

**Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief**

Ref.: UA DEU 1/2026  
(Please use this reference in your reply)

27 March 2026

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity; Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 58/14, 54/14, 52/9, 52/4, 53/5, 52/20 and 58/5.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning a human rights defender and registered asylum seeker at risk of reprisals if [REDACTED] transferred.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

According to the information received:

[REDACTED] a well-documented human rights defender [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It is reported that a transfer of [REDACTED] would compel [REDACTED] to conceal [REDACTED] identity and human rights activities, resulting in profound social isolation and a likely deterioration of [REDACTED] mental health. Such concealment would significantly increase [REDACTED] vulnerability, leaving [REDACTED] exposed to heightened risks of surveillance, intimidation, and pressure from actors linked to the [REDACTED] authorities.

[REDACTED] family has faced targeted questioning; and individuals in similar networks have been prosecuted under terrorism and national security charges or their extradition

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[REDACTED]

sought. Torture and ill-treatment remain widely documented [REDACTED] as well as repeated cases of intimidation and reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, particularly in cases involving human rights defenders, national security accusations, or associations labelled as “terrorists”. [REDACTED]

Without prejudging the accuracy of the information received, we wish to express our serious concern that, should your Excellency’s Government proceed with the transfer of [REDACTED] may face a foreseeable and heightened risk of harassment, surveillance, intimidation, and other forms of transnational repression. This concern arises in particular from the alleged presence [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], as well as from the established pattern of conduct already directed at [REDACTED] authorities and associated networks, including surveillance, questioning of [REDACTED] relatives, [REDACTED], interference with financial services, and reported monitoring of [REDACTED] activities abroad, which demonstrates a sustained and targeted interest in [REDACTED]

We are further concerned that any subsequent removal to either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] would expose [REDACTED] to a real, personal, and foreseeable risk of arbitrary arrest and detention, incommunicado detention and enforced disappearance, and torture and other ill-treatment, and flagrant denial of justice/unfair trial, in violation of the international obligation of non-refoulement, including the absolute prohibition on return to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

We remain seriously concerned about the broader pattern of transnational repression reportedly affecting [REDACTED] nationals abroad, including well-documented cases of abductions, enforced disappearances, and forced returns from countries of asylum. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We further underscore that the reported harassment and adverse actions directed at [REDACTED] appear to constitute attempts to deter or punish cooperation with United Nations human rights representatives and mechanisms and to suppress [REDACTED] exercise of freedom of expression and [REDACTED] work in defense of human rights. We reiterate that acts of intimidation or reprisal against persons who engage, or seek to engage, with United Nations mechanisms are incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and risk creating a serious chilling effect on other defenders and victims seeking protection. Further, States have a duty to effectively protect individuals against threats, intimidation and attacks aimed at silencing freedom of expression and human rights defenders (Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 34, para. 23). Articles 1 and 2 of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders) state that everyone has the right to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights at the national and international levels, and that States have a duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights and ensure that all persons under its jurisdiction, individually and in association with others, are able to enjoy all those rights in practice.

We understand that [REDACTED] has applied for asylum in [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] transfer [REDACTED] may be initiated by the competent authorities.

[REDACTED]

Moreover, the risk of indirect or chain refoulement to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], combined with the heightened risk of unlawful rendition, raises serious concerns under article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, articles 4 and 19(2) of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, articles 7, 9 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, articles 2 and 16 of the Convention against Torture and article 16 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and article 8 of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

In view of the serious and substantiated protection concerns outlined above, and consistent with Germany's international and regional legal obligations, including the obligation of non-refoulement under international refugee law and international human rights law and its absolute and non-derogable aspect, as well as Germany's longstanding commitment to the protection of refugees, including political refugees [REDACTED] and individuals at risk of transnational repression, we respectfully encourage your Excellency's Government to exercise [REDACTED]



Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Ben Saul

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Gabriella Citroni

Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Irene Khan

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Mary Lawlor

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Cecilia M. Bailliet

Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity

Gehad Madi

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Nazila Ghanea

Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief