

TESTIMONY SUBMISSION FORM

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY ON DETENTION

This form is adapted from one produced by [the Detention Forum](#). You can complete the form yourself or ask someone to help you. Please use this as a sample; if you are submitting a testimony yourself it is better to copy and paste your evidence into a fresh document.

What is this form for?

This form is to help you capture your own testimony about your experiences in detention. There is no need to answer all the questions below but try to give as much detail as you can. The information you give will be submitted as evidence to the Parliamentary Inquiry on Detention and will hopefully lead to improvements to people's treatment in detention, and when and how it is used. See www.detentioninquiry.com for more information.

Do I have to give my name?

No you don't. You can decide whether or not to share your name with the Parliamentary Inquiry, but it will help the organisers of the submission if you write it on this form (we will not pass it on if you tell us not to). **Please be aware that this testimony may be made public (it could be published on the Parliament website). Only give information you are happy to have in the public domain.**

How can I submit this evidence?

You have two options:

- i) You can return this form to the local event organisers so this evidence can be included in the group submission OR
- ii) You can submit it to the Parliamentary Inquiry on Detention yourself.

Remember that the deadline is **1st October 2014**. Send your submission to:

By email jonathan.featonby@parliament.uk OR
 By post Detention Inquiry, Office of Sarah Teather MP
 House of Commons, Westminster, SW1A 0AA

You might find the sub-questions in the facilitator's pack useful (or see pages 12 - 15 of the [Guide for Individuals](#)).

Information about yourself	
Your name	Armia Haedare
Your contact details <i>(Address, email address, telephone number)</i>	11A Wavertree Road L7 1PE
Do you want your name to be made public?	Yes
The country you come from <i>(You do not have to give this information)</i>	Iran
Do you wish to give oral evidence before the inquiry panel? <i>(Due to the limited amount of time available, the panel will not be able to take evidence directly from everyone)</i>	No
Are you making this submission by yourself or is someone helping you? <i>(If so, who is this person?)</i>	With the help of Nick Jones (student social worker - MRSN)

Date you are completing this form	16/9/14 - 14:30
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<i>If you are no longer in detention and are currently living in the community...</i>	
How and when were you detained? <i>(e.g. were you detained when you went to report? Was it during a public holiday or weekend?)</i>	05/2007 Coventry (detained at home) 04/2009 Middlesbrough - Taken to Oxford 09/2010 Stockton
How long were you in detention?	First time - 3 months Second time - 17 months Third time - 1/2 weeks
When were you released from detention?	08/2007 09/2010 10/2010
In which detention centres/prisons were you detained?	Oxford Detention centre Harmondsworth London Stockton Collingbrook
Can you tell us a little about why you were in detention?	Had finger print taken in Greece prior to arrival in the UK, I had to leave Greece due to Kurdish mafia.
Was this your first time in detention? If not, please tell us more about the other times...	First time in detention was in this country.
Do you now have a right to remain in the UK?	No, case is being taken to the high court.
If you are still waiting to hear from the Home Office about their decision on your case, how long have you been waiting?	11 year wait for an interview

Questions from the panel. *Please use the sub-questions in the facilitator's pack. Make sure your answers will not be longer than 3,000 words.*

1) Your **experiences of living in immigration detention**, including the context and duration of your stay
(add anything not covered above);

*Saw a 16 year old Turkish man kill himself while in detention (his name was Ramazan)
I think I have mental health problems since witnessing this. The staff did not give me my medication at times which
lead to me self harming. 11 times I was not given food.*

2) The **conditions** in immigration detention, including your ability to access services such as legal advice, healthcare, pastoral support;

Medication sometimes not given. I had access to legal advice but it was very poor and no-helped me. 5 months spend in the VPE.

Two pastors came to help from time to time, one named Father Harry, the other Father Patrick (one hour a week).

3) Whether there were appropriate mechanisms to deal with any **mental, physical or emotional issues** you may have experienced prior to or during your time in detention;

No help for mental health problems while inside detention.

Guards laughed at me for the way I spoke English and mocked my appeals for my medication.

4) Any **longer-term impacts** of detention on you, your family and/or your wider community;

Mental problems

Scars from self harm

12 years without epilepsy before going into detention, now started having regular fits.

Memory loss

Sleep walking since detention

5) **Any other information** about detention that you would like to share;

Keeps interfering with my mental health
Collingbrook was a very dirty and dangerous place

Please note: people giving testimonies can either answer the following questions one-to-one or contribute to group discussions instead...

6) How far does the current detention system support the **needs of vulnerable detainees**, including pregnant women, detainees with a disability and young adults?

The system does not support mental health sufferers in detention centres.

7) There is currently no **time limit** on immigration detention – in your view what are the impacts (if any) of this?

Impacts on mental health not knowing how long you will be detained for.

8) Are the current **arrangements for authorizing detention** appropriate?

9) What are the wider consequences of the current immigration detention system, including **any financial and/or social implications**?

Very hard to not see friends or family for years

10) How effective are the current UK **alternatives to detention** (e.g. bail, reporting requirements)? Are viable alternatives to immigration detention in operation in other countries?

Bail inaccessible and not given 21 times.

I wish...

If only...

If things were different...

Tell us what wishes you have for change to the UK detention system...