

# Appeal to block the deportation of Medhi Kazemi, gay Iranian asylum seeker, from the EU to Iran

Open Letter to:

- Franco FRATTINI, EU Commissioner on Freedom, Security and Justice
- Janes JANSKA, Prime Minister, Slovenian Presidency
- Gordon BROWN, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- Jan Peter BALKENENDE, Prime Minister of the Netherlands
- Hans-Gert POETTERING, President of the European Parliament

Dear Commissioner, Dear Prime Ministers, Dear President,

we would like to express our serious concern regarding the fate of Medhi Kazemi, a 19 years old gay Iranian citizen who has requested asylum in the United Kingdom and had his application turned down. Fearing deportation, he fled to the Netherlands, where he applied for asylum. Dutch authorities are right now examining his request and deciding on the basis of EU law on whether to send him back to the UK - leaving to UK authorities the final decision on his possible deportation to Iran while not using the possibility foreseen by art. 3 (Chapter II) of the Dublin Regulation.

As you will be aware, Iranian authorities routinely detain, torture and execute homosexuals. Medhi's partner has already been executed, while his father has threatened him with death. Article 3 of the European Convention on Human rights, as well as the Charter of Fundamental Rights and international human rights law, prohibit the removal, expulsion or extradition of persons to countries where there is a serious risk that he or she would be subjected to the death penalty, torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, whereas EU law recognises sexual orientation as a ground for Member States to grant asylum. **It is not understandable, nor acceptable, that the EU or its Member States apply European and national laws and procedures in a way resulting in the expulsion of persons to third countries that would persecute or kill them, furthermore in violation of European and international human rights obligations.**

**We consequently appeal to you to find a common European solution to ensure that Medhi Kazemi is granted asylum or international protection on the EU soil and not sent back to Iran, where he would be executed, hereby ensuring that article 3 of the ECHR is fully respected by all European authorities and notably, in this case, by the UK.**

We also ask you to take action to avoid that similar situations do not happen in the future.

Regards,

Marco CAPPATO, ALDE  
Marco PANNELLA, ALDE  
Sophie IN'T VELD, ALDE  
Jeanine HENNIS-PLASSCHAERT, ALDE  
Lilli GRÜBER, PSE