

## An update from RTC Sweden

*Bericht van Repatriate The Children verspreid via WhatsApp groep Int. Network Repatriation*

16 apr 2022

Since September 2021, Sweden started to repatriate women and children, and is bringing them home in batches of 2-3 families at a time. They have done so in September, October, January and March.

We are in contact with most of the returning women, and trying to support them and their families in different ways. They also get a lot of help from the welfare system. The ones we know are re-integrating step by step. Most of the children are



recovering in an incredible way

All women are / have been under war crimes investigations, but none of these women have been prosecuted. None are detained. The police investigations are being dropped, one by one. (Among the women that returned before Sweden began to repatriate, the ones who escaped before, 1 has been convicted of war crimes, 1 has been convicted for bringing her child abroad without consent from the other parent, and 1 is now being prosecuted for war crimes.)

All children are being separated from their mothers upon arrival to Sweden, but most of them have later been reunited during the child protection investigation and then remained. There are ongoing legal processes around the issue of custody and where the children shall live.

We are advocating for children not to be separated from their mothers upon arrival, but for them to be placed together with their mothers / caregivers during the social investigation.

We published a report about this in February, and have distributed it to all child protection units that are dealing with these cases. We wrote the report after interviewing returning women and their relatives, and let them list what has been working well in the reception and what needs to be improved - from their perspective.

For now, there are only 3 mothers with total 6 children remaining in Roj camp, among those Swedes that has contacted Swedish authorities to ask to return. We believe they will be brought home soon too.

We do not know what negotiations that has occurred for them to be released, but we know that the Swedish government has close dialogue with AANES.

Except for these families that have been repatriated already, and the 3 families waiting to be repatriated, RTC Sweden believes there are more Swedish women and children in the camps and prisons.

With these remaining families, neither the Swedish governments nor RTC have been in contact with them. We do not know the reasons why they are not stepping forward as Swedish citizens. But if the women would step forward, we believe the Swedish government would bring them and their children home.

Therefor, we are (again) launching the campaign "Are you a Swedish citizen" to try to reach these families, to serve them with correct information, so they can make a well-informed decision.

If you, or your family members, would run into any Swedish citizens (except for those 3 families in Roj that already is in contact with the Swedish government and hopefully brought home soon), then please connect them to us if possible.

Thank you.

And please, whenever there is time, send updates from your countries so we can learn from each other.



Happy Easter & Ramadan kareem