

# 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](http://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:

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

Remember that the deadline is **1<sup>st</sup> 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](#)).

<b>Information about yourself</b>	
<b>Your name</b>	Mr Karim Yousef Omar
<b>Do you want your name to be made public?</b>	Yes
<b>The country you come from</b> <i>(You do not have to give this information)</i>	IRAQ
<b>Do you wish to give oral evidence before the inquiry panel?</b> <i>(Due to the limited amount of time available, the panel will not be able to take evidence directly from everyone)</i>	No
<b>Are you making this submission by yourself or is someone helping you?</b>	My name is Yinka Yesufu and I am the Supplementray Schools Network Co-ordinator based at

<i>(If so, who is this person?)</i>	Merseyside Network for Change
<b>Date you are completing this form</b>	16th September 2014

<b><i>If you are no longer in detention and are currently living in the community...</i></b>	
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>	Detained in London October 2012 - February 2013
How long were you in detention?	4 months 2 weeks
When were you released from detention?	8th February 2013
In which detention centres/prisons were you detained?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wandsworth</li> <li>• Denton centre behind Heathrow - I think Harmonswoth</li> </ul>
Can you tell us a little about why you were in detention?	Mr Omar has limited English, but I feel that his use of drug, combined with mental health issues led him to being detained.
Was this your first time in detention? If not, please tell us more about the other times...	Yes
Do you now have a right to remain in the UK?	No... this is an ongoing matter
If you are still waiting to hear from the Home Office about their decision on your case, how long have you been waiting?	Currently being supported by Asylum Link - Liverpool

<b><i>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.</i></b>
<p>1) Your <b>experiences of living in immigration detention</b>, including the context and duration of your stay <i>(add anything not covered above);</i></p> <p>Overall, Mr Omar's experience was negative. He was prescribed medication whilst in detention</p>

which caused  
a physical reaction - based I believe in some small part with his use of methodone. As a result Mr Omar experiences psychosis and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - for which he receives medication.

He is currently under the support of a community psychiatric nurse.

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

During his time in detention, Mr Omar received no support. He was denied access to a solicitor and no interviews took place during the 4 month period. Following the reaction with the medication, Mr Omar was released. Mr Omar was homeless. He was given a ticket to go to Liverpool.

Only through the support of his community psychiatric nurse was he able to make links and claim asylum

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;

Mr Omar received no support whilst in detention.

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

Mr Omar's current diagnosis is yet unclear and he remains under assessment. However, differing diagnosis' include psychosis and PTSD

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

It is evident by the way Mr Omar presented that he is experiencing a the very minimum moderate mental health issues.

***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?

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

No comments

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**?

No comments

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?

No comments

*I wish...*

*If only...*

*If things were different...*

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