

I am writing this to express my deep concern for a Myanmar-based educational professional , M. Furkan Sökmen and his family were detained in Yangon International Airport on 24 May while trying to board a flight to Bangkok. They were reportedly detained by Myanmar authorities for 24 hours at the airport after the Turkish government invalidated their passports. M. Furkan Sökmen was forced to board a flight to Istanbul, the Turkish capital, via Bangkok.

Could I be urging the Thai authorities to comply with their obligations under international human rights law not to deport, extradite or otherwise return M. Furkan Sökmen to a country where he would be at risk of torture, other ill-treatment or serious human rights violations ? I should express my concern about the arbitrary manner in which M. Furkan Sökmen has reportedly been detained . The authorities should be asked to grant M. Furkan Sökmen immediate access to a lawyer and reminding them that in all proceedings the most rigorous internationally recognized standards for fair trial must be respected.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,