

New Zealand PM Rules Out Refugee Processing Centre
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AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- The New Zealand government is not prepared to take refugees who arrive in Australia unless they come through United Nations channels, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key said on Tuesday.

Key, who is chairing this week's Pacific Islands Forum in Auckland, said his government was "happy to have a discussion with Australia" on that country's refugee problem, but the answer was "no in terms of hosting a refugee processing station" reports China's Xinhua news agency.

Key said he would be holding talks with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard during the Forum, but "there's no specific proposal on the table to advance that."

He said Australia's geographical position made it more of a target for refugees, but no country was immune to the issue.

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