

Exercise 6.1.a. Emergency Protection Problems

Read each description below. Analyse whether or not you think the person described is a refugee or not. Prepare to defend your answer with the applicable legal standard, instrument, or convention that applies. If you must make some assumptions in order to make the determination, describe these as well.

1. A family of five flees to a neighbouring country with only the possessions they were able to carry before opposition rebel forces capture the area in which they were living.

2. While on lecture tour of prominent universities, a prominent political opposition leader asks for asylum in a foreign country after learning his name has been included in a government-supported death squad hit list.

3. Six hundred passengers arrive by sea on the coast with many in critical condition after a 3 week journey from their war ravaged, impoverished, and land-locked country in another continent.

4. An escaped prisoner from a military prison in the neighbouring country applies for asylum at your border. He shows the border guards multiple wounds and scars of physical torture on his body.

5. The member of an ethnic minority (in his own country) overstays his tourist visa in your country, when he learns of widespread rioting, looting, and reported lynchings of people of his ethnicity in his home country.