

URGENT ACTION

RESTORE HEALTHCARE FOR ASYLUM SEEKER

Since 19 March, Afghan asylum seeker Tabriz Saifi has finally been able to receive free life-sustaining dialysis three times a week, though at a hospital far from his home in Bursa province, Türkiye. This is only a partial restoration of his healthcare access, as it does not cover essential medication or treatment for his two amputated fingers, a result of his diabetes. To address all of Saifi's complex health needs, the Directorate of Migration Management must fully restore his access to healthcare.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Mr. Hüseyin Kök

Presidency of Migration Management

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Dear Mr. Hüseyin Kök,

I am writing for your urgent intervention to ensure that Afghan asylum seeker **Tabriz Saifi's** access to essential, life-sustaining healthcare is fully restored. Tabriz Saifi, who is blind and dependent on dialysis three times a week, continues to face limitations in healthcare access which means his health remains jeopardized and at risk.

After the Bursa Migration Management Department rejected the Saifi family's (mother, father and three adult siblings) application for international protection on 28 February, Tabriz Saifi's healthcare was interrupted. As you are aware, the family is appealing against this decision, which has been successfully challenged before, and their appeal carries a suspensive effect. This means that all negative consequences of the rejection of their application for international protection must be suspended pending the outcome of the appeal.

Following interventions by the Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye, the family's lawyers, and previous appeals to your office, Tabriz Saifi has been receiving free dialysis treatment since 19 March, though at a hospital two bus rides away, taking him two hours to reach. Following dialysis, which is exhausting, he must return home in a taxi, representing a financial burden. While his access to free dialysis provision has been a positive step, the strain on Tabriz Saifi has been immense.

Additionally, Tabriz Saifi requires treatment for his two recently amputated fingers, for which he is not receiving care, nor does he have free access to necessary medication.

I urge you to take immediate action to ensure that Tabriz Saifi's full access to free healthcare is restored, enabling him to continue receiving dialysis three times a week, as well as other treatment required for his complex health condition, in accordance with Türkiye's human rights obligations, including the right to health.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tabriz Saifi is 29 years old and suffers from chronic kidney disease, requiring dialysis three times a week. Additionally, he is almost completely blind and relies on the support of his mother, father and two siblings.

The family applied to the Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye in July 2021 for medical and psychosocial support, which they have been receiving, particularly in relation to the torture and other ill-treatment the father Nasruddin Saifi was subjected to in Afghanistan and the impact of this on the entire family.

In February 2017, Nasruddin Saifi submitted an application for international protection on behalf of the entire family. This application was rejected in February 2021 by the Provincial Directorate for Migration Management in Yalova. The family challenged the decision at the Bursa Administrative Court, which upheld the decision to deny international protection to the Saifi family. Following a further appeal, the regional administrative appeals court overturned the Provincial Directorate's decision.

The family's application for international protection was rejected for the second time on 28 February 2025, following an interview with Tabriz Saifi, despite the fact that the main applicant is his father. The family's lawyers have highlighted a number of serious irregularities in relation to the interview, including the fact that Tabriz Saifi was made to sign a document he could not read for due to his vision impairment.

Under Article 3 of Türkiye's Law on Foreigners and International Protection, an applicant for international protection is defined as an individual who has sought protection and about whom a final decision has not been made. Article 80/e of the Law also states anyone who appeals the decision to reject their application of international protection has the right to remain in the country. Additionally, Türkiye has ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, meaning it has an obligation to ensure access to the right to health of all without discrimination.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Turkish, English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 2 June 2025

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Tabriz Saifi (He/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur44/9119/2025/en/>