

Benin, SEPTEMBER 2004

Please pray for Brother Abedi- his story below, in his own words, is self-explanatory. Efforts are underway to find our brother sponsorship and a way of escape, but please pray for these efforts and do what you can to assist.

Dear Brother,

I am comforted by your message. Really, my life is not safe. Pray continually so that I can afford this trial. not to leave the master's law because of turbulations.

These are some informations about my situation.

I am a citizen of Congo democratic republic, from East Region(South of BUKAVU), married and father of five. I fled my country in 1996 and have been registered as refugee in Tanzania since 1996(Nyarugusu congolese refugee camp). Then, the UNHCR decided my resettlement to Benin in May 2001.

After a period of about 10 months, the benin authorities attempted to kill me along my side, my colleague MULILIKWA Faizi because of the petition made by the 8 families of refugees (Burundians and congolese) resettled from Tanzania to the High commissioner for refugees. In this, we were complaining about the short of assistance, our local integration seemed difficult and some revelation of miraculous deaths and disappearance of some of our predecessors.

The Benin Refugee Board (Government) found that I was one of the authors of the petition and so, I was beaten cruelly by the police on 5th march 2002 and then threatened to death until I felt obliged to flee the country and seek for a new asylum in Ghana for my safety (5th April 2002).

Unfortunately, the Accra UNHCR office found difficult to assist me.

According to the Protection Officer, since I have been granted asylum in Benin, despite my fear of death,the UNHCR cannot assist me unless if I decide to go back to benin.

But, consider what I have experienced in benin, I could not take the risk to return to Benin. Therefore, I spent about two years living on the street in Accra, by the road side, beside the gates of the UNHCR until the Ghana Ecclesia came for help. I was given a room and a financial support for my family to enable me to start a new life. But, when the UNHCR authority heard that I was trying to settle in Ghana, he requested for Ghana Immigration service for my arrest and then my deportation to benin. I spent 13 days in cell.When I got sick, I was released and summoned to report every morning to the office.

In this while, I went to seek intervention to the Ghana Swazerland Embassy. Then Madame Simone Fagetti Diamonde ask me to fill a form for asylum(it was on 27 March 2004). And then I was deported to Benin on 31 March 2004.

In fact, our deportation to Benin was not for our sake.Even, the three Immigration officers who escorted us have experienced it at our arrival.

Since our arrival in Benin, we are passing through an awful situation. My daughter, 16 years,has been depressed three weeks after our arrival and eversince, she has been admitted at JACQUO National Psychiatric center for traitement.I am looking after her days and nights.

I cannot contact the Government for assistance because of fear. Since the resettlement project collapse. All this time, I am waiting for the decision from the Swertzland Government because this Madame says we have to be patient but the conditions are verry hard and we don't know if it will be positive.

Even now, I can't decide to go back to my country; because, I was against the ethnic war my people fought May May are fighting against Banyamulenge. They take me as a betrayer because every man was to take gun and fight to defend the country.

I hope you can do something and believe God will find a way for me through his servant's effort.

Your Brother ABEDI