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SUBMISSION TO THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE - INQUIRY INTO IMMIGRATION /DETENTION

Mandatory detention has been one of the most inhumane practices that has ever been practiced in Australia. Some things that I have experienced are listed below and some things that I know to have happened to asylum seekers are listed as well.

Things that have happened to me whilst visiting detention centres which were deliberately used to aggravate detainees..

1. Lies were told by GSL deliberately to stress detainees, re visitors e.g. Officers reported that I had a serious fall and had cancelled my visit and the BBQ that was planned - resulting in many phone calls to me from agitated friends (Villawood)
2. GSL guard deliberately told lies re visiting times and reported that detainees did not want visits when they did - (Baxter)
3. Staff deliberately tried to stop people getting visas (conversations found through FOI - in writing) Maribyrnong

Problems for detainees

1. Africans were treated worse than others - e.g. accused of planning to escape. Correct reports were not made of their medical conditions. Medical staff made accusations that were unfounded (Villawood) and colluded with GSL. It was told to detainees by the honest GSL guards that lies were being perpetrated against them. This was later proved when information was available under FOI.
2. Detainees were shackled and mistreated when taken out for medical appointments. (Villawood)
3. Detainees from Baxter were taken to Villawood as punishment after suicide attempts landed them in hospital in Adelaide, because they did not choose to go freely to Port Augusta Housing.
4. Staff are supplying drugs at Villawood and Maribyrnong.
5. GSL and DIac denied detainees access to fax machines for their cases at various times. Villawood

I am too sick thinking about all of this to go on. I still visit Maribyrnong and

Villawood and many things like this are still happening.

Carmel Kavanagh