



Euro-Med Monitor  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Subject: Asylum seekers sleeping rough in the open in Ter Apel

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**H.E. Mr. Eric van der Burg, Minister for Migration of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

19 July 2022

Dear Mr. van der Burg,

I am writing to you on behalf of Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor regarding dozens of asylum seekers in Ter Apel who have been left sleeping in the open – some for weeks – waiting for a place to be found for them in the area's overcrowded camps.

In addition to the lack of temporary accommodation, we have received testimonies from asylum seekers who indicated that the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) has delayed starting the procedures for their asylum applications, which contributes to this unsustainable outcome of leaving many individuals stranded in the open.

Some asylum seekers, who have been sleeping in the open, further indicated receiving only one meal a day that consists of meagre portions insufficient to adequately nourish them.

Such situation where lack of accommodation is compounded by long delays in processing asylum applications is highly concerning for the wellbeing and mental and physical health of asylum seekers, especially in light of the scorching wave of heat the Netherlands has been experiencing this week.

We, therefore, urge you kindly to review the situation and urgently undertake necessary measures to ensure the provision of adequate shelter, food, health care and other basic necessities to asylum seekers, as well as to reduce the overcrowdedness of migrant camps; to increase staffing; and to reduce delays in the processing of asylum applications.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Kindest regards,

**Dr. Ramy Abdu**  
**Euro-Med Monitor Chairman**  
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