

**Question for written answer E-000592/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Refugee status in Thailand

It is estimated that there are more than 100 000 refugees and asylum seekers in Thailand. Apart from Rohingya Muslims, growing numbers of Pakistani Christians are fleeing to Thailand in fear of their lives. Among them is Sunny Gill, a 31-year-old photographer who arrived in Thailand in 2013 and now lives there with his wife and one-year-old daughter.

Since Thailand has not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and there are no domestic laws regulating refugee status, the Thai authorities treat asylum seekers as criminals. They have to live in inhumane conditions in constant fear of the immigration services, while raids and detentions occur on a daily basis. Detention centres are overcrowded, and asylum seekers are detained in inhumane and unhygienic conditions that can lead to death.

UNHCR is engaged, but with insufficient resources, which causes delays in resolving refugee status, while the Thai authorities do not respect the processes and are detaining holders of UNHCR documents whose processes are ongoing.

The process of democratic transition has put the signing of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Thailand on hold. Will the EU set additional conditions for signing the Agreement, such as Thailand signing the Refugee Convention?

What is the EU currently doing to help resolve the refugee crisis in Thailand?