

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 18/03/97

22 May 1997

Further information on EXTRA 199/96 (EUR 18/03/96, 31 December 1996) and follow-up (correction, 3 January 1997; EUR 18/01/97, 30 January 1997; and EUR 18/02/97, 21 March 1997) - Fear of imminent refoulement

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

Amnesty International has learned that the Hamana family has been arrested in Denmark whilst trying to escape to Sweden. According to their lawyer, they are to be sent back to Algeria on 24 May 1997.

The asylum claim of the Hamana family was first rejected by the Danish immigration service on 7 June 1996. Their appeal claims were later rejected on the grounds that they had not supplied any new information which would have justified overturning the earlier negative decision. In March 1997 Amnesty International learned that they had gone into hiding for fear of being deported to Algeria (see original UA and previous updates).

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

- urging the authorities not to forcibly return the Hamana family to Algeria where they are at risk of arbitrary detention, torture, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution;
- reminding 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;
- reminding 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 20 June 1997.