

From: EK-voorzitter <voorzitter@eerstekamer.nl>
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025, 9:12 AM
To: EK-postbus <postbus@eerstekamer.nl>
Subject: FW: A humanitarian appeal for both the refugees and the Netherlands

Van: 5.1.2.e <5.1.2.e@gmail.com>
Verzonden: donderdag 4 september 2025 23:36
Aan: EK-voorzitter <voorzitter@eerstekamer.nl>
Onderwerp: A humanitarian appeal for both the refugees and the Netherlands

U ontvangt niet vaak e-mail van 5.1.2.e <5.1.2.e@gmail.com>. [Ontdek waarom dit belangrijk is](#)

Dear Mr. Bruijin,

I am a Turkish lawyer, and my name is 5.1.2.e 5.1.2.e Following the human rights violations I suffered in my country, I had no other choice but to seek asylum in the Netherlands. I am writing this letter to express my views regarding certain draft laws which, in my opinion, may harm both refugees and the Netherlands itself.

I am a lawyer affiliated with the Gülen Movement. As you may discover through research, this movement has established schools, hospitals, charitable organizations, and commercial enterprises in nearly every part of the world. Its fundamental aim is to bring together people of different religions, nationalities, and political views around humanitarian values, while respecting the values they hold. This group, which believes that ethnic, religious, or ideological differences should serve to complement rather than divide people, has always been active in pursuit of this goal. Since 1985, I have been part of this community. I support its activities and do my best to contribute in any way I can.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan seized political power in Turkey in a manner comparable to Adolf Hitler in Germany. Although both initially came to office through elections, they subsequently transformed state institutions, through unlawful and immoral means, into tools serving themselves and their associates. On the path toward dictatorship, Erdoğan encountered public officials who remained faithful to law and human rights. These bureaucrats neither accepted the bribes offered by Erdoğan and his partners nor fell into their traps. Unable to corrupt them or discredit them with fabricated scandals, Erdoğan devised a new catastrophe for such officials: a staged military coup.

On the evening of July 15, 2016, the Chief of General Staff, the head of the intelligence agency, and certain generals orchestrated a false coup attempt. The only difference from a Hollywood movie was that the destruction and killings were real. Soldiers were told that the terrorist organization known as ISIS had launched a massive assault on public institutions and that they were to take positions on specified streets. Meanwhile, fighter jets flew low over Ankara at night to create panic among the population. In Istanbul, snipers opened fire on civilians from the foot of the world-famous Bosphorus Bridge, killing people. At the same time, Erdoğan appeared on television, shouting that the Gülen Movement was attempting to overthrow the government, and urged citizens to take to the streets. Believing this falsehood and assuming that the soldiers on the bridge were firing on civilians, crowds attacked soldiers, killing some by beating them to death. Since Erdoğan had already shut down all independent media outlets shortly before, the public perceived those horrifying events as an attempted coup against him.

The effects of July 15, 2016, were identical to those of the Reichstag Fire of 1933 in Germany. Their nature, causes, and consequences were the same—only the names, places, and dates differed. In both cases, dictators and their collaborators seized political power and advanced toward dictatorship. Public officials who refused to show unconditional obedience were dismissed, imprisoned, exiled, or killed. In each case,

well-educated members of the judiciary, police, military, intelligence, and universities were expelled within days and replaced either by inexperienced young people or ruthless individuals with criminal backgrounds. The oppression campaign, which began after December 25, 2013, and accelerated after July 15, 2016, continues to this day. According to Erdoğan's judiciary, it is enough to have even the slightest connection with the Gülen Movement to be imprisoned—regardless of whether one has committed any act defined as a crime under the Turkish Penal Code. Even without engaging in any violence, simply teaching at one of its schools, working as a doctor in its hospitals, or providing scholarships to students is sufficient to be convicted of “membership in an armed terrorist organization.” As you will recall, in Nazi Germany, Jews were convicted by Hitler's judges solely for being Jewish. Erdoğan and his associates treat members of the Gülen Movement in no different a manner. Currently, in Turkish prisons, there are women detained with their infants, as well as elderly individuals with serious health problems who are denied release.

I myself am one of the victims of these injustices. Even defending members of the Gülen Movement in court was considered a crime. Yet as a lawyer, it is my duty to defend anyone accused of belonging to a terrorist organization. Four days after the events of July 15, my house was raided. I did not surrender but fled. For sixteen months, I lived in hiding, much like Anne Frank, in places known only to a handful of my closest friends. Eventually, I was caught and imprisoned, spending time in a police station and five different prisons. Later, I was released pending trial. During the three years of trial, I was forced to report to the police station to prove I had not fled. At the end of those three years, the Court of Cassation (Yargıtay) upheld the local court's ruling, making my conviction final. According to the decision, I was to remain in prison for four more years. To avoid unjust imprisonment once again, I fled to the Netherlands. Thus began my journey in the Netherlands on July 26, 2022.

Having explained the reasons for leaving my country and loved ones behind to seek asylum in the Netherlands, I should now state the purpose of this letter.

When I arrived, the asylum procedure lasted six months, at the end of which it was determined whether residence would be granted. Trusting that this was a state governed by the rule of law and that democracy was still functioning, I came here. Unfortunately, I spent three years being transferred from one camp to another—sometimes staying only a week, sometimes up to twenty months in one place. During this long period, I met many people with deeply tragic life stories: people who had lost loved ones, homes, or even organs in airstrikes. These individuals, whose lives had been devastated and who were physically and emotionally wounded, truly needed protection and shelter. The right to asylum, enshrined in international conventions, is a legal and political safeguard for such people.

However, in refugee camps in the Netherlands, there are also people who do not, politically or morally, merit refugee status. They are not here because of persecution or inhumane treatment, but because they find easier access to alcohol and drugs. Although signs at the camp gates clearly state that alcohol, drugs, and violence are prohibited, these things are widely present inside, and camp administrations are not resolute in enforcing the rules. These adventurers, bound by almost no moral or humanitarian values, make the camps unlivable. Believing they have nothing to lose, they not only cause constant unrest in the camps day and night but also commit crimes outside, thereby making all refugees targets of anger and hatred. The harm posed by such dangerous individuals to Dutch society could be easily prevented with proper measures. Unfortunately, however, the Dutch government seems to prefer drying up the entire garden instead of removing the weeds and thorns.

Among those who seek asylum in the Netherlands are highly educated, skilled, and experienced people. Beyond humanitarian concerns, it is also in the Netherlands' own interest to preserve such individuals. We came here to contribute positively to this country—not to drink, use drugs, or commit crimes. While such activities are almost openly tolerated in the camps, imposing measures that make life unbearable for people like us—who are truly in need of protection—contradicts both the rule of law and humanitarian values, as well as the interests of this country.

In conclusion, those who disrupt public order in this country are individuals who come to the Netherlands under the label of “refugees” merely to pursue adventure, alcohol, and drugs. Such people can indeed be filtered out. (To avoid making this letter excessively long, I leave the details of what such “filtering” might

entail to another writing.) What I kindly request from you is to assist us in preventing the refugee law, which will be debated in the coming days, from being enacted.

Yours sincerely,

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