

26 June 2015

UPR Sweden

As a Swedish Iranian international human rights lawyer, I am daily confronted with asylum seekers highly vulnerable situation in Sweden.

Sudwind likes to thank Mr Knuttson for this opportunity to give a few recommendations linked to the current refugees' situation in Sweden.

We commend Sweden's exemplary human rights record and commitment to protecting and promoting human rights and appreciate Sweden's mid-term report and acceptance of critical recommendations.

It is however with profound concern we note reports of extremely long asylum procedures.

Many of the migration boards' caseworkers reportedly do not have sufficient training on such cases resulting in severe errors in the asylum assessments.

We note political asylum seekers in grave danger of arrest and other persecution in their home countries solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to free expression, sexual orientation or religion as well as women in danger of violence and honorary crimes are often denied asylum in Sweden based on so called evidential shortcomings. Often the asylum seekers conduct sur place activities and both their motives and the risk for prosecution is questioned by the Swedish authorities, who too often delivers decisions based on vague grounds and motivations.

Sudwind urge the Swedish authorities in the strongest possible terms to abide by their obligations to the principle of non-refoulement as defined by Article 33 of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

We respectfully make the following recommendations to Sweden:

Enhance measures to reduce the asylum process.

Strengthen efforts to provide caseworkers and decision makers with sufficient education in assessing asylum cases.

Acquire measures to provide clear guidelines as to the standard of proof in the asylum assessments as well as use of sufficient homeland reports in order to make correct evaluations and eliminate discretionary assessments.

Finally we would like to clarify that these observations, notes and recommendations are especially extended to asylum seekers from Iran.