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## Germany condemned for deporting Afghan Hindu

Dec 16, 2016

An influential US-based organisation on Thursday condemned Germany for deporting an Afghan asylum seeker named Samir Narang.

Despite efforts by the Central Council of Afghan Hindus and Sikhs in Germany to stop the deportation based on hardship and humanitarian grounds, Narang was put on a plane from Frankfurt airport on December 14.

“We’re extremely disappointed that the German government failed to recognise the legitimate asylum claim of Samir Narang, who fled to Germany to escape religious persecution in Afghanistan,” said Samir Kalra, director and human rights fellow at the Hindu American Foundation (HAF).

“We urge the German government to approve the asylum claims of Afghan Hindus and Sikhs, who would face extreme risk to their life and liberty if forced to return to Afghanistan,” Kalra said.

Narang was being held at a detention center in Buren prior to his deportation. He fled Afghanistan four years ago and sought refuge in Germany, where he had fully integrated into German life.

His entire family similarly fled to the safety of Germany. Afghan Hindu leaders in Germany fear that there may be more such deportations in the near future.

“Under the Geneva Convention, Afghan Hindus and Sikhs living outside of Afghanistan meet the criteria for refugee status due to their well-founded fear of persecution based on their religion and the Afghan government’s inability to protect them,” Kalra said in a letter to the government of Germany.