

**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.