

Press statement

The Hague, December 21

Secretary of State persists in rejection, church asylum for Armenian family will continue

On Thursday, Secretary of State Harbers made clear not to use his discretionary jurisdiction to grant the Tamrazyan family permit of residence. Given the new facts that have been presented, the Protestant Church The Hague cannot accept the rejection and will continue the church asylum.

The church-related refugee organisation INLIA, which is giving legal assistance to the family and the church, delivered an extensive file with new information. The grounds on which the Secretary of State has put aside this file are so disputable, that the church has no other option but to continue with the church asylum.

The church asylum prevents the immediate deportation of the Tamrazyan family and creates space and time to continue dialogue with the government.

The church regrets the harsh and unjust position of the Secretary of State Mr. Harbers. Rev. Theo Hetteema, chair of the Protestant Church The Hague: “Just before Christmas, when we celebrate Gods humanity-loving and peaceful deeds, we feel strengthened not to forsake our responsibility for the Tamrazyan family.”