

Minister
of Citizenship
and Immigration



Ministre
de la Citoyenneté
et de l'Immigration

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

Abraham Abraham
UNHCR Representative in Canada
280 Albert Street, Suite 401
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G8

February 20, 2009

Dear Mr. Abraham,

Re: Asylum in Turkey

My office has been contacted by advocates on behalf of homosexual Iranian refugees. They report that homosexual Iranians who have been granted asylum in Turkey are subjected to persecution (random beatings, harassment, etc.) in the country of asylum, and that homosexual Iranians are in a uniquely precarious position *vis* the rest of the refugee population in Turkey. For this reason they seek faster processing of their applications out of Ankara.

I wanted to bring this serious matter to your attention. Any information you may be able to provide to us with respect to this issue would be very much appreciated.

We have also made enquiries with our embassy in Ankara with respect to this issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Kenney", written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

cc: Arsham Parsi, IRQR

Canada