Helen Clark says New Zealand's decision to accept Afghan refugees from the container ship Tampa was one of her proudest moments as prime minister.

For one of those refugees, Mohammad Amiri, it was the most important decision of his life.

This month marks the 10th anniversary of a humanitarian crisis that played out in the Indian Ocean when Australia refused to accept a boatload of asylum seekers. The Afghan people had been plucked from a sinking fishing boat by the Norwegian container ship Tampa.

A three-day standoff sparked a diplomatic row between Australia and Norway and focused international attention on the plight of the refugees.

Mr Amiri now lives in Wellington. His parents and six younger siblings joined him in January – some of the 253 relatives of the original Tampa refugees subsequently reunited in New Zealand.

Mr Amiri remains in regular contact with Tampa's captain, Arne Rinnan, whom he credits with saving his life.
It was a wonderful thing that they came here."

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