain. The leader of the Opposition supported the Prime Minister's stand on refusing to allow the refugees ashore.

The government attempted to introduce legislation in the parliament to legalize these actions, but the legislation was defeated by the opposition.

The Tampa is now anchored in Australian territorial waters.

This has caused a storm among the Australian people. At first the Talk Back programmes said the Australian people endorsed the government. But, as the days pass this so-called support is dwindling.

Two groups of lawyers and the Council for Civil Liberties have challenged the government's stand before the courts; many people are telephoning the Norwegian Embassy in Canberra giving support (022733444); the pages of the daily press are full of letters and news of support for the refugees; the churches and other public figures are coming out for the refugees to land and many are calling for the scrapping of the Detention Centres already detaining hundreds of refugees.

In spite of the government pleading that "we are a decent and tolerant country" the people point out that Australia has always been a racist country.

Racism is a tool of the ruling class. It is used to divide the people so that they can be better exploited.

In 1788 the English invaded the south land, seized the land in the name of the King, destroyed the indigenous people. This genocide still continues.

In 1900 thousands of Chinese people were deported. And the Kanakas, the name given to the Pacific Islanders kidnapped and worked as slaves on the sugar plantations, were mostly all expelled.

In 1910, at Federation, the White Australia was born, thus excluding any one other than white skinned for decades.

The present crisis is the same as the SS St Louis. In 1938 the ship contained hundreds of Jewish people fleeing from Nazi Germany. The ship was refused entry into Havana, the USA, England, and other ports, the ship had to return to Germany where most of the passengers perished. This is racism.

We must always look for the class who will benefit from a division among workers. Racism is a method of dividing workers, and more profit is made. There are 23 million refugees in the world today... more than after WW11. Who caused the refugees to flee from their country? Imperialism divides, Imperialism seizes the living of the refugees and caused this torrent of homeless people. We must struggle against imperialism and stand with our brothers and sisters the refugees.

HERE'S OUR NEW STRICT DEFINITION,
A REAL REFUGEE IS SOMEONE
WHO HAS BEEN IMPRISONED AND
EXCITED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY
BEFORE ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA...

THAT DOUGHT
TO DO IT....

