

TOLEP's CASE

Tolep belongs to an ethnic minority in Ruritania, the Somas, who have been systematically persecuted by the Ruritanian government over the past two decades. Tolep is a politically engaged university student and a member of the Ruritania Liberation Front (RLF), a now proscribed "terrorist organisation" that is seeking to overthrow the repressive Ruritanian government and restore equality to all Ruritanians, in principle, through peaceful means. Tolep personally rejects every form of violence and passionately believes in the political message of the RLF. He has helped support the organisation primarily using his access to the University printing facilities to publish leaflets asking the public to congregate, attend demonstrations, and donate funds to the organisation. Tolep also helped organise the venue for a number of underground meetings at which the RLF planned their political activities.

Following a number of high-profile incidents in which senior government officials were assassinated by a group of individual RLF members, allegedly acting on their own behalf, the Ruritanian government instigated a nation-wide crackdown on the whole RLF. Tolep fled to Arcadia and applied for asylum. He is wanted in Ruritania to face trial for the offence of being a member of and actively supporting a terrorist organisation, which attracts a sentence of 10 years imprisonment. He is also wanted in connection with an aggravated robbery, which took place on the University campus five years ago, after he forgot to lock the photocopier room. His claim for asylum was refused by the Arcadian Home Department on the grounds that he is excluded from refugee status under Article 1F of the 1951 Refugee Convention. Tolep is appealing his decision before the Arcadian Refugee Appeals Board.