

**Model listu do Ministra Spraw Wewnętrznych; kopie do Ministra Spraw Zagranicznych i Przewodniczącego Parlamentarnej Komisji Praw Człowieka**

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you as a member of Amnesty International to raise my concern regarding the situation of refugees, asylum-seekers and other persons in need of international protection in Turkey.

One of the major barriers to Turkey fulfilling its international obligations vis-à-vis these groups is the absence in Turkey of a comprehensive refugee law. I understand a draft law is being prepared at the moment. I urge you to ensure that the forthcoming domestic refugee law grants all persons full access to a fair and effective asylum procedure in line with international standards and is implemented as a priority.

Furthermore, whilst Turkey is an original signatory to the UN Refugee Convention, it has maintained the geographic limitation, leading to thousands of asylum-seekers and refugees being denied access to a fair and effective asylum procedure or refugee protection.

I call on you to take the necessary steps in the Turkish Parliament to lift the geographical limitation to the Refugee Convention. I urge you to bring into force comprehensive domestic asylum legislation consistent with international and Council of Europe standards on the protection and reception of asylum seekers and refugees, to ensure the full protection of the rights of all refugees, asylum-seekers and others in need of international protection, without discrimination. I also urge you to establish a meaningful dialogue with refugee assisting civil society organizations and UNHCR in the drafting and implementation of all primary and secondary legislation with an impact on refugees, asylum-seekers and others in need of international protection.

I would like to remind you that, as a state party to the UN Refugee Convention and international human rights treaties such as the Convention against Torture and the ICCPR, Turkey has the obligation not to return asylum-seekers, refugees and others in need of international protection to countries where they may be at risk of serious human rights abuses. To ensure this obligation is adhered to, Turkey must legislate for a fair and effective procedure to assess the needs of all asylum-seekers, refugees and others in need of international protection. Such a procedure must ensure that

- All borders and immigration officials and other officials who may deal with asylum-seekers, including police officers, are adequately trained about the rights and needs of asylum-seekers. Cases of state officials refusing to receive asylum applications and/or failing to transfer them to a competent authority should be promptly and effectively investigated;
- Clear and efficient procedures are established to ensure that all asylum applications are promptly submitted to the asylum determination authority that is independent and specialized;
- All asylum-seekers and others who may be in need of international protection are provided with information about asylum procedures in a language they can understand and are given access to legal counsel.

Furthermore, Turkey must establish a system of country of origin information that can ensure that Refugee Status Determinations are accurately carried out. Turkey must not return refugees recognized by the UNHCR to countries where they would be at risk of persecution, and not forcibly return any person in need of international protection, including any person excluded from refugee status, to a place where they are at risk of serious human rights abuses, and as relevant, establish the necessary procedures to examine their claims for subsidiary protection.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission. On the issue of access to procedure for asylum-seekers and refugees and the respect of the principle of *non-refoulement*, I am also writing to the Directorate of Foreigners, Borders and Asylum.

Yours sincerely,

**Adresy:**

**Minister of the Interior**

Mr. Beşir Atalay  
İçişleri Bakanlığı  
06644 Ankara, Turkey  
Email: [besir.atalay@icisleri.gov.tr](mailto:besir.atalay@icisleri.gov.tr)  
Fax: +90 312 418 1795  
Salutation: Dear Minister

**Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**(Copy letter 1)**

Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu  
Dışişleri Bakanlığı  
Dr. Sadık Ahmet Cad. No:8  
06100 Ankara, Turkey

**Parliamentary Human Rights Commission**

**(Copy letter 1)**

Mr. Mehmet Zafer Üskül  
Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi  
İnsan Haklarını İnceleme Komisyonu  
Bakanlıklar 06543 Ankara  
Email: [inshkkom@tbmm.gov.tr](mailto:inshkkom@tbmm.gov.tr)  
Fax: +90 312 420 53 94  
Salutation: Dear Mr Zafer Üskül