

Prime Minister, Do the Right Thing!

6th January 2022

Prime Minister of Australia

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP

PO Box 6022

House of Representatives, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

By Email: Rosa.stathis@pm.gov.au

Respected Prime Minister,

Today, on Orthodox Christmas Eve I have been beset with requests from Serbian Orthodox faithful and others to appeal to you to 'do the right thing' and exercise your ministerial discretion and override the Australian Border Force decision to cancel Novak Djokovic's visa, thus allowing him to compete at the 2022 Australian Open.

The information I am receiving, points to bureaucratic mishandling on the part of the ABF. Home Affairs issued his visa. ABF personnel must have checked his passport prior to boarding his flight from Dubai, following which he was routinely interrogated in Melbourne before the ABF cancelled his visa. It bodes the question, why Novak Djokovic was issued a visa in the first place? Was ABF unaware of the impending arrival of Djokovic? If not, on the basis of what did they decide to cancel his visa?

I have it on good authority that the ABF most likely invoked s116 of the Migration Act as justification for the cancellation. I am told that s116 is used to expel threatening and controversial individuals from these shores. People justifiably ask; at exactly what point did the World Number One become a threat to our great nation? Or did he at all? Others maintain there is a much more sinister, populist motivation sub-plot to this unfortunate chain of events.

As an Australian, born, raised and residing in much maligned Western Sydney, I can assure you that the majority of people in this and associated councils that continue to struggle through the Covid pandemic, are deeply troubled and disappointed at what is unfolding before our eyes.

Novak Djokovic is revered by many in the Serbian and broader Australian community. It is a great pity that the atmosphere of the impending Australian Open has been tarnished by this unsavoury and completely avoidable debacle. I wish you well in your efforts to return some semblance of order and dignity to the process.

With Best Wishes,

+ Siluan

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