



Council on American-Islamic Relations
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March 10, 2014

CERTIFIED RETURNED RECEIPT
AND FACSIMILE

Secretary John Kerry
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520
Via Fax: (202) 663-3636

Re: Formal Complaint with Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Council on American-Islamic Relations of Florida (CAIR-FL) is deeply concerned that the United States is unlawfully preventing three American residents, Umar Taramov, Khusen Taramov, and Khasan Taramov (“the Taramov Brothers”) from returning to the United States by making it impossible for them to board a flight from Moscow.

On July 4th, 2013, the Taramov Brothers, permanent green card holders who reside in the state of Florida, traveled to Russia to be with their family following the harrowing experience they endured after their friend Ibragim Todashev’s death. Since then, the Taramov Brothers have been stranded in Moscow and need to return to their home in Florida.

Umar and Khusen were scheduled to board a Transaero flight from the Vnukovo Airport to John F. Kennedy International Airport on December 15, 2013. However, when they attempted to secure their boarding pass, an airline representative informed them that “the American side” has put in a request to take them off the flight. The brothers noticed that there was a plain sheet of paper with their names written in English behind the counter. The airline representative then directed them to the United States Embassy for more information.

On December 16th, Umar Taramov spoke to a U.S. Embassy employee, who indicated to him that they would need to contact USCIS to be given permission to fly home. The brothers filed a complaint immediately, but to this date they have not received a response.

Khasan Taramov was supposed to follow his brothers back to America, but seeing that the American government turned his brothers away, he felt he had no choice but to cancel his December 18th flight.

The Taramov Brothers have not been given any reason for their inability to return home. If the U.S. government has any reason to charge or investigate any of these three individuals, it should do so through the proper venue and give them an opportunity to defend themselves against such charges in a court of law. However, preventing them from returning to the United States without due process of law constitutes grave violations of their civil rights and liberties. Instead of protecting these young U.S. residents while they traveled abroad, the government has effectively stranded them in another country.

The Taramov Brothers intend to attempt to re-enter America again in the coming months. CAIR-FL urges you to look into this matter and ensure the Taramov Brother's prompt and successful return home to Florida. CAIR-FL will continue to monitor this situation closely and will file complaints with the Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL).

Sincerely,

Thania Diaz Clevenger, Esq.
Civil Rights Director

CC: United States Embassy in Moscow
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Moscow 121099, Russian Federation
7 (495) 728-5090