

# URGENT ACTION

## RESTORE ASYLUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

For 20 years, Javed Aslam has served as President of the Pakistani Community of Greece and has been a prominent advocate for migrant and labour rights. After repeated attempts to end his status and residence in Greece, the Greek authorities terminated his refugee status in March 2026. The decision, which appears to target Javed Aslam's human rights and community work, fails to demonstrate that he will not be at risk in Pakistan and does not take into account his settled presence in Greece. The Greek authorities must restore his refugee status and halt any deportation proceedings.

**TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER**

**Mr. Thanos Plevris**  
Minister of Migration & Asylum  
Thivon Avenue 196-198  
182 33 Ag. Ioannis Rentis, Nikaia, Greece  
Email: [minister@migration.gov.gr](mailto:minister@migration.gov.gr)

Dear Minister Plevris,

I am writing to express serious concern regarding the cessation of refugee status of human rights defender **Javed Aslam**, President of the Pakistani Community of Greece.

Javed Aslam has lived in Greece for nearly 30 years and is a well-known human rights defender, advocating for migrant and labour rights. He has established strong community and family ties in Greece. Since 2007, he has faced targeting by Pakistani authorities. Greek authorities have, in several instances, sought to end his status, placing him at risk of return to Pakistan. Despite this, Javed Aslam was ultimately recognized as a refugee in Greece in 2021.

In March 2026, his protection status was terminated, as Greek authorities argued that the circumstances in Pakistan had changed for him, and he no longer required protection. Javed Aslam's case comes amid a broader escalation in Greece's increasingly hostile migration policies, following your Ministry's stated intention to terminate large numbers of protection decisions.

I am concerned that the decision to end Javed Aslam's refugee status seems to target his legitimate human rights and community work in Greece. Greek authorities have failed to demonstrate that his protection needs have ceased, particularly given the long-standing targeting he has faced at the hands of the Pakistani authorities. The decision also fails to consider ongoing human rights concerns in Pakistan, especially for human rights defenders. In addition, the measure would also uproot Javed Aslam from this political activism and would interfere with his family life, affecting his rights.

**We therefore urge you to restore his international protection status or grant him an alternative secure status and immediately halt any deportation proceedings.**

Yours sincerely,

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Javed Aslam, 58, has lived in Greece for nearly 30 years and has served for two decades as President of the Pakistani community in Greece. He is a prominent advocate for migrant and labour rights.

Greek and Pakistani authorities have targeted Javed Aslam on various occasions. In 2007, Pakistani authorities pursued his extradition and publicly identified him as a wanted individual in connection with allegations relating to illegal migration and human trafficking. The extradition requests followed his involvement in supporting six Pakistani nationals in Greece who alleged that they had been abducted by agents of the Greek intelligence services in 2005. Amnesty International opposed the attempted extradition due to concerns that he would face a real risk of serious human rights violations upon return.

In subsequent years, public references from Pakistani authorities continued to identify Javed Aslam in connection with these allegations. In 2018, a press release on the Facebook channel of the Pakistani Embassy in Greece described him as a “wanted criminal” and referred to an active Interpol Red Notice against him, as well as efforts to secure his deportation. While the Embassy’s website has since been updated and related materials removed, the 2018 press release remains publicly accessible on its [Facebook page](#). According to Javed Aslam’s lawyer, information relating to his Interpol Red Notice remained available on the Embassy’s website until at least 2024.

Javed Aslam applied for international protection in Greece in 2019 which was initially rejected in 2020 but granted in 2021, following an appeal. Attempts by Greek authorities to terminate or annul his protection status were made in 2021 and 2023. In March 2026, his refugee status was terminated, as Greek authorities argued that circumstances in Pakistan had changed for him, and he no longer required international protection. The decision is accompanied by a return order.

The cessation decision relies on Pakistan’s continued designation as a “Safe Country of Origin” by Greece, as well as what authorities perceive as progress in the country’s human rights situation. It also claims that there have been positive developments in its legal and judicial system, including technological reforms. It also refers to the absence of evidence of ongoing criminal proceedings or “wanted status” against Javed Aslam.

However, the decision fails to demonstrate that the circumstances giving rise to Javed Aslam’s refugee status have changed substantially or that he would be able to receive effective protection in Pakistan. It also fails to consider the long-standing pattern of political targeting of Javed Aslam by Pakistani authorities in Greece due to his advocacy activities. Furthermore, the Greek authorities have not demonstrated that he would not face criminal charges or other adverse consequences if returned to Pakistan.

Moreover, Greek authorities are overlooking ongoing human rights concerns in Pakistan. Over the years, Amnesty International has [documented](#) allegations of enforced disappearances, torture or ill-treatment in custody, restrictions on fair trial rights, and sustained pressure on human rights defenders and activists in Pakistan. Human rights defenders continue to face intimidation, surveillance, arbitrary detention, and prosecution under broadly framed security and cybercrime laws, with [concerns](#) over judicial independence, contributing to a broader pattern of restrictions on civic space and risks faced by human rights defenders and civil society actors. These conditions reflect a wider environment in which individuals engaged in human rights advocacy may face heightened risks of both legal and physical harm.

Finally, Javed Aslam has established a private and family life in Greece over nearly three decades. His wife and daughter are both legal residents in the country. The decision to terminate his refugee status constitutes a serious interference with his rights to family life and his long-standing ties to Greece. Any measures leading to separation, including the proposed deportation of Javed Aslam, therefore require serious consideration by the Greek authorities. Irrespective of Greece’s decision to terminate Javed Aslam’s status, the country remains bound by its non-refoulement obligations, which prohibit any removal that would expose an individual to a real risk of human rights violations.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** [Greek, English]

You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** 14 November 2026

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN:** Javed Aslam (he/him)