

Inquiry into the use of Immigration Detention

1. I've been in detention for about 22 months. During this time I've heard no word from immigration officials about my case, I've heard nothing and seen no sense of how long I might be here. It's unbearable.
2. There is nothing to do with immigration support here – there is not any advice, no-one to talk to about your situation. I don't understand why this is happening.
3. When I first came into detention, people said, 'you'll be here for a long time'. I didn't understand. But then I met people who have been here for years, one for 3 and a half years, there's someone here who has been in detention for almost 7 years. So you know you might not get out for a long time.
4. This situation is the same for everyone. All these people here, and no one knows how long they will be there. Some lose hope, and they try to kill themselves. Some try burning themselves with whatever they can get. Some try hanging themselves in the shower. They think it's the only way out. I've seen this with my own eyes. Detention is a way to destroy people: they do not kill you directly, but instead you kill yourself.
5. There is so much uncertainty already: no-one knows when they can go home – or whether they are going to be sent back. Then there is the added uncertainty that you could be there months, years, you don't know. Basically, the Home Office should give you a date, a time limit, when you know that whatever happens you are going to get released. Even that would not be much, but it would be something for us in here.
6. The lack of a time limit – it's not treating us like humans. Even in Spain they have a limit, in Belgium and France they do. It's not human, and it means that the UK has the worst human rights record in Europe. It is not easy to survive this place. It's against humanity. We are human too.
7. To the politicians who have the power to change this, I say: make a time limit. Then, if the government cannot make a decision on people's cases, they have to be released. It would make the government work more quickly and stop us being trapped here.
8. I don't think detention is used to stop people running away. Why would people run away if they were released? What life is it to be hiding always? I knew

before people who finally were released and went back to the community, they didn't run away, they still waited for their case to be decided.

9. No one comes to help us here. They just close the door on you and you are forgotten. There is not even any support, no one to talk you. That is why there are people who are trying to take their lives, and want to commit suicides. It is not right what this system does to people.