

06.06.2011

To be submitted to their majesties:

President of Austria; Prime Minister of Austria; Minister of Interior of Austria

Dear Mr. Ambassador;

Pembe Hayat, being the first transgender rights association in Turkey, is highly worried about the deportation decision of the Austrian Government about Yasar.

Yasar, while living in Turkey, was subjected to police harrassment in a systematic way because of her transgender identity. She was also stabbed by transphobic local people, her complaints to police officers were continuously rejected. She also gets death threats from her family **[honour killing]**.

Due to above factors, Yasar went to Austria and asked for asylum status; however the association "Human Rights" / "Verein Menschenrechte" could not help her in the first instance when her application was rejected. The same association did not appeal the case and she was arrested on 29 May 2011. Yasar will be deported on 15 June 2011.

Pembe Hayat asks the Austrian Government to take this decision back due to the factors that will endanger the well-being of Yasar. Keeping the high level of threats and the proved dangers against transgender population in Turkey in mind, this decision will contribute to the human rights situation of a transgender person.

The situation for transgenders, as can be seen from Yasar's own lifestory, was highly criticized by the Progress Reports of the European Commission on Turkey, the annual reports of OSCE, the human rights reports of LGBT rights organisations in Turkey. These reports clearly show how transgender population in Turkey faces intensive death threats, police brutality and ill-treatment, discrimination in every sphere.

Following this situation, there is no legal protection in Turkey to stop these breaches. Turkish Government does not comply with international human rights standards, the recommendation documents of the Council of Europe [March and April 2010] on discrimination against transgenders, and ignores the latest convention of Council of Europe which includes the protection of transgender population against violence.

All of these reasons make us kindly ask you to take the decision of Yasar's deportation back. This will enable at least one transgender person to be having the right to live in a country where human rights of transgender people are not breached as in Turkey.

Best Regards,

Kemal Ordek

Secretary General II Pembe Hayat