



**HELŚIŃSKA FUNDACJA PRAW CZŁOWIEKA  
HELSINKI FOUNDATION for HUMAN RIGHTS**

00-018 Warszawa, ul. Zgoda 11  
tel./fax: (48 22) 828-10-08, 828-69-96  
e-mail: hfhr@hfhrpol.waw.pl  
konto: PKO BP SA I O/Centrum  
58 1020 1013 0000 0502 0002 9165  
swift: BPKOPLPW

**ZARZĄD FUNDACJI**

Prezes: **Marek Antoni Nowicki**  
Wiceprezes: **Danuta Przywara**  
Sekretarz: **Andrzej Rzepliński**  
Skarbnik: **Elżbieta Czyż**  
Członek Zarządu: **Zbigniew Hołda**

Warsaw, 13 August 2007

The Honourable  
Aleksander Szczygło  
Minister of National Defence  
of the Republic of Poland

Dear Minister,

The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights has received information that the authorities of Denmark, which soon plans to withdraw its troops stationing in Iraq, have brought home around 60 Iraqi interpreters and other workers employed by the Danish armed forces in Iraq, along with their families. Most of these people are to receive refugee status in Denmark.

This is an extremely important step due to the difficult situation that these people could face in Iraq following the withdrawal of troops, with which they cooperated. Their lives and health could come under direct threat and they could be subject to torture, etc. Therefore, we are pleased that you Mr. Minister are also of the opinion – as you have stated in an interview for the daily “Rzeczpospolita” - that in case of the withdrawal of Polish troops from Iraq the authorities of the Republic of Poland should grant similar assistance to individuals cooperating with the Polish armed forces.

In accordance with the position represented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Iraqis cooperating with International Forces are a group particularly open to actions bearing traits of persecution within the meaning of the Geneva Convention and Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted.

We believe that in such cases the solution adopted by Denmark, which consists in providing a choice between receiving asylum and being guaranteed the opportunity to safely settle in another Arab country, would be favorable.

With kindest regards,

/ - /

Marek Antoni Nowicki,  
President of the HFHR Board