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Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine
Vitaly Yurievich Zakharchenko

via E-Mail

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Honorable Minister Zakharchenko,

I want to express my deepest concern about the situation of Somali refugees in Ukraine. I was appalled by the reports on the circumstances in which refugees are detained. It is incomprehensible that people, including minors and children, have to spend up to 12 months in degrading conditions in refugee camps without prospect of asylum. The denial of asylum is a direct violation of the Convention on Human Rights. The European Court of Human Rights has already in June 2011 ruled that any native of Somalia needs international protection and its return to Mogadishu constitute a violation of Article 3 of the Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The detention of immigrants from Somalia, who seeks asylum in Ukraine, can be considered as illegal detention and violation of international obligations of Ukraine.

As far as Ukraine has joined to the Convention on the Status of Refugees 1951, I urge the government of Ukraine to provide protection to people fleeing from persecution, particularly natives of Somalia, to stop applying them exclusively repressive and discriminatory practices and resolve/ improve their situation in Ukraine.

Sincerely,