



Copenhagen, 19.01.2010

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Geneva Convention of 1951 and the 1967 Protocol, asylum is the sole right of every person who escape his/her land as result of religious racial social or political discrimination or persecution. And I am sure that you are aware of the peculiar situation of human rights in Afghanistan - a country which has been devastated by a prolonged war and destruction. As a result of this devastation millions of Afghans fled their homes and sought asylum in different countries, among them many European countries. For years the government of the Netherlands has been openly and intentionally delaying the review of all Afghan applications from 5 to 12 years. Subsequently, in light of such prolonged process, in 2007, various human rights groups joined together with a condemnation of such delays by the government, to which as a justifiable response, the Netherlands Government issued a general amnesty retrospectively for all cases from year 2000.

Regretfully, however, there was an unjustifiable exception that was put forward: not all cases were awarded amnesty.

During the past decades, among the diverse groups of Afghan asylum seekers, the pro-progressive population of the former Afghan government – the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (1978-1992) - also rightfully sought asylum to the Netherlands. And among thousands of cases pending for over 12 years now not only they were excluded from the amnesty or least an extension to their case process, but have been in fact threatened to compulsory deportation. This is a grave situation for human rights in general as the government of the Netherlands has been systematically selective and discriminating the asylum seekers and thus depriving these asylum seekers from their rights they are rightfully entitled to. This discrimination is improper as some of these individuals' families and relatives have been granted a legitimate refugee status based on the same criteria of asylum.

Taking this opportunity I would like to draw your attention to this situation.

The Netherlands' Parliament will review these cases in January 2010, and therefore, I would like to request your intervention on the matter. I am sure that a positive decision by the Netherlands' Parliament will grant justice to these cases in which Afghan children, women, elders and intellectuals have been painfully waiting for more than a decade. I thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

M.Naseem Sediqi
President