

Letter writing template

Dear Mr/Mrs/Ms []

I was very concerned to read in The Age of the impending deportation of Yeshiwork Abrha. I am sure you have read the article, but in case not, here is a link:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/there-is-no-hope-for-her-to-survive-ethiopian-woman-fears-deportation-20150729-gimutz.html>

As set out in The Age article, there would appear to be a very strong indication that she will not be safe on return to Ethiopia. Having done some research on the rights of asylum seekers and Australia's obligations under international law, I believe that Australia is in contravention of international law in returning an asylum seeker to a territory where that person's life or safety is under threat. I refer you to The Law Council of Australia's paper on Asylum Seeker Policy – paragraph 6 on "non-refoulement". This is the principle that prohibits States from "expelling or returning a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion". My understanding of Yeshi's position is that she falls into this criteria. For further detail the paper can be found at the following link:

http://www.lawcouncil.asn.au/lawcouncil/images/LCA-PDF/a-z-docs/AsylumSeeker_Policy_web.pdf

As a member of government, I urge you to step up and intervene in this case, and prevent Australia from breaching our international obligations. I would be grateful if you could take note of this issue as soon as possible as I believe Yeshi may be deported imminently.

Yours sincerely,