

I am writing to express my grave concern on thousands of refugees and migrants who are at risk of death in seas around Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia after authorities have pushed back boats or refused to let them land.

I would like to urge you to co-ordinate search and rescue operations to locate and assist boats in distress .

All boats carrying refugees and migrants should be allowed to land safely in the nearest country and not push them back, threaten or otherwise intimidate them .

Please provide for the immediate humanitarian needs of refugees and migrants including food, water, shelter and health care and ensure that people claiming asylum are able to access refugee status determination procedures.

At the same time, you would be asked to respect the principle of non-refoulement, by ensuring that people are not transferred to any place, including their country of origin, where their lives or freedoms are at risk and ensure that individuals are not criminalized, detained or otherwise punished solely for their method of arrival in the country.

Your attention on these matters would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,