

I am sure that members of this House will be shocked to learn that the result of this commitment was a government appeal of the decision granting the children credible basis. His own people.

After the Prime Minister's intervention, the children, including one born here in Canada, may be forced to return to Afghanistan. This decision is completely incomprehensible.

What this bill will do is give more power to the people who make these kinds of decisions. We must remain a compassionate nation. We were at one time. We must reach out and understand that human rights of all people is something Canada must uphold.

[*Translation*]

With this bill, the first part of the refugee determination process will be eliminated. With this proposal, even the Mirzad children could have been deported from Canada.

Refugees can present their case without being biased by a system that does not take into account neither what is going on in their country of origin nor the problems associated with being a newcomer in Canada.

This legislation will empower immigration officers at Canadian ports of entry to turn down refugee claims. I am not convinced that this provision of the legislation will effectively entitle refugees to a lawyer and an interpreter and, more importantly, to a fair assessment.

We cannot and should not leave decisions affecting the life of these people in the hands of a single person. They have a right to be heard by Canada, while Canada has to carry out the international responsibilities it has under the refugee conventions.

Again, this legislation describes a safe third country system in which immigration officers would be allowed to send refugees back to the country through which they entered Canada. This provision ignores the reality of far too many refugees. Many countries may be safe to visit for someone born in Canada but be very risky for people from other countries.

How can we make sure that the list of safe countries reflects reality? Political and military changes happen all the time. We must be sure that government will recognize these changes as they happen.

Government Orders

The refugee determination process, as it stands, calls for only one member of the two-member determination board to accept the individual as a refugee. Under Bill C-86, a unanimous decision will be required. Again, access to our country is made more difficult for people who are legitimate refugees.

[*English*]

This bill will make it somewhat easier for family reunification but it is still less than what is recommended by the Official Opposition and various non-governmental organizations.

We must make sure that family reunification is swift and that it is sensitive to the various definitions of family. It should not be one only based on the North American notion, but one which recognizes that the definition of family is as varied as the quilt that makes up Canadian society.

[*Translation*]

Every one in this House remembers the incidents reported by the media where members of the determination board looked down on refugees. Unfortunately, this is an all too common occurrence, which forces us to question the integrity of such a system.

• (1530)

That is why I support the proposal to create a system for disciplining board members who do not understand the importance of what they do, the seriousness of the situation and the impact of their decisions.

Too often, we have heard that board members did not understand the situations experienced in many countries of origin. For that reason, they do not show compassion and sympathy for families who have had to live through trying situations and only want an opportunity to start over in peace and harmony in the best country in the world. The system must deal with the problems that we find too often now.

I want to talk about the case of a married couple living in my riding. The woman is Canadian and the man is from the Middle East. They have been married for two years, and it certainly was not a marriage of convenience. The woman is now two months pregnant. They are building a life and making a family in Canada.