

## Statement 2 for Inquiry

Assisted by Sarah Pailthorpe at Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group

### Context and duration of detention

1. I, first entered the United Kingdom in April 1991 and claimed asylum.
2. In 2009, I committed a minor crime (Theft) after serving my time in custody, I was transfer automatically to a detention centre where the UK Border Agency (Secretary of State) decided to deport me back to my country were I will face ill-treatment as a prominent political activist/resistant against the actual regime.
3. I spent 3 years in detention centre in UK.
4. According to my own experience after serving 3 years in detention centre in the United Kingdom; I believe that a detention centre is only foreigners prison, were the actual government lock you in without indeterminate period of time; were you will be treated as a second class citizen of this Country, who preaches Human Rights day and night to the world but fail to keep their own word.
5. I know that detention centre is meant to be a short term institution to relocate peoples without the right to remain in the United Kingdom (Such as illegal entries in the country and foreigners with expired visa). UKBA Agency uses this opportunity to target wrong peoples, employ inexperienced case workers lacking any good knowledge of the immigration fields. The only way they can make you serve a double sentence by using your previous criminal record as a main key to hold you longer in a foreigner prison call today "**DETENTION CENTRE**".

### Legal Services:

1. To be detained will disqualify you to get a strong legal representative according to the new regulations imposed by the government regarding Legal Aid Funding. Most detainees do not get a good solicitors and end up been deported to their origin country with or

without strong case. So, private solicitors firm are making more money by scamming desperate detainees.

**Recommendation:** better legal representative, more choice for detainees; no restrictions on firms.

### **Facilities:**

1. The daily activities conditions provided by the companies in charge of the centres are there only to show the tax payer that detainees are living in five stars Hotels used it as propaganda.

### **Health care:**

1. In my own experience I saw detainees with chronic medical conditions could not have any medical report from the Healthcare Department because it will help many destitute and venerable cases.
2. The UKBA management in the centre has more power to even control medical practitioners not to write any medical report that could favour any detainee's cases in courts. We can see that this is a legal mafia well organise by the privates companies to make money from the government.
3. Healthcare is bad, they cannot help people in detention, only give paracetamol and tablets to sleep.
4. They keep you in chains like animal when you have appointment in hospital. Take away more dignity and Human Right to privacy.

### **Impact of detention**

1. I did notice that detention centre affected me mentally, emotionally and psychologically. Much more, applying for bail to the immigration judges is like giving yourself into the mouth of an angry Lion. The immigration court is a kangaroo court that resolves your case according to the moods of most of the judges.

## **Other comments**

1. That why I define detention centre as a new system step up by the rules makers a new way of making money and chosen foreigners as a victims of the system.

## **Conclusion**

- Long time detention breaks many relationships and family stability- I saw many people in detention break up with partners, so much stress. They release you then take you back again, this destroys families.
- People have been released without any future, you cannot live, you fear being taken back detention again. The stress does not go when they release you, they can take you again.
- Detention centre destroys your ability of confidence in many sectors, has affected my mind, emotions and health
- The government has set up criminal prison for foreigners, according to the toughness and hardness of the UKB Agency.