> Return address Postbus 20301 2500 EH The Hague

Date 19 October 2015 Concerning Asylum in the Netherlands

Dear Sir/Madam,

Many asylum seekers like you are currently coming to the Netherlands. As a result, the reception system is very busy and the asylum procedures take a long time. I understand that you want to get a clear picture of your future as soon as possible. I will gladly describe what you can expect in this letter.

Austere reception

Currently, the Netherlands does not have enough room for asylum seekers at the regular reception centres. That is why you are receiving an austere reception, such as in sports centres or tents, where many people share the same lodgings.

Longer waits

Unfortunately, it is impossible to tell you on short notice whether you will be granted an asylum residence permit with which you can temporarily stay in the Netherlands. At present, it takes almost half a year before your application can be processed. Only then will the procedure serving to reach a decision on your application be initiated. This is assessed carefully for each person. Moreover, further investigation will be required. This can take an additional six months or longer.

Once it is decided that you cannot stay, you must leave the Netherlands immediately. In that case, we can assist you in your departure.

If you are permitted to stay, you will be granted a temporary residence permit. At this moment, there are not enough houses for everyone. It is therefore possible that you will have to remain in asylum seekers' residence centre, even if you have already been granted a temporary residence permit. Available accommodations can also consist of a container house or a converted office building. It is possible that you will have to share these accommodations with other people.

Family

As long as you do not have a temporary residence permit, you cannot submit an application to have your family members to join you. You can only submit an application for your family once you have a permit. We cannot offer you any

advance assurances that your family will be allowed to join you. It can take a long time before you will gain clarity in this regard and before your family effectively joins you in the Netherlands. Unfortunately, I cannot specify how much time this will take at this moment.

I trust that the above provides you with sufficient information.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. K.H.D.M. Dijkhoff

The State Secretary of Security and Justice

Information Department

Date

19 October 2015

Our reference

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[Engels]