



**Enhed:**  
TILSKUD

**Dato:**  
08-10-2025

**Sagsnummer:**  
2015-16908/ 2706663

23/00440

**C-sag:**  
C1870

## **Suspicion of irregularities in relation to No Peace Without Justice's (NPWJ) activities in Belgium**

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Reference is made to the previous report, dated 6 January 2023, regarding suspicions of irregularities in relation to No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ). The Secretary General of NPWJ was arrested in relation to an ongoing corruption case, involving current and former Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), on provisional charges of corruption, money-laundering and participation in criminal networks. Prior to the arrest, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) granted DKK 5 million to NPWJ to cover outstanding salaries of the subpartner, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), following the fall of the Afghan Republic in 2021.

The Secretary General of NPWJ was released by Belgian authorities in February 2023. NPWJ's legal counsel has informed the MFA that the release was without conditions, and that the Secretary General is no longer under active investigation by the Belgian authorities. However, some precautionary measures on the organisation remain in place, and the provisional charges against the Secretary General cannot be formally dropped in the Belgian judicial system until the conclusion of the wider and still ongoing corruption case.

With regard to the grant itself, NPWJ's transfers to former AIHRC employees have been documented and accounted for by a financial audit, as per the agreement with the MFA. Furthermore, an institutional audit report commissioned by the organisation's Board of Directors and a financial audit requested by another donor, both conducted by external auditors, have not found any of the suspicions to be substantiated. The MFA awaits further developments in the investigations by Belgian authorities into the ongoing case involving MEPs.

A new report will be forwarded when there are further developments in the case.