

辛巴威家庭困於曼谷機場長達兩個月

如湯姆漢克斯的電影「幸福終點站」一般的情節在泰國上演，一家八口被困在曼谷機場內長達兩個月。

孤立無援的一戶辛巴威家庭，被困在曼谷主機場兩個月，泰國移民署警察於星期四表示，佳節期間發生如此令人心酸的悲劇已招來廣大的同情聲浪。

這戶家庭從去年十月份就已試圖離開泰國，家庭中包含八個成人、四個孩童，孩子年齡從兩歲至十一歲不等。

然而，他們沒有任何得以繼續旅行的簽證，且不願意返國。又因為在泰國境內延期居留被拒絕再次入境，落得漂泊機場的處境。

一名泰國臉書使用者給了該家庭其中一個孩子聖誕禮物並將照片上傳至臉書，他們的處境才首次曝光。

該發文解釋了這家庭的難處，並且引來了廣大的迴響。很快就有人將此事和 2004 年的電影「幸福終點站」拿來做比較。在該電影中，由湯姆漢克斯飾演的主角因為祖國政府垮台，導致其身分證明文件不被承認而被困在紐約機場。

移民署警方表示，該家庭於五月份持觀光簽證入境泰國，於十月二十三日試圖經烏克蘭飛往西班牙，然而因為沒有西班牙簽證而被航空公司拒絕。

也因為他們的泰國簽證已逾時居留多月，被限制不得再次入境。

該家庭要求保持匿名，「辛巴威境內的動亂使他們非常擔心人身安全，因此不願意返國。」官方表示這也是造成他們處境動彈不得的原因。

他們的飲食目前是由航空公司提供。

辛巴威軍方於去年十一月推翻九十三歲專制君主羅伯·穆加貝 (Robert Mugabe) 政權，結束了十多年的專制統治，並開啟改革的大門。

雖然尚有瑣碎的動亂，新總統還是鼓勵那些為了逃離穆加貝統治的辛巴威國民是時候返回家鄉。

該家庭已提出政治庇護權申請，希望在泰國境外得到安置，因泰國並無法正式接納難民。

聯合國難民署 (UNHCR) 發言人 Vivian Tan 表示其組織「已在找尋可行之計」來幫助該家庭，然而因保密原則無法透漏更多訊息。

泰國和許多國家簽有落地簽證協議，因此長期成為人民逃離貧窮國家、逃離內亂的目的地。

然而泰國並不允許難民在境內合法安頓下來，意味著尋求政治庇護權的人們恐怕得找其他國家了。

Zimbabwe family stuck in Bangkok airport for two months

IN WHAT is being compared to the Tom Hanks film *The Terminal*, a family of eight has been stuck in Bangkok airport for two months.

A ZIMBABWEAN family has been marooned at Bangkok's main airport for two months, Thai immigration police said on Thursday, an ordeal over the holiday season that has drawn widespread sympathy.

The family, four adults and four children — aged between two and 11 — have tried to leave Thailand since late October.

But they lack visas for onward travel, refuse to return to Zimbabwe and are denied re-entry to Thailand after overstaying, trapping them in limbo in the airport.

Their predicament first emerged after a Thai Facebook user posted a photo of himself giving one of the children a Christmas present.

The post, which explained their situation, went viral. Comparisons were quickly made with the 2004 film *The Terminal*, in which a man played by Tom Hanks finds himself stuck in a New York airport after his government collapses, rendering his papers useless.

Immigration police said the family entered Thailand in May on tourist visas.

On October 23 they tried to fly to Spain via Ukraine, but were denied by the airline as they lacked Spanish visas.

As they had overstayed their Thai visas by several months they were banned from re-entering the country.

They are trapped as they have also “refused to return to Zimbabwe citing their fear for their safety due to unrest in Zimbabwe,” the official said, requesting anonymity.

Airlines have been providing them with food.

Zimbabwe's military pushed out 93-year-old despot Robert Mugabe in November paving the way for a transition from decades of authoritarian rule.

But there has been little unrest and the new president has encouraged Zimbabweans who fled under Mugabe's rule to return home.

The family have applied for asylum hoping to be resettled outside of Thailand, which does not formally accept refugees.

UNHCR spokeswoman Vivian Tan said the organisation was “currently exploring potential solutions” for the family but could not provide more details for confidentiality reasons.

With visa-on-arrival agreements with many countries, Thailand has long been a destination for those fleeing civil strife and poverty.

But it does not allow refugees to legally settle in the kingdom, meaning those seeking asylum need to find a third country option.