

I am writing this to express my grave concern on a 21-year-old Syrian refugee, who has spent more than five months in police detention awaiting a decision on whether he will be forcibly returned from Greece to Turkey under the EU-Turkey deal.

His asylum application was declared inadmissible by the Appeals Committee on the grounds that Turkey is a “safe third country” for him. However, Turkey is not currently a safe country for refugees to be returned to. It does not offer full refugee status to non-Europeans. The decision on the return is expected at any time and in the interim he remains unlawfully detained on the island of Lesbos. His detention has already exceeded the maximum time that any asylum-seeker can be detained under Greek law (90 days).

So I urge you to release him from his unlawful prolonged detention and to provide him with any medical care he might need and psychosocial support;

I also urge you to ensure that he is not returned to Turkey and to examine the substance of his asylum claim in Greece.

Your prompt attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,