

To the Chairman / Presiding MP

Dear Sir / Madam,

Submissions to the Inquiry into the use of Immigration Detention

The animal that was formerly the UK Border Agency (UKBA) remains an oppressive, lawless, dishonest, inhumane, conniving and extortionate pseudo-mafia bully bent on abuse, extortion and impractical targets. It is a self-serving, inconsiderate schemer and the majority of its officers are hateful and display obtuse characteristics. They are rude, operate like robots, are vengeful and have no compassion. They are 'conditioned' not to disregard migrant's livelihoods or the impact their actions /decisions have on migrants, migrant families, and migrant's children, the migrant's life, let alone the mental and psychological health of the migrants who are victimised. What remains of the UKBA is a bloated, inefficient, unrebuked institution drunk with power, which actively promotes (or ignores the undisputable existence of) a culture of extreme hostility towards migrants. An institution which is hell-bent on causing pain, a great deal of suffering and displacement, and if the 'Go Home' van saga is anything to go by, they doesn't appear to be ashamed or even apologetic of their disgusting conduct. It is a morally reprehensible organisation that has gotten away with everything, including murder because....**there are no real consequences to be faced. In the eyes of these people, the lives of foreign nationals are worth nothing, certainly less than the lives of British nationals.** Despite the Home Secretary Theresa May admitting problems within the UKBA, and despite a decision being made to abolish and incorporate the agency into the Home Office's own structure, the beast lives and is very well. It answers to no-one (it never did), remains above the law – occupying exactly the menacing position its architects originally intended.

In a 21st century constitutional monarchy where the rule of law is generally observed, a first world country often regarded as the beacon of human rights, an advocate of democracy, a bastion of free speech and equality, when British politicians often preach to countries like China, Myanmar, Iran and Saudi Arabia over human rights, it is incredible, if not insultingly ironic that an organisation with a poor human rights

record as the UKBA exists at all; full of atrocious breaches, including murder of innocent victims?? As a body of government?!!? It's simply incredible! Astonishing. No doubt some commentators have come to the inevitable and perfectly logical conclusion that by its very existence, there must be complicity or acquiescence on the part of MP's and ministers, the media and others, as to the behaviour of the Home Office (See ANNEX *How politicians and the media made us hate immigrants*). Surely an organisation whose 2012 **profit** was well over £225 million (SEE ANNEX *Border Agency Made £225m out of migrants already in the UK*), which has been tasked to bring immigration levels to the tens of thousands (or was it 'under 100,000') doesn't usually operate and abuse migrants on an industrial scale accidentally, without some kind of heads-up (whether implied or otherwise) from those in charge. These same people would probably dismiss this detention inquiry as little more than rubber stamping.

While I don't think much of the border agency, yet as someone who has recently been released from a detention centre, and who was held against my will for three months at Pennine House, Dungavel, Harmondsworth and Morton Hall respectively, I hold that my contribution to the above inquiry is particularly apt. And while the record of implementation of the findings of inquiries in the UK over the past decade leaves much to be desired, my ordeal has forced me to outline my opinions on this matter. I have used an alias as I do not wish my personal details to be made public.

Background

1. I came to Britain in 2002, to re-join my mother, a single mother who had emigrated from an East African country in 2001 due to the usual push factors (low quality of life; uneven wealth distribution; cronyism within the political classes; low quality of higher education). Five years and two Degrees later, I found employment in a small company, just outside London that gave me vast experience in my professional field. However, due to the rigid bureaucracy within the UKBA system, my employers were late in filing the application for a work permit by two weeks, and after a lengthy appeal procedure, I was denied a work permit. I had to fall back on a Post study work visa (which itself became the subject of another wrangle – as the UKBA initially refused to grant it [claiming I had no visa when making an application so was not eligible] when

in fact my passport had been with them all along during the work permit deliberations, thus I didn't justify further expense into another visa when we were already appealing the work permit). Subsequently, I left my job and it was only in May 2008, 9 months after the original Work Permit application, that after an MP intervened, I was given a Post Study Work Visa, for one year (instead of the prescribed two)

2. When in 2011, I tried getting onto the Tier 1 (General), my application was rejected. After a further application (on human rights grounds) was rejected, it followed that in May 2012, my solicitor at the time advised that I stop work. In April 2014, after 2 years of reporting at a reporting centre in the North west, without a source of income, living on my mother's sofa in a one bed flat (during which I had to get rid of most of my belongings), I was detained at the reporting centre.

My experiences in detention

3. It is disingenuous to claim that detention centres are not 'jails'. What I saw at the above mentioned 'detention centres' were jails, just like the one I had temporarily worked in in 2005. The difference was that some detention centres were more 'jail-like' than others. But essentially I was being held against my will, in a sombre institution surrounded by barbed wire, where the food was bad, the beds were uncomfortable, where they locked your cell-door at night, and where the officers were rude, unfriendly or plain hateful. I felt anger, shock and confusion because I didn't believe I had done anything wrong. Having a one and a half month old baby (who lived with her mother) and who I was due to go visit that same day I was detained only made my ordeal worse. The home office seemed to place absolutely no weight on anything I said, and twisted facts again and again, in their responses to my solicitor. They said I had not provided proof that I had a child, and when I did in the form of a letter from the mother of the child, they refused to believe it. The murkier the case got, the more bizarre their arguments became, to the point even the pictures my solicitor sent to them showing me with my daughter were disbelieved. It so appeared like one was regarded as lying until

proven otherwise. The fact that I had broken up with my partner before my daughter was born made it even more complicated. I felt vulnerable.

4. And having signed-on at the reporting centre throughout as required, I felt betrayed by the Home Office because I didn't intentionally choose to be without status in the UK. Who chooses to stay in a country without status intentionally??? I would have applied for a suitable visa if there was one, but the UKBA changed the rules such that there was no visa I could apply for. It could never be right for the officials of any country, to arbitrarily decide that a person can't live in it, without looking at the specific circumstances of that person. It can never be lawful. I felt pain and anguish that I would be deprived time with my baby daughter, precious time I would never be able to get back. For 3 months I saw the pictures of my daughter sent to me via email, and cried at night, but I couldn't touch her, or carry her, or let her sleep in my arms.
5. When I was told that I'm not allowed to keep a phone with a camera within the detention centre, I knew immediately that something was amiss. Why weren't camera phones allowed? What was there to hide - which they didn't want the world to see? If they were truly innocent of all the atrocious allegations I had read about, why the secrecy? If they didn't have something to hide, they wouldn't ban cameras in detention centres.
6. The majority of the staff in detention centres are unfriendly, unapproachable and treat detainees as if they are a nuisance. I was frisked so many times, handcuffed once – without my consent, and generally treated like a criminal. It was as if they were given orders to mistreat detainees or be hostile towards them. At Pennine house, the staff were openly rude and hostile. I witnessed a revealing argument between a detainee and staff; the man was failing to sleep because of the noise in the room they had placed him in. He moved to another empty room, but they woke him up and attempted to move him back to the original room. He protested, and 4 officers came and surrounded him. All the while another detainee and I stood in our doorways and watched, refusing to go back into our rooms when prompted by the officers – possibly the only deterrent which stopped them from being physical with him. Eventually under our watchful eyes, they let him stay in the new room.

Similarly, we heard the stories about the deaths in detention (SEE ANNEX), including most recently, on 6th September 2014, when a detainee death at Morton Hall led to riots. People on the ground informed us that a young man, Rubel Ahmed, 24 had died, between Friday 5th September and Saturday 6th September. Mr Ahmed told officers on Friday that he was not feeling well, but they ignored him. Apparently he was meant to be deported on 6th September, Saturday. When the officers went to pick him up that Saturday morning, they found him dead. Reports then claimed that officers were trying to hide his body, and that was when a riot broke out. Further, I was told that detainees were not given lunch on 6th September, as a result they broke into the Detention centre shop, and made do with the goods.

Three days after I was detained, the officers at Pennine House refused to allow my mother to come into the reception area of momentarily to bid me goodbye (was due to be transferred to Dungavel that day). My mother who was outside on the door couldn't see me for two or three minutes, even when there was no clear reason against it. I listened helplessly to her desperate pleas to the unflinching officer, to let her into the reception area so she could hug me goodbye. It was heart breaking.

There was a condescending air of arrogance towards us, we were spoken to as if we were wild animals. Staff opened the doors to each room once every hour during the night to 'check on detainees'. But the constant opening and closing of doors and shuffling of officers from one room to another made intolerable noise disturbing sleep. This practice without a doubt comprises sleep deprivation.

At Harmondsworth, Section F, the staff appeared to be overworked, and the unit understaffed. The toilets were behind a curtain in a room you shared with another detainee, and you only had 2 hours a day outside in the court yard – just like in a prison. The rest of the time you were locked inside the building. The mattresses and pillows were the same like the ones they gave in prisons. There were always people waiting outside the Section's office to be assisted. Some of the staff members were rude, and one lady officer in particular was

venomous. She described herself as Persian and once refused to give medication to a young Asian man because he asked for medicine at a time when she was locking the cell doors (they used to lock us in between 9.45 – 7.30 am), a time when she would be finishing her shift. Complete with *effing* expletives, her rant left no doubt that she did not care if the young man reported her behaviour to her seniors. To me this episode simply highlighted the impunity I had previously read about (SEE ANNEX). There was a lot of banging of metal doors, which after a while affected you psychologically. Staff at Morton Hall were the worst. They frequently banged metal doors when shutting them at night making a lot of thumping and clanking noises, another form of sleep deprivation. When I arrived, the staff at the reception made jokes about my shoes and essentially used me as the object of their banter. Even the nurses at the reception were rude, and asked stupid questions. The officers knew I was a non-smoker, but they assigned me a smoker's room. I couldn't sleep, had dry throats and over the next few days had nose bleeds every night. When I went to make a complaint, an officer, Mr White, said 'they should provide rooms for non-smokers, but they don't.' He asked me to go to the clinic – where the nurses said there was nothing they could do??

7. The first time I was called for an appointment at the Home Office section of Morton Hall, I overheard staff in a room adjacent to the seating area publicly discussing my case and using expletives (*effing* this *effing* that) to ridicule my concerns. The meeting that followed was the most uncomfortable I have ever had. The officer I met was young woman of Asian descent, but aggressive and very rude. She offered me an Emergency Travel Document, but I refused to sign it. I asked her whether she had an elderly mother, and whether she would sign a document that would effectively separate her from her 4 month old baby, and she responded, rather rudely that "I've not talked about your family so don't talk about my family". My guess is she doesn't have any children.
8. Like at the other detention centres, most officers at Morton Hall didn't have time for detainees. Officers took lunch break together, meaning there were times when a unit's office was shut and not attended. I witnessed an incident the other day when a new arrival who hadn't been assigned a room waited

outside the office with a plastic bag containing their belongings for over 15 minutes (during which the officers of the unit were on their lunch break), a plate full of food in his hand. Two additional incidents in particular deserve highlighting: One day while faxing documents to my solicitor, a female officer walked up to me from behind and burped loudly into my ear. Since I did not see her approach, and was not expecting it, the misadventure momentarily frightened me (even though she found it extremely funny). I wondered what kind of institution would tolerate that kind of behaviour. In another incident, I fell sick with a nasal flu-like viral infection and felt numb on one side of my face. I had failed to sleep the previous night, and had a fever. When I went to the clinic, the nurses said the earliest they could book an appointment with a doctor was the following week. When I protested they eventually relented, and asked me to return to that evening just before closing time. At 3.30pm, I met the doctor, who decided to wait and not prescribe antibiotics, 'until when the situation gets worse'. I was given Paracetamol, told to drink fluids and dismissed. It was all rushed and I felt like they had merely ticked a box. The next 3 days were hell. I failed to sleep (had to wake up every 20 minutes or so to blow my nose), my fever got worse and I couldn't eat properly. After administering a strong concoction of honey and lemon squash (which thankfully you could buy in the shop), together with Strepsils, over the next few days, I finally overcame the viral infection. This episode confirmed what I had read before many years previously, that the level of healthcare in detention centres is frighteningly poor. (See ANNEX). It's as if the environment is intentionally created to be precarious, to make the process of convalescing difficult, or to even make you fall sick. Towards the end of my stay at Morton Hall, I met an Indian boy who four years previously had been detained as a healthy young man, and transferred around several detention centres, for four years, before being finally released. Except by then he was a diabetic. He had gone through hell, he was finally free, but he was now irreversibly sick.

9. The shop at Morton Hall, (unlike at Dungavel) did not sell fruits like lemons or oranges which would normally help with a vitamin C boost. Neither was their range of medicines adequate for a centre that was holding close to 400

people. Even the food served in the kitchen was not fit for human consumption and was of very low quality, and probably contained dangerous chemicals.

10. Some officers were verbally abusive. At Harmondsworth, an officer wearing shorts and a red top shouted and pointed at me aggressively when I had been locked out of my unit, near the shop area. He shouted "You! Where have you been!"
11. There were inconsistencies regarding what one could take or do in detention. Some centres allowed us to bring our own food and to access musical websites, others didn't. Most refused access to Facebook and other social networks. Some even blocked news sites, reinforcing another allegation that the Home Office 'wanted to kill your mind'.

Open ended sentences

12. You heard it again and again; that detention was worse than prison because in prison you knew how long you'd be locked up for, whereas in detention people stayed as long as their case worker fancied. There were many people who had spent longer in detention than their time in prison, none knew when their tortuous ordeal would come to an end. I encountered a West African man who had spent over 2 years at Dungavel. Another, a 50+ Nigerian man had spent ~17 months in detention after a year in prison over a fraud case. Another younger Nigerian man had spent 9 months in Morton Hall after 6 months prison sentence over a fake marriage. A further Muslim African man who I did not personally get to know (at Morton Hall) was said to have spent over a year in detention. Many such stories. The two men I knew complained that it was unfair for the Home Office to hold them for what appeared like indefinitely because they had served their prison sentences. Essentially the Home Office were operating a backdoor scheme to extend people's prison sentences by keeping them in detention - the archetypical embodiment of injustice. No wonder, some experts believe mental health issues arose (SEE ANNEX); There was something about the man who it was alleged had spent over one year at Morton Hall which wasn't right. He used to walk around with

what appeared to be an empty marker, with which he would go from sign to sign (on the walls of the detention centre), underlining the words on each sign (even though no ink came out of the marker)???. It was sad to watch.

The Business of detention centres

13. There were numerous allegations that essentially the whole thing was a business. A cash cow with government blessings that is tolerated primarily because of its profitability. Migrants just happened to be convenient scapegoats. I had read about these allegations many months before but couldn't believe it, until one day, while walking from the visits room, an officer confided, off the record, that detainees in the UK are essentially pawns. She said she was glad she was coming to the end of her career because "it has become something else". She said detainees were numbers with which to make money. The more detainees there are in custody, the more money the Home Office received from the EU. Further, it was alleged that the reason why the Home Office case workers often asked people who did not qualify for Asylum to apply for it was because when someone applied for Asylum, the Home Office would receive funding to the tune of between £5,000 - £15,000 from the UN, the EU and the government. The logic was simple, the more people applied for Asylum, the more money the beast received. So case workers were told to take advantage of it, even though asking someone who did not qualify for Asylum to apply for Asylum was not lawful on the face of it, and could be downright illegal. Finally, it was alleged that the reason the Home Office moved people around detention centres was to give a deceptive picture of how many people were in detention at any particular time. Whether these allegations are true or not, or to what extent they hold true I do not know.

What I do know from my family's experiences and by hearing others complain is that Visa fees and solicitor fees in immigration issues are too high for most ethnic minority families to afford. They cause undue and disproportionate financial pressure on families, in my own family my mother, a British citizen, is in debt by £5000 as a result of my immigration issues alone, and that's on top of the £13,000 or so she already owes her bank. This I believe is where the

extortion allegation comes from. Having said this, others have made similar accusations in re business aspects of detention (SEE ANNEX)

Selective & Obscure Justice

14. There were some allegations that some judges took everything the Home Office presented at bail hearings at face value, without scrutinizing or questioning its truthfulness. Even the lies and half-truths were said to be accepted. In my own case, the judge refused to grant me bail because I missed one reporting appointment. Yet that reporting session was a GP clinic visit. I had written to the Home Office informing them of my chest pains, had a note from the doctor and subsequently attended the next reporting appointment at the reporting centre. Yet when the Home Office representative at my bail hearing mentioned that I had missed a reporting session, that apparently there was a risk of absconding, the judge didn't as much as ask me or my solicitor why, or what had actually happened?? He didn't even ask about my daughter and what had happened? To me it seemed like he accepted everything the home Office said at face value, even the lies.

15. There were accusations that some judges made decisions which were outright contrary to the law. That in seeking to cement their own 'reputations' of shrewdness, they would deny bail to people who were entitled to it. Even when your circumstances dictated that you should be released on bail; just because you met the wrong judge, he/ she would reject your claim. This was common in all the detention centres, and we often heard of solicitors advising detainees to withdraw bail applications on the day of the bail hearing primarily because the wrong judge was in the judge's seat that day. This was extremely distressing and caused one to feel as if they were fighting a battle they could never win. But it was a choice between refusal of bail (in which one had to wait another 2- 4 weeks before another bail application could be lodged), and waiting a couple of days before making the application (which could be successful depending on who was presiding).

16. There were allegations that court cases against the Home Office, for unlawful detention and other issues were either derailed, or the Home Office re-

detained former detainees to 'punish you' and 'teach you a lesson' for suing them. In other words even when they had clearly done something that was wrong, if you tried to pursue justice, you would eventually pay dearly for it. An Iranian man I knew claimed that he was detained a second time because the Home Office couldn't pay up the money a judge had ordered he should receive for unlawful detention. Another detainee, a Nigerian national who had a wife and 2 children in the UK, claimed that his case worker had told him that he would do everything within his remit to ensure that the detainee was removed from the UK, all because this detainee had requested to change case workers. For some case workers it became personal. A further man, who claimed to be Zimbabwean came to my room one day with a printed copy of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and claimed that the Home Office can use its clout and influence in collaboration with the government to punish you if you published 'prejudicial material'. I wondered, **who exactly had the privilege of deciding what constitutes prejudicial material?** The Home office, who themselves are the subject of all these allegations? The courts, whose judges have been accused of selective if not partial justice? Or the government – who are stakeholders and therefore not independent? This last man would later claim that the Police (who arrested him on trumped up charges which they couldn't prove) tried to force a Psychiatrist who interviewed him to certify him as mad. The Psychiatrist remained professional and refused to do so.

17. One officer told me the immigration system was a 'lottery'

Allegations of Racism, Spying & Jealousy

18. There were numerous allegations that officers were racist, and that the system was designed intentionally to prey on non-white migrants. However, I met several Caucasian detainees in Dungavel (One Swedish woman who had been accused of trying to arrange a fake marriage; a Polish girl facing a similar charge, a handful of Russians and a Czech man). At Morton hall, I met some Russians, and several Lithuanians, although most of them had come from prison. Here, I only met one detainee who was white, who had not come from prison, and even he happened to originate from Africa. My view is that the

detention system disproportionately affects non-white peoples from certain continents far more than it affects people from other continents, and this fact alone must not be brushed aside or dismissed as mere coincidence. in my view, it is not.

19. There were allegations that the Home Office used some people who appeared to be detainees, but who were in fact spies to spy on real detainees – moles planted to collect information on behalf of the Home Office. There could be some truth in this as certain encounters I had with certain people left me feeling uncomfortable. Some detainees even confessed to having their phones and emails hacked, but there was none to help them, let alone investigate their claims. It's possible that our emails were intercepted, because after one email I wrote to a friend, in which I promised to send him documents outlining the conditions within the detention centres via my mother, the next time my mother visited, a wary looking guard demanded to see all the things I was giving my mother to take home. He didn't take his eyes off us throughout the entire 2 hour visit, and when we went outside, into the garden, to sit and pray together, the guard followed us. What did he want? What did he know? Further, I know that some of the text messages and emails I sent from within the detention centre never reached their destinations, and some of the text messages I was sent never reached me. Also, there were times when a phone call you received would strangely and abruptly be cut off??? Whether this was evidence of interception, covert interference / spying, I do not know. But I can understand why in a world of PRISM and Edward Snowden, it is not beyond the shameless UKBA to do such a despicable thing.

20. Similarly, there were allegations that some case workers were jealous of the lives and jobs detainees held before being detained, and were actively seeking to outdo detainees; to outmanoeuvre us. 'They know they can never be like us' I often heard. 'If they were capable, case workers would not be working for such a sick organisation' some people said. 'They are only working for the Home Office because they are incompetent and dull'. 'Birds of the same feather flock together' I heard it said.

21. Throughout the time of my detention, I often asked some of the officers I'd managed to get to know, whether they enjoyed their job? Some said Yes, but the majority said No or refused to comment.

Inexperience, Idiocy and recklessness

22. There were allegations of inexperience. That the 22 – 25 year olds who were tasked with making critical decisions that had far reaching consequences over much older people, were immature and incapable of making good and conscientious decisions regarding migrants who had families, young children and who had stayed in the UK for years. One detainee said: 'What does a 24 year old know about life that they should ask me to leave the UK? They've not even began living life. And look at that surname, he's Indian'

23. Many months before being detained, one officer (who I was told was a senior officer at the reporting centre) asked me why my home country was deporting British citizens who had overstayed their welcome?? I told her I didn't know of the practice, but even if I did, that issue was between my Country's government, and the British government, and didn't see why an issue I had nothing to do with should negatively affect me. I wasn't in the UK on behalf of my country's government? They didn't send me here.

It was common to hear of a detainee complain over a false claim the Home Office had hurled towards them. There were numerous accusations that the Home Office case workers would frequently lie on responses to submissions by migrants or their representatives.

24. Another common belief was that the Conservative party was behind the mess. That they were detaining and deporting migrants to appease their members on the far right of the political spectrum. This is consistent with what the mainstream media has been saying lately, at least since the European elections; that because of the unprecedented headway UKIP has made, the conservatives have felt it necessary to use the issue of immigration to attract the section of the vote that was leaning towards UKIP.

25. There were allegations made by detainees who had come into detention from prison that those with drugs offences were let off easily, and often granted bail without much of a scuffle. Similarly, there were allegations that people from Morocco, Turkey and a handful of other countries were let off more easily by the Home Office, than detainees from other countries, for the same type of offences. Apparently, favouritism was at play.

There are many other incidents I had chronicled, and I wish I had the opportunity to share them. But I've exceeded the word limit so I'll stop here.

My time in detention was extremely unpleasant and left me astonished at the waste of talent, at the sheer numbers of capable people detained for little or no reason, at the lawlessness and illegality of some of the things the Home Office were said to be doing. It was incredible.

I do not believe that the people I met are all a danger to the British public or that they are all 'criminals' as the media and criminal justice system would have us believe. Most of them are clearly not, or if they were before their prison sentences - have since reformed by virtue of their experiences, and therefore deserve another chance. It is disconcerting to see so many young people suffer helplessly at the hands of what appears to be an oppressive system bent on keeping them captive. It was gut-wrenching to watch people's lives waste away, day after day. All those young black men sitting around aimlessly, doing very little other than time in the gym, smoking and talking on mobile phones. I wondered what they will do after being released. When will they be released? Are they ready for life on the outside? Would they find opportunities outside to help them? The wastefulness of not utilising them in society; the anger on their faces; the fear in their eyes. It was depressing. It reminded me of some of the many articles I had read of conditions inside US jails and its effects on families (SEE ANNEX *Long Prison Terms Eyed as Contributing to Poverty - NYTimes.com*). It was troubling.

In my view, the present and previous governments have ignored the issue of abuse in detention centres. Despite undeniable ample evidence (SEE Annex), little has been done. Whatever the reasons, it's somewhat hypocritical and disingenuous that while many western companies, including large British companies derive huge profits from

countries from which these migrants come from, that when these people come to British shores they must be treated with undue heavy handedness, as if they were criminals, and left at the mercy of mercenary institutions the ethics of whose motives are extremely doubtful. Why not help migrants change their lives so that they can fix their own dysfunctional countries? By equipping them, giving them free interest loans (not the £1500 offers by *Choices*) and helping them set-up businesses, schools etc. once they are ready to return? Surely that would create jobs for British people? It would act as a means of technology transfer, wouldn't it? It would certainly cause much less pain or harm.

I do believe that Britain is hurting its image in the way it treats migrants (SEE ANNEX *David Cameron faces EU isolation on anti-immigration stance - FT.com*). And such a tarnished image will be difficult to launder, after all the anti-immigrant rhetoric. I do believe that politicians have largely failed to objectively explain to the public what drives people to migrate; that besides cronyism, ineffective politics, corruption, disease, etc. in the migrant's country, there is an aspect of empire in the equation. Politicians have not confronted the public with the fact that there are at least 5 million British migrants across the world today – living outside the UK, and nobody sensible has ever suggested that they go back home; politicians must explain the fact that both France and Britain have large and lucrative interests in the migrants home countries. These are the real issues (as are issues such as Housing, the budget deficit, Education and Healthcare) which British politicians must properly address, instead of using migrants as scapegoats in a misguided attempt to win votes.

I do not believe that staff at the various detention centres I was held in safeguarded the duty of care they had towards detainees. I do not believe that the Home Office is a functional organisation fit for purpose. In my view, detention centres should be scrapped, and in their place **introductory, rehabilitation and skills training centres** with a totally different mandate should be opened. They will create jobs, facilitate technical training of low-skilled individuals (including migrants and those currently working in detention centres) and have a better chance at creating a harmonious and productive society, let alone equipping migrants for better careers in their home countries.

I do believe that being detained has had an adverse effect on my psyche and mental health. It has had an adverse effect on my physical health. I cannot fully explain it all at the moment as I'm still recovering and dealing with the pain, but there's a lot that has changed. Hopefully I'll be able to explain what has happened soon, as I will be going to therapy sessions.

It has been traumatic and extremely painful for me to write all this, and the stories have brought some painful and tortuous memories I would rather forget. I hope my words will help bring order, justice, freedom, peace and sanity to the victims of insensitive and lawless machinery.

Yours sincerely

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ANNEX

- I. Another preventable death in immigration detention? (via Institute of Race Relations <http://www.irr.org.uk/news/another-preventable-death-in-immigration-detention/>)
- II. Border Agency Made £225m out of migrants already in the UK (via exarone news <http://www.exarone.com/articles/4569/uk-border-agency-accused-of-charging-excessive-fees-for-visas>)
- III. Detention Undercover (via BBC http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/real_story/4304547.stm) an investigation which found '...disturbing evidence of a culture of violence, abuse and assaults against detainees.'
- IV. 21 Deaths Across the UK Detention Estate (<http://www.no-deportations.org.uk/Media-6-4-2011/DeathInRemovalCentres.html>)

- V. Deaths in immigration detention: 1989-2014 (<http://www.irr.org.uk/news/deaths-in-immigration-detention-1989-2014/>)
- VI. The Dark Reality of Britain's Privatised Immigration System (via SYMAAG <http://www.symaag.org.uk/2014/07/30/the-dark-reality-of-britains-privatised-immigration-system/>)
- VII. Harmondsworth immigration centre protest sees arrests (via BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-17038036>) Which begs the question, why should the police arrest demonstrators?
- VIII. How politicians and the media made us hate immigrants (via Open Democracy <https://www.opendemocracy.net/transformation/chitra-nagarajan/how-politicians-and-media-made-us-hate-immigrants>)
- IX. Hundreds of students facing removal (via Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants <http://www.jcwi.org.uk/policy/news/hundreds-students-facing-removal>)
- X. Inquiry over death at Harmondsworth immigration centre (via BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-20160994>)
- XI. Immigration detainee 'died in handcuffs' (via BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-25749685>) in which Inspectors condemned 'shocking cases where a sense of humanity was lost' at the centre in west London, with the Chief Inspector of Prisons saying some services were "poorly managed", and the Prison Reform Trust saying the centre had "forgotten the basic principles of humanity and decency". This reminded me of something Peter Fryer in his work, Aspects of British Black History refers to, on page 33, where he asks whether there aren't many people in Britain including 'many people in police uniform?' who hold prejudicial views as those held by James Anthony Froude, Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford in the

late 1800, who in 1888 published a book titled *The English in the West Indies*, in which Froude compared a black man to a spaniel.

- XII. Long Prison Terms Eyed as Contributing to Poverty - NYTimes.com (via New York Times http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/19/science/long-prison-terms-eyed-as-contributing-to-poverty.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130219&r=1&)
- XIII. Medical care in UK detention centre a 'lamentable failure': Brian Dalrymple inquest report (via Open Democracy <https://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/phil-miller/medical-care-in-uk-detention-centre-lamentable-failure-brian-dalrymple-inques>)
- XIV. Detention Inquiry launches with oral evidence (via Church Times <http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2014/25-july/news/uk/detention-inquiry-launches-with-oral-evidence>)
- XV. Aliens Acts 1905 and 1919 (via 20thcenturylondon.org.uk <http://www.20thcenturylondon.org.uk/aliens-acts-1905-and-1919>)
- XVI. Fail and prosper: how privatisation really works (via <http://www.compassonline.org.uk/fail-and-prosper-how-privatisation-really-works/>)
- XVII. Satan's Neonazi conmen: The Institutional Discrimination and Racism hidden within Immigration (part 1) (via Malawi Ace <http://malawiace.com/2013/10/20/satans-neonazi-conmen-the-institutional-discrimination-and-racism-hidden-within-immigration-number-1/>) ; Satans Neonazi Conmen (Part 2): To stay put + die / migrate but risk death + persecution (via Malawi Ace <http://malawiace.com/2013/10/31/satans-neo-nazi-conmen-part-2-to-stay-put-die-migrate-but-risk-death-persecution/>)
- XVIII. Serco facing inquiry over claims of sexual assaults at Yarl's Wood detention centre (via wn.com

http://article.wn.com/view/2014/05/18/Serco_facing_inquiry_over_claims_of_sexual_assaults_at_Yarls/)

- XIX. Serco facing inquiry over claims of sexual assaults at Yarls Wood detention centre (via Independent <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/serco-facing-inquiry-over-claims-of-sexual-assaults-at-yarls-wood-detention-centre-9391631.html>)
- XX. The Business of Immigration Detention: Activisms, Resistances, Critical Interventions (via Social Abjection <http://socialabjection.wordpress.com/2014/06/25/the-business-of-immigration-detention-the-conference-jan-2015/>)
- XXI. BBC reports on immigration detention centres as protests spread (via electronic immigration network <http://www.ein.org.uk/news/bbc-reports-immigration-detention-centres-protests-spread>)
- XXII. Detention centre inquiry ordered (via BBC http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/4315467.stm)
- XXIII. The noise on immigration is drowning out real problems (via The Guardian http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/may/13/noise-immigration-drowning-out-real-problems?CMP=tw_t_gu)
- XXIV. UK immigration and a nasty dose of xenophobia (<http://www.investmentandbusinessnews.co.uk/politics/uk-immigration-and-a-nasty-dose-of-xenophobia/5101>)
- XXV. Immigration report that challenges impact on UK jobs 'blocked' by No 10 (via Guardian <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/mar/04/government-blocks-immigration-report-british-jobs>)

- XXVI. Set her free: end the detention of refugee women
(<http://refugeewomen.com/campaign/>)
- XXVII. Morton Hall Immigration Centre detainees in 'disturbance'
(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-29094137>)
- XXVIII. Protest to shut down Yarl's Wood Detention Centre in London UK (via Demotix <http://www.demotix.com/news/4175587/protest-shut-down-yarls-wood-detention-centre-london-uk#media-4175168>)
- XXIX. David Cameron faces EU isolation on anti-immigration stance - FT.com (<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/91350d0e-7f91-11e3-b6a7-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=uk#axzz2qvim0syW>)
- XXX. Censored: Home Office refuses to publish cost of Theresa May's legal battles (<http://www.politics.co.uk/news/2014/03/17/censored-home-office-refuses-to-publish-cost-of-theresa-may>) which includes the paragraph "The supreme court struck down an attempt to introduce the substantive immigration requirements through the back door of guidance or instructions, rather than in the immigration rules themselves."
- XXXI. High Court finds operation of Detained Fast Track asylum system unlawful (<http://detentionaction.org.uk/high-court-finds-operation-of-detained-fast-track-asylum-system-unlawful>)
- XXXII. Bail for Immigration Detainees intervenes in unlawful detention case (<http://www.biduk.org/922/news/bail-for-immigration-detainees-intervenes-in-unlawful-detention-case.html>)
- XXXIII. Immigration report that challenges impact on UK jobs 'blocked' by No 10 (<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/mar/04/government-blocks-immigration-report-british-jobs>)