



**Lord Scriven**

To Ambassador Brian Davidson  
Embassy of the United Kingdom in Bangkok, Thailand  
14 Wireless Road  
Lumpini  
Pathumwan  
Bangkok 10330  
Thailand

14th December 2018

*Dear Ambassador Davidson,*

I am writing with regard to the case of Hakeem AlAraibi, a former Bahraini footballer granted refugee status in Australia, who is currently being detained in Bangkok. Mr AlAraibi is facing possible unlawful extradition to Bahrain, putting him at great risk of torture and certain imprisonment on the basis of an unlawful conviction.

Mr AlAraibi was detained upon his arrival at Bangkok International Airport on 27 November 2018 because of the wrongful issuance of an INTERPOL Red Notice. Red notices cannot be applied to refugees, therefore Mr AlAraibi should never have been detained. On 4 December, the Guardian reported that INTERPOL had lifted the red notice and that the Thai authorities were made aware of this. Despite this, authorities have continued to keep Mr AlAraibi in their custody. On 11 December, a Thai court extended his detention by 60 days in order to consider and process his extradition. The Australian authorities have expressed their concern and have called for his immediate release. The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has also spoken publicly for the safe return of Mr AlAraibi to his home in Australia, while media pressure continues to mount in the region.

I am extremely concerned for Mr AlAraibi's welfare and am alarmed by the Thai authorities' decision to detain and even consider his extradition when there is absolutely no legal basis. I have raised the issue already in Parliament by submitting a written question to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), but would appreciate seeing some action on the ground. For that reason, I urge you to support the Australian authorities in their endeavour to ensure the safe return of Mr AlAraibi to his home in Melbourne. Perhaps you could make urgent representations to the Thai authorities and ensure you are aware of any updates in his ordeal. Given the UK's commitment to human rights, I hope you will be able to take some action.

*Yours  
Scriven*

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