

Timeline Interpreter- agreement

APRIL 2013

The Danish Defense Command has used 195 Afghan interpreters since 2008. 37 of them were hired through the American company Mission Essential Personnel (MEP). The Defense knows that the interpreters are threatened by Taliban.

MAY 2013

The 'interpreter-package' is passed by S, SF, R, LA, V and K. Allowing interpreters to get help locally or apply for asylum in Denmark if they meet a series of criteria.

AUGUST 2013

The Danish Forces close their bases in July. The last Danes travel back home in August. Several newspapers bring the stories of interpreters who cannot reach the help they are entitled to according to the interpreter-package. Only 17 out of 195 have come forward. The Defense command initiates an effort to get a hold of the rest. This result in 104 interpreters having approached the Danish Task Force in March 2014.

DECEMBER 2014

DIIS publishes a report about the interpreter-package. 99 cases have been processed in total by the Danish Task Force, 42 have been rejected. The report criticizes several elements of the agreement. The interpreter 'Hector' comes forward in the Danish newspaper Information and explains how he has been rejected on account of a specific date in spite of receiving concrete threats.

JANUARY-APRIL 2015

The interpreter Aman explains to the Danish newspaper Politiken that he has received concrete threats but has been rejected by the Danish Task Force. Amnesty International and Refugees Welcome sends an open letter to the Danish government, encouraging them to renegotiate the agreement.

MAY 2015

The Task Force supports Aman's case, but his application for a visa is rejected by the Danish Intelligence Service. Several hundreds of Danish Afghan-veterans co-sign an open letter to the Danish government about the interpreter-agreement. Norway lessens the requirements in their agreement due to political pressure and emphasizes that "it is not a case of asylum politics, but about protection of military personnel."

JUNE-AUGUST 2015

A series of politicians promise to work actively for the Afghan interpreters during the election campaign, amongst them are Jakob Elleman-Jensen (V) and Søren Pape (K). The parties EL and KD support a reconsideration of the agreement along with the spokespersons of SF and V. S defends the agreement but does consider a renegotiation. DF argues that the interpreters should stay in the neighboring regions.

NOVEMBER 2015

Aman contacts Refugees Welcome. He wants to come to Denmark because he fears for his life. The interpreter 'Hector' arrives in Denmark illegally and applies for asylum. He is rejected after an unusually long waiting period.

DECEMBER 2015-JULI 2017

The Interpreter-agreement is extended several times with no changes, which is in disagreement with the politicians' promises during the election campaign. Status in 2017: 128 cases have been processed, 6 have obtained asylum, 54 have been rejected, 30 have received money for internal resettlement, and 1 a salary package, 45 cases have been dismissed.