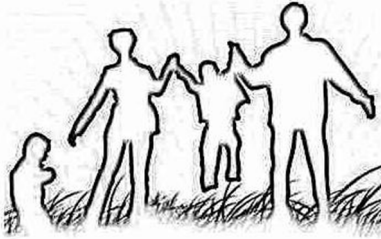


Association for Homeschooling

Association for Homeschooling
Vereniging vir Tuisonderwys



FROM : Association for Homeschooling
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31 October 2011

TO : Ms. Johanna Lind (copy to Mr Victor Ramaema)
Embassy of Sweden
P.O. Box 13477, Hatfield
PRETORIA, 0028
Fax: (012) 426 6464
Email: johanna.lind@foreign.ministry.se

Dear me. Lind

The Association for Homeschooling wrote a letter to the Swedish embassy in August 2009 about legislative changes that would affect homeschooling in Sweden. As agreed, you forwarded this letter to the relevant authorities, and this letter was published on the website of the Swedish government. The Association would like to thank the Swedish embassy for the efficient handling of this letter.

Unfortunately, the Swedish parliament still went ahead in 2010 to introduce the new law which banned homeschooling for all practical purposes. As pointed out previously, home education is a fundamental right that all parents have, as it is articulated by art. 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states: *"Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children."* The banning of home education by the Swedish Government is a gross infringement of this fundamental parental right

The Swedish government also started to prosecute homeschooling families. On 25 June 2009 armed police, at the behest of Swedish Social Services, boarded an airliner on its way to India from Sweden with the Johansson family and seized their 7 year-old boy, Domenic, for being homeschooled (which at that time was still legal in Sweden). There was no warrant; the Johanssons had broken no law. Since this date Domenic's parents are only allowed short, 1 hour-long supervised visit once every five weeks. Domenic still remains in state custody. The father of Domenic has announced on 5 Oct. 2011 that he has received letters from the court informing him that the social workers wish to move custody to the foster family. If the court grants the wishes of the social workers, this act would be equivalent to legalised child abduction.

We trust that the Swedish embassy agrees that the infringement of basic human rights and arbitrary removal of custody by social workers is not acceptable. As representative of homeschooling parents in South Africa, the Association for Homeschooling requests the Swedish Embassy to convey the message to the Swedish government that South African parents wish for the reunification of the Johannsen family, as well as the recognition of the rights of Swedish parents to choose the kind of education that should be given to their children. We request that the Swedish Embassy personally conveys this message to the Swedish prime minister, the minister of Foreign Affairs and the minister of Education and Research.

South African parents would like Swedish parents to have the same parental freedoms as South African parents, so that Swedish children may also enjoy the same proven benefits of home education as do tens of thousands of South African homeschooled children.

Yours sincerely

Bouwe van der Eems
(Chairman : Association for Homeschooling)