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The Editor,
The Age
<http://www.theage.com.au/national/letters/submit>

18 May 2012

Dear Editor,

I write to highlight the deeply unsettling plight of a Sri Lankan woman, Ranjini, and her young sons, incarcerated in Villawood Detention Centre last week, following an adverse security assessment by ASIO.

Recognised by Australia as refugees, the family cannot return to Sri Lanka and now faces indefinite detention, without knowing the reasons why.

Curiously, Ranjini and her sons were removed from their home in Melbourne to a detention facility in NSW; a location not readily accessible to family and friends, including Ranjini's husband, in Melbourne.

When consequences of government action on rights and freedoms are so extreme, it is vital that the rule of law is followed and natural justice afforded. It is unacceptable that a person can be recognised as a refugee and then detained indefinitely without trial, without being informed of the case against her, without the opportunity to be heard and without the right of appeal.

In March, the Joint Select Committee on Australia's Immigration Detention Network recommended that refugees be allowed to appeal ASIO decisions such as the one that affects Ranjini and 46 others.

The Government must take immediate action to end the untenable consequences of this secretive element of Australia's refugee application process.

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