

REFUGEE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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MEDIA RELEASE

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CALL FOR JUSTICE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN CAIRO

The Refugee Council of Australia shares the concern and distress felt by the Sudanese Community in Australia at the recent deaths of Sudanese asylum seekers in Egypt. These deaths, among them women and children, were caused by the unprovoked and extremely violent action of the Egyptian police.

The asylum seekers were engaged in a peaceful protest, attempting to secure UN action and consideration for their plight. The victims of the actions by the Egyptian police were and are entitled to certain rights and protection pending repatriation or resettlement. Like the significant numbers of Sudanese welcomed to Australia as part of its Humanitarian Program, the asylum seekers have suffered severe persecution in their homeland and displacement over a long period of time.

The Refugee Council of Australia calls upon the Australian government to seek a full explanation of the actions by the Egyptian authorities and to re-state its position of opposition to forced repatriation and return unless there are assurances of protection.

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