

URGENT ACTION

TEN REFUGEES INCLUDING CHILD RISK DEPORTATION

Five Palestinian refugees from Syria, with a 14-year-old child among them, and five Syrian refugees, are at risk of being forcibly returned to Syria. Egyptian national security ordered that the group be deported after they were arrested following an attempt to leave Egypt by boat. They are held in Anfoushy refugee detention centre in Alexandria and are at imminent risk of deportation.

According to information gathered by Amnesty International, the Egyptian authorities are planning to deport the refugees back to Syria. One of the men in detention told Amnesty International that the national security department had sent a letter two weeks ago to the immigration services ordering the deportation of the group.

The 10 men left Alexandria on 24 September on a boat destined for Italy. There were approximately 130 persons of different nationalities on board. The boat sailed for approximately 10 hours, almost reaching Salloum, Egypt's far western border, before the engine broke down. The group remained stranded on the boat for over five days and were running out of food and water when they were found and rescued by the Egyptian navy on 30 September.

Two children were reportedly found dead on the boat due to the harsh conditions including the lack of water and food. The Egyptian navy took the group to Ras al-Teen (al-Gomrok) military port and collected their bio-data. They were then held for three hours at the military port before being taken to the Anfoushy refugee detention centre, Alexandria. They were questioned by both the police and national security on numerous occasions and have been in detention for over a month.

According to information collected by Amnesty International, national security officials sent letters to the immigration services ordering the deportation of all 10 individuals back to Syria. Four of the Syrian men are registered with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the Egyptian authorities not to forcibly return the nine men and one child back to Syria;
- Calling on them to release all of the individuals held for immigration control purposes and allow them access to the UNHCR;
- Urging them to uphold their national and international obligations, under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and the Egyptian constitution, and to provide international protection for those fleeing serious human rights violations and the armed conflict in Syria.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 12 DECEMBER 2014 TO:

Minister of the Interior
Mohamed Ibrahim
Ministry of the Interior
25 El Sheikh Rihan Street
ab al-Louk
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 279 455 29
Salutation: Dear Minister

Public Prosecutor
Hesham Mohamed Zaki Barakat
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Supreme Court House, 1 "26 July" Road
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2 577 4716
+202 2 575 7165
Salutation: Dear Counsellor

And copies to:
Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign
Affairs for Human Rights
Mahy Hassan Abdel Latif
Multilateral and International Security
Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil,
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2 574 9713
Email: Contact.Us@mfa.gov.eg

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The names of the five Palestinian refugees from Syria are Khaled Khalil Khalifa, Ramy Fathy Ibrahim, Youssef Ezz Eldin Zaytouni, Abdallah Mowafak Al-Shehaby and Omar Mowafak Al-Shehaby (14-year-old). The Syrian refugees are Ahmed Mohamed Eldahan, Zeyad Badr Ashram, Ali Ahmed Mohamed Ghazy (not registered with UNHCR), Nour Eldin Mohamed Salah and Waseem Nagy Al Zamel.

Due to the precarious conditions for Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria living in Egypt, many of whom have poor living standards and limited access to basic services, an increasing number have sought to flee the country in a desperate bid to live a better life. Human rights abuses and discrimination targeting Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria is on the rise as they have become increasingly subjected to harassment, threats in the media as well as arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention and – in some cases – forcible return. On 14 August 2014, 13 Palestinian refugees from Syria were forcibly returned to Syria.

The right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution is a fundamental human right enshrined in the 1948 UN Declaration of Human Rights and protected under the 1951 Convention and the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention. The right to asylum is also ensured under article 91 of the Egyptian constitution and forcible returns of refugees is prohibited. The conflict in Syria and the widespread human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity being perpetrated there mean that all those fleeing Syria are prima facie refugees. Countries such as Egypt, who are a party to the respective conventions are therefore obliged to provide protection against forcible return of Syrian refugees back to Syria.

Name: Khaled Khalil Khalifa, Ramy Fathy Ibrahim, Youssef Ezz Eldin Zaytouni, Abdallah Mowafak Al-Shehaby, Omar Mowafak Al Shehaby, Ahmed Mohamed Eldahan, Zeyad Badr Ashram, Ali Ahmed Mohamed Ghazy, Nour Eldin Mohamed Salah and Waseem Nagy Al Zamel.

Gender m/f: m