



How Ottawa can stop human traffickers targeting Canada

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The Macdonald-Laurier Institute today published a Commentary on the unfolding Tamil refugee arrival in British Columbia. Titled [*The 'Sun Sea' Tamil Mass Refugee Claim: An Opportunity For Needed Reforms*](#), the paper calls on the federal government to use this incident as a guidepost to stop human smuggling and fix Canada's immigration and refugee determination process, including establishing special offshore processing facilities in which to detain and process some refugees.

A key proposal in the Commentary written by Scott Newark, a former Crown Prosecutor and Executive Officer of the Canadian Police Association, is to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) to allow government to declare "special circumstances" and direct the relevant authorities to intercept and detain migrant refugees at such a proposed offshore processing facility. The report also highlights the need to increase penalties for human trafficking and recommends that government create specialized, expedited, screening and determination procedures for use at the offshore facility, while prohibiting the issuance to anyone arriving in certain defined circumstances of Temporary Residence Permits that let them enter the community while awaiting a ruling and possibly vanish into it.

In releasing the Commentary, Mr. Newark said, "The arrival of the Sun Sea is a clear confirmation that organized efforts are underway to exploit the deficiencies in our immigration and refugee system. That calls for informed, targeted action to preserve the integrity of these public systems and to stop the abuses of these human traffickers who live off the misery of others".

Scott Newark advises the Macdonald-Laurier Institute on security and criminal justice matters. He is a former Alberta Crown Prosecutor and Executive Director of the Canadian Police Association who has also served as Director of Operations for the DC based Investigative Project on Terrorism and as a criminal justice and security advisor to the Governments of Ontario and Canada.

The Macdonald-Laurier Institute is the only non-partisan, independent national public policy think tank based in Ottawa that focuses on the full range of issues that fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

For more information or to arrange interviews with the author, please contact Scott Newark at snewark.nsrc@sympatico.ca or (613) 213-4200, or George Young, Director of Communications at george.young@macdonaldlaurier.ca or (613) 482-8327.

Copies of the Commentary can be downloaded at www.macdonaldlaurier.ca.