



MONTREAL SIVİL TOPLUM KURULUŞLARI PLATFORMU
PLATEFORME TURQUE DE MONTRÉAL
MONTREAL TURKISH PLATFORM

Montreal, March 17th, 2014

Hon. Chris Alexander,
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

Montreal Turkish Platform (MTP), which is an umbrella non-governmental organization representing around thirty thousand Canadians of Turkish origin of a greater Montreal appeal for an urgent intervention in regards to a possible extradition of Uyghur Turks from Thailand back to China. As you probably know the leading media outlets like New York Times, Reuters, RFA and others reported about the detention of more than 220 people of Uyghur origin (including children and women) in Thailand. They were spotted by Thai border police and put under detention in remote area bordering Malaysia. These people face the danger of extradition back to China.

The experience of the past few years shows that people who leave China illegally and try to seek political asylum abroad are severely punished upon their forceful return.

Therefore these detained Uyghurs are rightfully scared for their safety.

The detainees are pleading with the international community to intervene and not allow their forceful extradition to China and ask for their relocation to a third-safe country.



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Members of MTP in Montreal are very much concerned about these refugees and we ask Canadian government to intervene and save their lives and not allow their extradition to China.

Given the last year's successful experience of bringing in one thousand Tibetan refugees to Canada we ask Hon. Baird and Hon. Chris Alexander to repeat the same success with Uyghur Turks. The members of our united platform which represents six major Turkish-speaking communities in Montreal are willing to facilitate with integration of Uyghur refugees in case they will be chosen by Canada.

Sincerely Yours,

Mesut Koçak
The Head of MTP

cc:

- H.E. John Baird, *Minister of Foreign Affairs*