

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 18/02/97

21 March 1997

Further information (2) on EXTRA 199/96 (EUR 18/03/96, 31 December 1996), correction, 3 January 1997, and follow-up EUR 18/01/97, 30 January - Fear of imminent refoulement

DENMARK Rabah Hamana, Nassima Hamana and child, Algerian asylum-seekers

The asylum claim of Rabah Hamana, Nassima Hamana and their child has been rejected on appeal by the *Flytninge Naevnet* (Board of Refugees) on the grounds that the appeal case did not contain new information which would have justified overturning the earlier negative decision. The case is now being looked into by an Ombudsman, but it is unlikely that this will result in the rejection being overturned.

After the police began the procedure for their deportation (see previous UA), the Hamana family went into hiding. Their current whereabouts are not known.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in or in your own language:

- seeking clarification from the Danish authorities of the reasons for their rejection of the Hamana family's asylum claim;
- continuing to urge the authorities not to forcibly return them to Algeria where they are at risk of arbitrary detention, torture, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution;
- continuing to remind the authorities of Denmark's obligation under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, in particular Article 33, not to forcibly return anyone to a country where he or she would be at risk of serious human rights violations;
- continuing to remind the authorities of their duty under Article 3 of the UN Convention against Torture as well as Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, not to send people to countries where they may be at risk of torture.
- further urging the authorities to reconsider their assessment of the human rights situation in Algeria, in light of the recent information supplied by Amnesty International and other organizations, and of the mass killings and bombings which have taken place in Algeria in the last few months.

APPEALS TO:

Mr Poul Nyrup Rasmussen
Prime Minister
Christiansborg
Prins Jørgens Gaard 11,
1218 Copenhagen K, Denmark

Faxes: +45 33 11 16 65

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Copenhagen, Denmark

Telexes: 27027

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Ms Birte Weiss
Minister of Interior
Christiansborg
Slotsplads 1
1218 Copenhagen K, Denmark

Faxes: +45 33 11 12 39
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Copenhagen, Denmark
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Frank Jensen
Minister of Justice
Slotsholmsgade 10
1216 Copenhagen K, Denmark

Faxes: +45 33 93 35 10
Telexes: 15530
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Copenhagen, Denmark
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Niels Helveg Petersen
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Asiatisk Plads 2
1448 Copenhagen K, Denmark

Faxes: +45 31 54 05 33
Telexes: 31292
Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Copenhagen, Denmark
Salutation: Dear Minister

Letters may also be sent to the Board of Refugees:

Flytninge Naevnet
Store Kongensgade 123
1264 Copenhagen K, Denmark

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Denmark accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 April 1997.