

# Always Already (/)

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# Agamben And 'Bare Life' On Nauru

<b>NRPC</b> <b>Incident or Information Report</b> <small>(Admin Use Only)</small>		WORS Ref:	
		Control Ref: 290310	
		Related IR Ref:	
		Other Ref:	
Report Completed By:		Print: [redacted]	Sign: [redacted]
Incident Date:	29/03/2015	Time: 1610	Date: 29/03/2015
Incident Time:	1455	Service Provider:	SCA
Incident Type:	Information	Risk Rating: (Please Circle)	Information <input checked="" type="radio"/> Minor <input type="radio"/> Major <input type="radio"/> Critical <input type="radio"/>
Stakeholder Involved:	No	Minor Involved:	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Primary Location:	RPC 3		
Location Description:	Mess		
Team Leader Reviewed:	Print: [redacted]	Sign: [redacted]	Date: 29/3/15
Supervisor Reviewed:	Print: [redacted]	Sign: [redacted]	Date: 29/3/15
Control Reviewed:	Print: [redacted]	Sign: [redacted]	Date: 29/3/15
<small>Ensure Report includes: Who: Who was involved What: What happened Why: Why did it happen When: When did it happen How: How did it happen Actions: Actions you undertook Resolutions: What did you do to resolve the incident Notifications: Who did you notify about the incident</small>			
<p>On 29/03/2015 at 1455 Case Worker [redacted] was sitting with Asylum Seeker, [redacted] (years) in the volleyball area of RPC 3. [redacted] stated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"I am no good, I been here a very long time, nothing is good"</li> <li>"I don't want to live, I have no reason to live anymore"</li> <li>"I just want to see my granny again"</li> <li>"I think about cutting myself everyday"</li> <li>"I haven't thought how I will but I will think about this until April"</li> <li>"April is my second birthday here, I don't want to be here anymore"</li> </ul> <p>CW discussed a safety plan with [redacted] for the night in which she agreed to tell her uncles or security if she felt she was going to harm herself.</p> <p>During discussion with Control- they advised this report was the same as the disclosures made in Incident report number 270311.</p>			
Action Taken:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informed Child and Families Coordinator at 3.01pm</li> <li>Informed Wilsons, Command 4 at 3.05pm</li> <li>Safety plan discussed with [redacted]</li> <li>Incident previously reported (see attached IR 270311).</li> </ol>		

Incident Report #290310  
29/3 1805 Informed by Command 4 Day [redacted] Ref Command 2

(<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/ng-interactive/2016/aug/10/the-nauru->



THE GUARDIAN, THE NAURU FILES ([HTTPS://WWW.THEGUARDIAN.COM/AUSTRALIA-NEWS/NG-INTERACTIVE/2016/AUG/10/THE-NAURU-FILES-THE-LIVES-OF-ASYLUM-SEEKERS-IN-DETENTION-DETAILED-IN-A-UNIQUE-DATABASE-INTERACTIVE](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/ng-interactive/2016/aug/10/the-nauru-files-the-lives-of-asylum-seekers-in-detention-detailed-in-a-unique-database-interactive)), (2016)

Giorgio Agamben is one of those contemporary thinkers who challenges us to think differently about the relationship between law, space and human beings. In a series of books, notably "State of Exception", he considers the camp, a place of incarceration, as a place where law and power intersect.

Within that space, the occupants are labelled through process of law as belonging to a category that is an exception to the ordinary status of citizens. The person may be detained and contained, but not killed. Such people live in place where the normal rules do not apply; or where they do, apply differently.

In this place there are those within, and those without, and the existence of those within was described by Agamben as 'bare life' - for in that space the occupants exist, and little more.

The Nauru Files, released by the Guardian, are contemporary evidence of the 'bare life' that exists as a result of Australia's harsh asylum seeker and detention centre policy. Their tone, references, and categorisation of harm indicate how radically different life is in the 'half-way' camps that exist between harm and safety for refugees. The harm done to them is indeed justified as a state of exception.

– Dr Brendon Murphy, Associate Professor at the University of Canberra School of Law

*See below for more information on the Guardian's original project, Australia's Refugee Policy, and Agamben's theory.*

## About the *Nauru Files*

- Nick Evershed, Ri Liu, Paul Farrell, and Helen Davidson, The Nauru Files Interactive Database (<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/ng-interactive/2016/aug/10/the-nauru-files-the-lives-of-asylum-seekers-in-detention-detailed-in-a-unique-database-interactive>), (2016).
- Paul Farrell and Nick Evershed, The Nauru Files Explainer (<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2016/aug/10/explainer-how-to-read-and-interpret-the-nauru-files>), (2016).
- Paul Farrell, Nick Evershed, and Helen Davidson, The Nauru Files Original Report (<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/aug/10/the-nauru-files-2000-leaked-reports-reveal-scale-of-abuse-of-children-in-australian-offshore-detention>), (2016).

## Visual

- All We Can't See (<https://allwecantsee.com/incidents/>), (2016-ongoing) [a compilation of artworks inspired by the Nauru Files].
  - About: All We Can't See (<https://allwecantsee.com/about/>)
  - Instagram: All We Can't See (<https://www.instagram.com/allwecantsee/>)

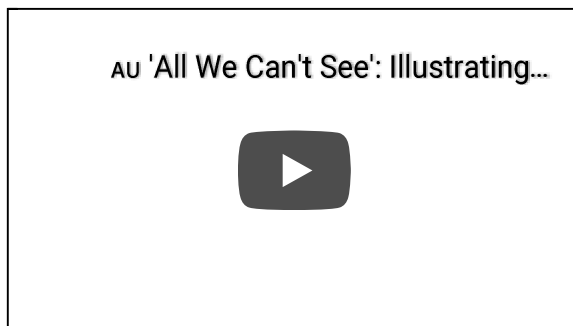
## Audio and Video

Podcast: 'All We Can't See' interviewing artist Ben Quilty  
ABC RN Breakfast

#145 - Giorgio Agamben  
Drunken Philosophy

ABC RN Breakfast interviewing Ben Quilty, 'All We Can't See': An exhibition bringing the Nauru Files to life (<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/all-we-cant-see-an-exhibition-bringing-the-nauru-files-to-life/9382006>), (2018).

Drunken Philosophy, Podcast #145 - Giorgio Agamben (<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/145-giorgio-agamben/id862608815?i=1000380667086>) (2017)



Al Jazeera English, 'All We Can't See': Illustrating refugees' words in Nauru files (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEm1R4lFEIM>), (2018)



Howling Eagle Productions, All We Can't See - Illustrating the Nauru Files (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coPBgzmhpdI>), (2018).

## Textual: blogs, journalism, & shorter pieces

- David Knight interviewing Arielle Gamble, Not in Our Name: Illustrating the Nauru Files (<https://www.adelaidereview.com.au/arts/visual-arts/not-in-our-name-illustrating-the-nauru-files/>), (2018).
- Amy O'Donoghue, Sovereign Exception: Notes on the Thought of Giorgio Agamben (<http://criticallegalthinking.com/2015/07/02/sovereign-exception-notes-on-the-thought-of-giorgio-agamben/>), (2015).
- Oxford Reference, Bare Life ([https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095446660?fbclid=IwAR3W4\\_YGrTbQNW70ltfuT6Mjf17RjpKXjuBZY0xsVvQl90BGFR6xisxHAgY](https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095446660?fbclid=IwAR3W4_YGrTbQNW70ltfuT6Mjf17RjpKXjuBZY0xsVvQl90BGFR6xisxHAgY)).
- Stephane Baele, Live and let die: did Michel Foucault predict Europe's refugee crisis? ([https://theconversation.com/live-and-let-die-did-michel-foucault-predict-europes-refugee-crisis-55286?fbclid=IwAR3RVr6d09hEg0-dQio5Tzj7y\\_hj60cAZrNnEugXlDDkuhwpwAg1H8Abmnc](https://theconversation.com/live-and-let-die-did-michel-foucault-predict-europes-refugee-crisis-55286?fbclid=IwAR3RVr6d09hEg0-dQio5Tzj7y_hj60cAZrNnEugXlDDkuhwpwAg1H8Abmnc)), (2016).
- Alexander Thom, Richard Mosse, Agamben, and the political theologies of the refugee crisis (<https://overland.org.au/2018/02/richard-mosse-agamben-and-the-political-theologies-of-the-refugee-crisis/>), (2018).

## Textual: e-libraries & longer pieces

- Giorgio Agamben, Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life (<https://www.thing.net/~rdm/ucsd/biopolitics/HomoSacer.pdf>), (1998).
- Richard Ek, Giorgio Agamben and the Spatialities of the Camp: An Introduction ([https://www.jstor.org/stable/4621535?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/4621535?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)), (2006).
- Michalinos Zembylas, Agamben's Theory of Biopower and Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers ([https://www.academia.edu/29781317/Agambens\\_Theory\\_of\\_Biopower\\_and\\_Immigrants\\_Refugees\\_Asym\\_Seekers\\_Discourses\\_of\\_Citizenship\\_and\\_the\\_Implications\\_for\\_Curriculum\\_Theorizing](https://www.academia.edu/29781317/Agambens_Theory_of_Biopower_and_Immigrants_Refugees_Asym_Seekers_Discourses_of_Citizenship_and_the_Implications_for_Curriculum_Theorizing)), (2010).
- Fiona Jenkins, Bare life: asylum-seekers, Australian politics and Agamben's critique of violence (<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/AJHR/2004/18.html>), (2004).
- Olga Zeveleva, Biopolitics, borders, and refugee camps: exercising sovereign power over nonmembers of the state (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00905992.2016.1238885?journalCode=cnap20>), (2016).

