

Petition against the deportation of Darfurians
and other African refugees fleeing to Israel

We, students, professors, volunteers, activists, and citizens, demand that a system to differentiate between refugees and migrant workers be established, in order to grant basic asylum rights, in Israel or abroad, to refugees fleeing from persecution.

We are against the "Vilnai Law," which calls for the immediate deportation or imprisonment of Darfurians and other African refugees. The bill is supported by the government and many in the Labor Party, including MK Vilnai and Defense Minister Ehud Barak. If this bill passes, refugees can be deported back to Egypt, where many will be deported back to regions, including Darfur, where their lives are at risk and they are persecuted due to their ethnicity, religion, or gender.

Israel was a major initiator of the Geneva Convention for the Protection of Refugees in 1954. Israel's support for this Convention was inspired by the deportation of Jewish refugees back to Europe during the Holocaust. In light of this Convention and our own history, we reject the government's plan for deportation, and demand asylum for Darfurians and others fleeing for their lives, until it is safe for them to return to their home country or to another destination.