

# URGENT ACTION

## ASYLUM SEEKER AT SERIOUS HEALTH RISK

Afghan asylum seeker, Tabriz Saifi, who is blind due to chronic diabetes and dependent on life-saving kidney dialysis three times a week, is at immediate risk after his application for international protection was rejected on February 28, 2025 by the Bursa Migration Management Directorate. This decision, which Tabriz Saifi and his family are appealing, led to the abrupt end to his access to health and life preserving medical treatment in state hospitals. The authorities must restore his access to free healthcare, and any other services that he may need, in accordance with the suspensive effect of the family's pending appeal.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 22.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

**Mr. Hüseyin Kök**  
**Presidency of Migration Management**  
Çamlıca Mahallesi 122. Cadde No:4  
Yenimahalle/ANKARA  
Fax: +90 312 422 09 00-99  
Email: [gocidaresi@goc.gov.tr](mailto:gocidaresi@goc.gov.tr)

**CC: Embassy of Türkiye in the United States**  
**Ambassador Sedat Önal**  
2525 Massachusetts Avenue, NW,  
Washington DC 20008  
Email: [embassy.washingtondc@mfa.gov.tr](mailto:embassy.washingtondc@mfa.gov.tr)

Dear Mr. Hüseyin Kök,

I am writing to request your urgent intervention to ensure that Afghan asylum seeker, **Tabriz Saifi**, who is disabled and dependent on life-saving kidney dialysis three times a week, is able to continue to access the free healthcare he urgently needs.

Tabriz Saifi and his family (mother, father and two adult siblings) have been in Türkiye since 2016 as asylum seekers.

On February 28, 2025, following an interview with Tabriz Saifi at the Bursa Migration Management Directorate, the family was informed that their application had been rejected on the grounds that they 'do not have a well-founded fear of persecution on grounds of race, religion, ethnicity, membership in a social group, or political opinions'.

I urge you to take immediate action to ensure that Tabriz Saifi continues to receive free kidney dialysis three times a week, as well as any other medical treatment required for his complex health condition. In line with Türkiye's human rights obligations, including the right to health, the authorities must ensure access to lifesaving care for individuals like Tabriz Saifi. Denying him this essential treatment would be a violation of these obligations.

Yours sincerely,

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Tabriz Saifi** is 29 years old and suffers from chronic kidney disease, requiring dialysis three times a week. Additionally, he is almost completely blind and relies on the support of his mother, father, and two siblings.

The family applied to the Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye in July 2021 for medical and psychosocial support, which they have been receiving, particularly in relation to the torture and other ill-treatment the father, Nasruddin Saifi, was subjected to in Afghanistan and the impact of this on the entire family.

In February 2017, Nasruddin Saifi submitted an application for international protection on behalf of the entire family. This application was rejected in February 2021 by the Provincial Directorate for Migration Management in Yalova. The family challenged the decision at the Bursa Administrative Court, which upheld the decision to deny international protection to the Saifi family. Following a further appeal, the regional administrative appeals court overturned the Provincial Directorate's decision. Nonetheless, the family remained applicants for international protection and asylum seekers.

The family's application for international protection was rejected for the second time on February 28, 2025, following an interview with Tabriz Saifi, despite the fact that the main applicant is his father. The family's lawyers have highlighted a number of serious irregularities in relation to the interview, including the fact that Tabriz Saifi was made to sign a document he could not read due to his blindness.

Under Article 3 of Türkiye's Law on Foreigners and International Protection, an applicant for international protection is defined as an individual who has sought protection and about whom a final decision has not been made. Article 80/e of the Law also states that anyone who appeals the decision to reject their application of international protection has the right to remain in the country. Additionally, as a signatory to international human rights treaties including the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, Türkiye has an obligation to uphold the right to health of all without discrimination.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Turkish, English, or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** May 6, 2025

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Tabriz Saifi (he/him)