



**Doc. 14550**

26 April 2018

## **African asylum seekers targeted by Israeli deportation plan**

### **Written declaration No. 657**

---

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

---

Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, stated that all people seeking asylum from African nations must choose between deportation to a “third country” or indefinite imprisonment in Israel. If Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers refuse to leave voluntarily to an African country by 31 March 2018, the Israeli Interior Ministry announced to indefinitely detain or forcibly “relocate” them. According to Israeli media Netanyahu reached a secret deal with Rwandan President, Paul Kagame, that Rwanda will be paid by the Israeli government 5 000 USD per person.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Human Rights Watch (HRW) expressed serious concerns and called to abandon this plan, as asylum seekers who were already relocated have not found adequate safety or a durable solution to their plight. As they suffered human trafficking, harsh conditions of starvation, violence and slavery in torture camps, many attempted to migrate again, within Africa or to Europe.

The Parliamentary Assembly is very concerned about Israel’s plan, and demands the protection of some 35 000 asylum seekers from Eritrea and Sudan (27 018 Eritrean and 7 731 Sudanese) who are currently in danger in Israel.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC  
BILDARRATZ Jokin, Spain, ALDE  
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC  
BRUYN Piet, De, Belgium, NR  
COAKER Vernon, United Kingdom, SOC  
CRUCHTEN Yves, Luxembourg, SOC  
D'AMBROSIO Vanessa, San Marino, SOC  
DAVIES Don, Canada  
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC  
GONÇALVES Carlos Alberto, Portugal, EPP/CD  
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC  
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL  
JONES Susan Elan, United Kingdom, SOC  
JURATOVIC Josip, Germany, SOC  
KAVVADIA Ioanneta, Greece, UEL  
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL  
KRONBICHLER Florian, Italy, SOC  
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC  
MASSEY Doreen, United Kingdom, SOC  
MERGEN Martine, Luxembourg, EPP/CD  
MUNYAMA Killion, Poland, EPP/CD  
NAUDI ZAMORA Víctor, Andorra, SOC  
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
SMITH Angela, United Kingdom, SOC  
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC  
TOUHIG Don, United Kingdom, SOC  
WHITFIELD Martin, United Kingdom, SOC  
WILSON Phil, United Kingdom, SOC

---

Total = 27

---

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group