



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus
Geneva*

*Ambassador
Permanent Representative*

31 August 2012

Dear Special Rapporteur,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 29 August 2011 under reference UA G/SO 218/2 G/SO 214 (53-24) CYP 2/2011 regarding the situation of a group of asylum seekers detained in Cyprus. I profoundly regret the considerable delay in responding to the Chair-Rapporteur's letter.

Following receipt of the Chair-Rapporteur's letter, investigations were commenced in Nicosia regarding the substance of the allegations made. The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus has now obtained the following information concerning this case from the pertinent authority, namely the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Cyprus. Information on the 4 Iranian nationals and 1 Syrian national follows underneath. The name of the sixth individual provided in your letter was not found in police records.

1. Mr Mohammed Khosh Sorour: He was arrested on 21/12/2010 for illegal stay in the Republic of Cyprus and he is being detained at Aradippou Police Detention Centre, with detention and deportation orders.
2. Mr Mohsen Khosravani: He was arrested on 08/03/2011 for illegal stay in the Republic of Cyprus and he was released on 02/12/2011 on terms following the instructions of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior.
3. Mr Bagher Ebrahimzadeh: He was deported to his country on 18/07/2011.
4. Mr Mostafa Halilour: He was arrested on 22/12/2011 and he is being detained at Paphos Central Police Station with detention and deportation orders.

To:

H.E. Mr. Juan E. Mendez
Special Rapporteur on Torture
Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
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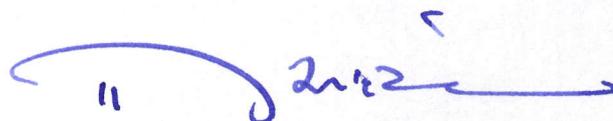
5. Mr Mohammed Malek Madar: Please note that Mr Madar is a Syrian national. He was deported to his country on 26/07/2011.
6. Mr Zakariah Embrahim Moj: No information was found in police records concerning this individual.

It should be noted that the case under reference is still being investigated by the Independent Authority for the Investigation of Allegations and Complaints against the Police. The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus will forward to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights any further information when these investigations have reached their conclusion.

As included in the report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of 29 February 2012 (A/HRC/19/61/Add.4), I would, therefore, request that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights transmit the information provided in this note to both the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and to the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

I wish to reiterate once more the Republic of Cyprus' unwavering commitment to upholding its obligations under the UN Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Republic of Cyprus, furthermore, wishes to underline its support for the valuable work undertaken by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and by the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Leonidas Pantelides