

**Oral Statement of the 31st Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 6 of the agenda: Consideration of the UPR report for Nauru
16 March 2016**

Delivered by Silvia Palomba on behalf of Edmund Rice international, Franciscans International and Destination Justice

Mr. President,

Franciscans International (FI), Edmund Rice International (ERI) and Destination Justice (DJ) welcome the adoption of the outcome of the UPR of Nauru. We express our concern that the Government of Nauru only takes note instead of accepting the recommendation to improve measures to safeguard the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, in particular women and children (recommendations 87.19-29).

We are seriously concerned about the Australian-run offshore detention facilities in Nauru. We received allegations of physical and sexual abuse occurring in certain facilities. According to the latest official statistics, 50 children aged less than 18 years and 55 women are currently held at the Nauru Regional Processing Centre.

The Australian Senate's 2015 Inquiry into the Nauru RPC revealed that between February 2014 and April 2015, there were 253 self-harm incidents; 67 child abuse incidents; 33 incidents of sexual assault/rape; 724 complaints of ill-treatment against detention centre staff.

Therefore, we recommend the Government of Nauru the following:

1. Immediately close the Regional Processing Center;
2. Release women, children and their families detained in Nauru, transfer them to Australia, and ensure that their rights are enforced and protected;
3. Properly investigate and prosecute allegations of sexual and other forms of assault against children and women.

I thank you.