

**Reporting for The Universal Periodic Review of Denmark,
2nd May 2011, 11th session of the Working Group under the
UN Human Rights Council “Amnesti Nu”**



Amnesti Nu
www.amnesti-nu.dk

Three-hundred-thirty-seven (337) rejected asylum seekers live in the Danish asylum system under conditions that violate their basic human rights according to the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights IV.

“Amnesti Nu” [Amnesty Now] bases this assertion on report no. 6/2009 of the Danish Institute for Human Rights, *Rejected asylum seekers and other foreign nationals in removal position in Denmark*, in which the Institute has investigated and analysed the living conditions of the rejected asylum seekers in terms of the principles enshrined in the UDHR.

The Institute points out that the rejected asylum seekers live under limitations which, over time, may lead to violations of their human rights in concrete instances. Examples of such limitations include restrictions of the right to a private life and family life, of the right to personal freedom and freedom of movement, of the right to work, of the right to education, of the right to an adequate standard of living, and even of the right to health-care.

“Amnesti Nu” was formed in September 2006 with the aim to work for amnesty for the rejected asylum seekers who have been stranded in the Danish asylum system for three years or more. These rejected asylum seekers are to be granted amnesty because the Danish government has ruined their lives by keeping them for years (10 years or more) in Danish asylum centres, where they are subject to destructive uncertainty and passivity. We continue to demand this because it is still our responsibility to try to give these asylum seekers a safe and secure life through amnesty now.

During 2006/07, the initiative collected 90,469 signatures in support of amnesty for the above target group. The signatures were handed over to Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark, to the then Minister of Integration, Rikke Hvilshøj, and to the Integration Committee of the Danish Parliament on 23 October 2007.

With their signatures almost 100,000 Danes supported the demand from “Amnesti Nu” for amnesty to the then more than 850 refugees who in 2006-07 had been in the Danish asylum centres for more than three years.

Asylum seekers still remain stranded in the Danish system for years because they cannot be repatriated. Time and again it has been documented how these people are physically and psychologically weakened due to the long waiting in uncertainty and suspense. Figures from the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs from 16 August 2010 reveal that 172 rejected asylum seekers have been in the Danish asylum centres for 2-4 years, and a further 337 rejected asylum seekers have been in the centres for 4 years or more. During its visit to Denmark in 2008, the LIBE Committee (Com-

mittee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, European Parliament) indeed criticized the inhumanely long delays.

Four years or more of waiting in the Danish asylum system under the so-called “measures for the encouragement of repatriation” means four years or more without the right of private or family life, without being able to enjoy the freedom of movement, education or work, without an adequate standard of living and healthcare. Being stranded in the system means restrictions that can damage physical and psychological health as well as reduce vital abilities and capabilities.

“Amnesti Nu” finds that the results of long periods of waiting violate basic human rights according to the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights VI, Articles 22-27.

Recommendation: The asylum seekers who cannot be repatriated within three years after arrival should be offered a residence permit in Denmark.

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For Amnesti Nu (www.amnesti-nu.dk)

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