Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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UNHCR Regional Office for the Baltic And Nordic Countries

Ynglingagatan 14, 6th fl. SE-113 47 Stockholm

Tel.: +46 8 457 4880 Fax: +46 8 457 4887

Sweden

27 October 2006

Notre/Our code:

ROBNC/OUT/110/06

Re

Returns from Denmark to Sri Lanka

Dear Mr Nilas.

UNHCR's Regional Office for the Nordic and Baltic Countries has become aware of the individual case of a child asylum-seeker from Sri Lanka, which at present is being reviewed by the Danish authorities in light of new circumstances, conditions or evidence. UNHCR welcomes the consideration of new information in this and other, similar cases from Sri Lanka, especially in view of the ongoing deterioration of the situation in Sri Lanka.

UNHCR understands the child to be a Tamil from the North of Sri Lanka. Especially in light of the high prevalence of targeted violence and widespread human rights abuses, please note that UNHCR recommends that international protection claims by persons of this ethnic group particularly from the North and the East be considered favourably under the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. UNHCR furthermore recommends that, where refugee status under the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol is not granted, and the individual is not excluded from international protection, he or she be granted a form of complementary protection in view of a situation of generalized violence prevailing in these parts of the country and the absence of an internal relocation alternative. No Tamil particularly if originating from the North or East should be returned forcibly until there is a significant improvement in the security situation in Sri Lanka.

Your timely consideration of this matter in this particular case, and that of other asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka, is highly appreciated. In this regard, to assist decision-makers, UNHCR is currently reviewing our position on refugees and asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka with a view to issuing a new position shortly. Our new position should provide more detailed information on the protection concerns of this and other groups from Sri Lanka.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation in this matter.

Regional Representative

Mr Claes Nilas Permanent Secretary Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs Copenhagen