

**Question for written answer E-001722/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Dominique Martin (ENF)**

Subject: 30 000 Nigerian kidnappers could claim asylum in Europe

In January 2019, 450 675 asylum claims in the European Union were pending a judicial decision. Every month, while only 10% of these claims are decided, an additional 2 000 Nigerians lodge a first asylum application in an EU Member State<sup>1</sup>. In February 2019, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) published country guidance for asylum applications lodged by Nigerians<sup>2</sup>.

The EASO recommends that Member States should deny refugee status to perpetrators of certain crimes, such as terrorism. This also extends to Nigerians involved in the 1966 coup (p.110).

France has so far opposed the return of the 680 French adult jihadis detained in Syria, but now intends to arrange charter flights to repatriate them<sup>3</sup>. Denmark, by contrast, has decided to strip the children of jihadis who were born in Syria of citizenship, because their parents have 'turned their back on their country'<sup>4</sup>.

Why does the EASO not recommend categorically refusing refugee status to individuals who have committed acts 'constituting a danger to the community or to the security of the Member State in which the applicant is present' (p.32)?

Why does the EASO believe that the 30 000 Nigerian combatants involved in kidnappings and other recent crimes in the Niger Delta could be granted asylum?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.easo.europa.eu/latest-asylum-trends>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Country\\_Guidance\\_Nigeria\\_2019.pdf](https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Country_Guidance_Nigeria_2019.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.rtf.be/info/belgique/detail\\_rapatriement-des-djihadistes-de-syrie-l-europe-divisee?id=10148706](https://www.rtf.be/info/belgique/detail_rapatriement-des-djihadistes-de-syrie-l-europe-divisee?id=10148706);  
<https://www.ouest-france.fr/terrorisme/etat-islamique/les-djihadistes-rapatries-au-cas-par-cas-assure-nicole-belloubet-6227996>

<sup>4</sup> LCI 28 March 2019 17:02.