

Protecting Refugee Children

IN HONOUR OF WORLD REFUGEE DAY
**THE EU'S ROLE IN
PROTECTING REFUGEE
CHILDREN**

20th June 2018 | 15h00 - 17h00
European Parliament | Brussels | JAN 6Q1



Hosted by Anna-Maria Corazza Bildt MEP and Soraya Post MEP, in collaboration with Human Rights Without Frontiers and SB OverSeas



20 June 2018: Event at the European Parliament to raise awareness about preventing child marriage

On World Refugee Day 2018, HRWF and Soutien Belge (SB) OverSeas held a conference in the European Parliament co-hosted by the Intergroup on Children's Rights and the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI). The conference "The EU's role in focus protecting refugee children: Prevention of child marriage and safeguarding child welfare" focused on the specific challenges of addressing child marriage, a phenomenon that affects a significant number of refugee children, as well as highlighting other issues related to the overall safety and well-being of refugee children.

HRWF made significant contributions to the discussion and the European Parliament's resolution of 4 July 2018: Towards an EU external strategy against early and forced marriages.

In addition, in October 2018, HRWF followed-up on the issue by organising a roundtable discussion about child marriage on EU Reporter TV, recorded at the European Parliament. You can watch the video [here](#).

Release of Gregorian Bivolaru

13 September 2017: Gregorian Bivolaru released from prison in Romania

Gregorian Bivolaru, a yoga teacher imprisoned in Romania and a political refugee in Sweden, was released today before the end of his prison sentence. He had been arrested in France last year and imprisoned on fabricated charges.

HRWF had carried out a fact-finding mission about his yoga movement (MISA) in Romania, published a report and campaigned for his release.

Release of Sevada Aghasar

21 July 2019: Sevada Aghasar, an ethnic Armenian, has

been conditionally released from prison (IRAN)

Following an unsuccessful appeal, Sevada Aghasar was summoned to serve a five-year prison sentence in 2017, more than two years after he had originally been sentenced.

Aghasar had been arrested with two Christian converts, Masoud Mirzaei and Ebrahim Firouzi in August 2013. Mirzaei was later released, but Aghasar and Firouzi were charged in March 2015 with “action against national security through collusion and gathering” and, in April 2015, they were each sentenced to five years in prison.

Aghasar was permitted early release from Evin Prison on 21 July 2019 after serving half of the prison sentence, but with provisions (mostly restricting evangelical activity).

HRWF had largely publicized their case and mentioned them on our list of religious prisoners on our website: See prisoners' database now.

Baha'i Seven released

20 December 2018: All of the Baha'i Seven have been released (IRAN)

Seven Baha'i leaders were arrested in 2008 and accused of espionage, “propaganda against the regime” and other alleged crimes. They were sentenced to 20 years each, which was reduced to 10 in 2013. As of 20 December 2018, all seven were released.

HRWF had been closely following this case and campaigning for their release, which you can read here.

Release of Petr Jašek

27 February 2017: Petr Jašek released from prison (SUDAN)

Czech Christian aid worker, Petr Jašek, has been released from prison in Sudan after being pardoned and freed by President Omar Bashir. The release apparently comes after the Czech Foreign Minister, Lubomir Zaoralek, visited Sudan this past weekend.

Jašek, 52, was originally detained in December 2015 and, in January 2017, was sentenced to 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ years in prison for various charges including: waging war against the state, violating restrictions in military areas, spreading rumors to defame the state, and inciting strife between communities.

HRWF had largely publicized his case and conducted a campaign for his release.

See our campaign's page for his release.