



**Claiming Human Rights through UN Complaint Procedure (1503),
non-anonymous complaint, October 2020.**

To: Commission/Sub-Commission Team (1503 Procedure)
Support Services Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
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Complaint submitted by: On behalf of the unaccompanied refugee children and youth in Sweden suffering from human right violations by the Swedish government. *Håll ihop Sverige*, a campaign for permanent residence permits for all of Sweden's unaccompanied minors, of all nationalities, who have been here for more than a year. Email address: hallihopsverige@gmail.com, undersigned by the "Ambassadors" attached to this campaign with name and title:

Henry Ascher, MD, PhD, Professor in Public Health
Thomas Avén, Chairman Doctors of the World
Sara Brachet, Parish-assistant at Swedish Church in Paris
Abdul Ghafoor, Founder and Director of Afghanistan Migrants Advice and Support Organisation (AMASO)
KG Hammar, Archbishop of Uppsala, head of the Church of Sweden, from 1997 to 2006
Silvana Imam, Rapper, activist
Betlehem Isaak, Author and columnist
Dan Israel, Publisher
Bertil Kågedal, MD, PhD, Professor in Clinical Chemistry
Helena Lindholm, Professor in Peace and development research
Karin Nyman, Daughter of honorable childrens' books author Astrid Lindgren
Suzanne Osten, Director
Agneta Pleijel, Author
Parul Sharma, Human Rights Lawyer and author
Anders Silfverdahl, Hospital chaplain, Östersund
Marit Törnqvist, writer, illustrator, designer Astrid Lindgrens story train Junibacken
Anders Wijkman, Honorary President Club of Rome

Background to this complaint: Over 35,000 unaccompanied children sought asylum in Sweden in 2015, a stark increase over previous years. Most came from countries where they faced violence and persecution. The majority are from Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, Eritrea, Iraq and Ethiopia. About half were 15 or younger. These children traveled on their own to Europe or became separated from their families in transit and have often experienced trauma and violence. Human Rights watch and MSF have since 2016 documented the general lack of psychosocial support for this group in Sweden.

Scope of this complaint: This complaint is against the Swedish government's consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of unaccompanied minors since 2015. Sweden has severely compromised its commitments to right to asylum, the rights of the child, right to legal certainty and rule of law, right to life where everyone has the right to liberty and security of person for thousands of unaccompanied children arriving in Sweden in 2015. Sweden's asylum policy from the autumn of 2015 entailed major changes in both legislation and government practice, as a result of the large number of asylum seekers in both Sweden and the rest of Europe. Sweden was one of the countries in the EU that received the most refugees in 2015. In the summer of 2016, a temporary law was passed restricting the right to asylum, affecting also those individuals who had already arrived in Sweden. In the coming years, several new laws came into force, primarily concerning the many unaccompanied children who sought asylum. In the summer of 2019, the temporary restriction law was extended by two years. Many of Sweden's unaccompanied youth, who sought protection from war and persecution, have lived in an inhuman uncertainty about their future since they were welcomed to Sweden five years ago. During an unacceptably long and inhuman waiting period with young lives being put in a limbo, these young people in need of protection have tried to relate to constantly changing laws and regulations. And today there is a complete exhaustion of all available remedies within Sweden.

We request an intervention of the United Nations to terminate the violation based on the following facts below with attached links further below:

- Arbitrary age revaluations with unscientific medical assessments resulting in an age increase of children becoming adults overnight and being denied their rights as children. From 2016, criticism towards these age assessments from within Sweden has increased. According to many researchers, chronological age and biological age are two different concepts and the margin of error is too large for the methods in use to be applied on an individual level for age determination. The Swedish Migration Agency's own quality analysis showed many shortcomings in determining the age of these unaccompanied children.
- Legally insecure asylum investigations and lock-in in the Swedish Migration Board's detention center. Swedish lawyers and administrators at the Migration Board lack an ample knowledge of the situation in Afghanistan while handling delicate asylum processes. Making the legal uncertainty a central issue at hand, with no equality before law.
- The government is not taking the steps it could to provide oversight of the care of the children. No national agency has the responsibility to track guardianship appointments, living arrangements, school enrollment, health screenings, or assessments by social workers. The general health condition is

unacceptable, with, PTSD, anxiety, depression, nutritional deficiencies, dental problems etc.

- In addition, forced deportations to war-torn countries such as Afghanistan continue, contrary to recommendations from e.g. the UN, International Red Cross and Amnesty International.
- Several young people have already committed suicide and almost weekly media reports confirm the same. The risk of suicide is tenfold increased as compared to the similar age-group with Swedish residency.
- Some have become drug addicts or involved in sex trade in order to survive the day.
- Hundreds of fairly integrated young people are fleeing Sweden today in the hope of finding a place that gives them protection, for instance to France. This particular youth have finished their high-school education in Sweden but face threat of deportation mainly to Afghanistan. In addition to ruined young human lives, they are separated from their new families in cases where they have been welcomed into Swedish families, school classes and sports associations around Sweden, and a greatly undermined trust in both authorities and politicians.
- Inhuman deportations to Afghanistan from Sweden bear witness of disappearances, starvation, involvement in criminality and death. Many of the deported have been forced, where possible, to flee abroad again. According to the Swedish Migration Board, the number of people with deportation decisions who actually traveled to Afghanistan during 2017- April 2019 was 1,063. In November 2019, the border police stated that there were over 7,000 people in Sweden, including 1,000 children, who had current deportation decisions to Afghanistan, and that the police had difficulty in enforcing all deportation decisions. The Swedish government in its statements acknowledges the human rights situation in Afghanistan to be very difficult. Progress is being made, but they are few and the challenges numerous according to the Swedish government's own reporting. The serious security situation is a contributing factor and the armed conflict continues to hit the population hard. The UN estimates that the year 2018 was one of the deadliest for civilians in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime, acknowledges the Swedish Government. The current security situation is grave: The Global Peace Index ranked Afghanistan the least peaceful country in the world for the second year in a row in 2020. According to the Long War Journal, 66% of the districts are contested or are under control of Taliban, compared to June 2016 when 21% of the districts were contested or were under Taliban control. Yet children and young people are sent to this dangerous country.

Some links to support or claim:

Mental health and suicide data:

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/6/e015157.abstract>

www.sbu.se/294

<https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/globalassets/sharepoint-dokument/artikelkatalog/ovrigt/2018-6-29.pdf>

https://ki.se/sites/default/files/migrate/2018/02/19/projekt_fm_suicid_ensamkommande.pdf

Lack of Rule of Law:

<https://stoppautvisningarna.blogspot.com/p/migrationsverket.html>

<https://www.svd.se/advokat-kommer-inte-medverka-i-skadespelet>

https://blog.liu.se/asytkommissionen/2020/09/14/migrationskommitten-borde-ha-analyserat-rattssakerheten-i-asylproceduren-del-3/?fbclid=IwAR1GLziwXK47KvEA0IVChVMIWeHER3g8X-aFI174jQe5tvqtxdknJS_yak

Legal developments since 2015:

https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sveriges_utvisningar_till_Afghanistan_fr%C3%A5n_2016

https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sveriges_asyllpolitik_fr%C3%A5n_h%C3%B6sten_2015

Human Rights Watch report:

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/06/09/seeking-refuge/unaccompanied-children-sweden>

Arbitrary age revaluations with unscientific medical:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00414-018-1916-3>

<https://www.svd.se/professorer-rattslakarnas-integritet-ar-hotad>

On returnees and deported:

https://amasosite.wordpress.com/?fbclid=IwAR0GOir0ix1UhQ8G_EA8g6-JKcncSwFSv6YSYxxatCChUkzPHQWIgVvCUao

https://www.facebook.com/AmasoAfg/about/?ref=page_internal

Save the Children Afghanistan:

<https://afghanistan.savethechildren.net/>

Save the Children:

<https://www.savethechildren.net/news/over-200000-lone-child-migrants-left-uncertain-fates-europe>

Country risks:

<https://www.garda.com/crisis24/country-reports/afghanistan>

http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2020/06/GPI_2020_web.pdf

<https://www.ecre.org/joint-statement-afghanistan-is-not-safe-the-joint-way-forward-means-two-steps-back/>

On the run and missing – a national survey:

<https://www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/tjanster/publikationer/2016/pa-flykt-och-forsvunnen---en-nationell-kartlaggning-av-ensamkommande-barn-som-avviker.html>

*****END OF COMPLAINT*****