



Minister Mattias Tesfaye

Minister of Immigration and Integration, Denmark

Cc: Commissioner Ylva Johansson

Strasbourg, 6th April 2022,

Honourable Minister Tesfaye,

We have been alerted of the risk of imminent forced return of a Kurdish mother with two of her children from Denmark to Iran.

The three of them have been violently separated from the father and the 18-month-baby whose mother was still breastfeeding. We call on you to act to ensure the re-examination of her asylum case, as well as to respect the key principle of non-refoulement and respect the right to family life.

We also call on you to urgently provide mental health support to the twin children and the mother, who are all in severe trauma situation because of the violence of the attempted first forced return that took place on 29th March. This family has been living in Denmark for 7 years, seeking asylum, with the twin children enrolled in a Danish school. From the information we received about her case, she and her twins appear to be in great danger.

Qadam Khair Haqanizade is Kurdish, a woman, and a Christian. Both her own father and the father of her husband were killed in Iran because of their involvement in the Kurdish independent movement. Her father was gunned down on the street, and her husband's father was tortured in prison and then killed. This information has been transmitted to the authorities by her husband Siroos Azizi Zadeh, who sent photos of the documents related to the death in prison of his father and of his father-in-law. In addition, he also provided the video from the baptism of his wife and himself, about 4 years ago, in the Church of Grønnevang near Copenhagen and the pastor confirmed they regularly attend church and will be known through social media to be converts, even in Iran. The President of the KDP association confirmed, that if they are sent back to Iran, they will be either murdered or imprisoned and tortured. In addition, nobody would be able to take care of her twin children, as all her family in Iran has died. We understand that she was not provided with appropriate support to have access to documents supporting her asylum case and would therefore call on you to enable her case to be re-examined.

We are also very concerned about the violence used to take away the mother and the two children during the night, separating the family, as reported in the media. It was reported in the press that four police officers and a doctor broke into the family's bedroom and took the twin children to a car. The husband was taken to another room, where he could not see what was happening but heard the screams of his wife. The four police officers sat on their mother in front of the children's eyes and according to the mother, gave her an injection. The father could say goodbye one minute afterwards, through the windows of the car. After that, they drove the twins and the mother to the airport to return her forcibly to Iran. They were put on a plane to Istanbul where the mother woke up from the injection. In despair, she broke a bottle and stabbed herself in the face, in front of her children.

The Turkish authorities gave her medical treatment and returned her to Denmark, instead of Iran. She was then transferred in Denmark briefly to a hospital, then put in detention in Ellebæk.

The two children have been transferred to the father, but have stopped speaking and are suffering from severe trauma while not being provided any support by the State. Their 18-months baby does not eat anymore, only drinks and vomits.

We call on you to put the decision on the return of the mother and her two children on hold, immediately, while the decision is reconsidered.

We call on you to act urgently on the matter, trusting in your Government's respect of key human rights principle and humanity, including the respect for family life and the best interest of the children.

Kind regards,

Nikolaj Villumsen, The Left

Margrete Auken, Greens

Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Greens

Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonova, Renew

Bettina Vollath, S&D

Idoia Ruiz Villanueva, The Left

Jordi Solé, Greens

Tineke Strik, Greens

Cornelia Ernst, The Left

Maria Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, The Left

Kateřina Konečná, The Left

Francois Alfonsi, Greens

Andreas Schieder, S&D

Konstantinos Arvanitis, The Left

Manuel Bompard, The Left

Malin Björk, The Left

Dietmar Köster, S&D

Benoit Biteau, Greens

Manu Pineda, The Left

Özlem Demirel, The Left

Chris MacManus, The Left

Damien Careme, Greens
Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Greens
Karima Delli, Greens
Claude Gruffat, Greens
Leila Chaibi, The Left
Marisa Matias, The Left
José Gusmão, The Left
Yannick Jadot, Greens
Michèle Rivasi, Greens
Silvia Modig, The Left
Anne-Sophie Pelletier, The Left
Pernando Barrena, The Left
Caroline Roose, Greens
Mounir Satouri, Greens
Marie Toussaint, Greens
Sira Rego, The Left
Miguel Urban Crespo, The Left
Anja Hazekamp, The Left
Katrin Langensiepen, Greens
Diana Riba I Giner, Greens
Alice Kuhnke, Greens
Pär Holmgren, Greens
Jakop Dalunde, Greens