



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

The Ambassador

Olivier de Frouville, Chair-Rapporteur, WGEID

Christof Heyns, SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Juan E. Méndez, SR on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Frank La Rue, SR on the promotion and the protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Margaret Sekaggya, SR on the situation of human right defenders

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva 10

Geneva, 30 April 2014

Subject: Communication from Special Procedures – Joint Urgent Appeal

Reference is made to the Communication from Special Procedures of 4 April 2013 to the Permanent Mission of Norway in Geneva. In the said Communication, you presented a joint urgent appeal to Norway to reconsider the application for asylum by Mr Mohammad Anwar Baloch, a Pakistani national, who claims to be a human rights defender and political activist from Balochistan province.

The Communication, which is strictly of a recommendatory nature, was forwarded to the Norwegian Immigration Appeals Board the same day it was received by the Norwegian Mission. A deferment of the implementation of the decision to deport Mr Baloch was granted by the Norwegian Immigration Appeals Board, and the immigration authorities undertook to review the case in order to investigate and verify the new information and evidence presented.

The case is not yet closed, as the Norwegian Immigration Appeals Board needs more time to complete its assessment.

Let me assure you that it is of utmost importance to the Norwegian Government that decisions made by the immigration authorities comply fully with applicable human rights law and refugee law.

In response to questions 1 and 2 in the Communication, Norway regrets to inform you that the immigration authorities do not make public statements related to individual asylum cases. This applies both to the reliability of the

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facts presented in a case and to the legal grounds for the denial of asylum in the first place.

Regarding question 3, the assessment of the need for international protection of human rights defenders seeking asylum is based on the same criteria as those that apply to all asylum seekers.

Norway thus regrets to inform you that it is not in a position for the time being to answer all the questions raised in the above-mentioned Communication.

Meanwhile, Norway would appreciate it if this response could be reflected in the OHCHR annual report on pending cases.

Yours Sincerely,



Steffen Kongstad