

Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers

NEWSLETTER No.2

Public funeral for victim of racist murder

On 1st April 2000, Shibli Rahman, a 34 year old Bangladeshi man, was stabbed to death by a gang of white men.

Shibli had finished work and was on his way back to his flat in Bow when he was attacked and murdered by four white men. During the attack he was stabbed repeatedly with a 12 inch knife.

Despite his stab wounds Shibli somehow managed to make his way home. His family called the emergency services - it took the ambulance 45 minutes to arrive whilst the Police prevented the family taking Shibli to hospital even though the hospital was minutes away. Serious concerns have been raised about the conduct of the emergency services.

By the time Shibli reached the hospital, little could be done, and he bled to death leaving his wife and two young children.

Shibli's funeral will take place on SUNDAY 27TH MAY 2001 at 2pm. The Rahman family have decided to have a public funeral in order that the local community can join together in unity and make a stand against racism.

A recent survey of the housing estate where Shibli lived, revealed intolerable levels of racial harassment which have been neglected by the authorities.

CAPA Civil Rights supports the Justice for the Rahman Family Campaign and its call, to all those who are concerned, to show your support by attending the funeral or by joining the funeral procession.

Details of the funeral are as follows:

DATE: SUNDAY 27TH MAY

ASSEMBLE: 2pm at Stepney Green Park, Stepney Way
(nearest tube Stepney Green)

After the Janaza (prayers), the body will be taken on foot by funeral procession to Woodgrange Cemetery in Forest gate.

If you require further information or can help distributing leaflets please contact: Junad Uddin - (07951) 894376

If you are interested in the work of CAPA Civil Rights please contact:
Shah Qureshi - (07941) 655554 or e-mail at capacivilrights@hotmail.com

Human Rights Now for Turkish and Kurdish Political Prisoners

"Isolation regimes in Turkish prisons must be stopped immediately" according to Amnesty International as it launched its report on the F-Type prisons. The report *Turkey: "F-Type" prisons - Isolation and allegations of torture and ill-treatment*, relates to an ongoing crisis in the Turkish prisons.

Amnesty International called on the authorities to end abuses in the prisons and ensure that prisoners be allowed to associate widely with each other for at least several hours each day. Prisoners are held in small cells either on their own or with two others. Many prisoners have allegedly gone without human contact for days, apart from roll-calls, which are said to be frequently accompanied by violence.

Amnesty International welcomed recent announcements by the Turkish government that they will amend the law and allow association of prisoners in recreational areas. The organization has repeatedly urged the Turkish authorities to take measures to bring Turkish prisons into line with international standards:

Since October 2000 more than 1,000 political prisoners have participated in hunger strikes against the F-Type prisons. Reportedly up to 800 people remain on hunger strike. Seventeen people have already died as a result.

On 9 December the Justice Minister promised that the planned transfer of prisoners to the F-Type prisons would not take place until Article 16 of the Anti-terror Law, which lays down a draconian regime of isolation, was amended. Yet on 19 December an operation was conducted by the security forces in 20 prisons, as a result of which 30 prisoners and two soldiers died. Subsequently, hundreds of prisoners were transferred to three new F-type prisons.

AI's new report *Turkey: "F-Type" prisons - Isolation and allegations of torture and ill-treatment*, AI Index: EUR 44/025/2001, is also available in Turkish. Please refer to this report for more details.

Stop the Detention of Asylum Seekers in Cardiff Prison

A Home Office decision has allocated fifty places in Cardiff prison for the detention of asylum seekers. It is a decision 'not made in Wales' The National Assembly of Wales has opposed the detention of asylum seekers in Cardiff prison and registered its concern that it was not consulted.

Demonstration and Rally

11am Saturday 19th May 2001 outside Cardiff prison
corner of Fitzalan Rd & Adam Street Cardiff

Speakers from refugee community organisations, church groups, legal representatives, etc.

Organised by WAAR Wales Assembly Against Racism.

Repeal the Terrorism Act 2000

The new Terrorism Act represents a serious threat to civil liberties and supports states who are carrying out major Human Rights violations against their own people. One clear example is the British Government's proscription of the PKK which has long been pursuing a peaceful policy to support the marginalised Kurdish people even before the arrest and trial of Ocalan.

The campaign for a political solution to the Kurdish question urges you to express your opposition to the Terrorism Act and the proscription of named political groups.

Please fax Peace in Kurdistan 0207 7483 2531.

Support Roma refugees in the UK

Romani people have consistently faced victimization and persecution wherever they go within Europe and yet they are not being acknowledged as genuine asylum seekers in Britain.

Europe Roma has been established to defend Romani refugees threatened with deportation.

Europe Roma Public Meeting Monday 21st May 6.30pm Conway Hall Red Lion Square (Holborn Underground)

Tel: 0208 802 7496 to offer support.

Close down Harmondsworth

On 29th June the biggest detention centre for refugees so far will be opened next door to Harmondsworth Detention Centre. It will hold 550 asylum seekers and others in prison. Whole families will be kept there as will people in poor health.

The Close down Harmondsworth campaign and several other organisations are calling for a mass protest outside the detention Centre on 30th June assembling at 12 noon. The Centre is North of Heathrow on the A4/Coinbrook bypass.

General Election

Ask your candidates about their policy toward asylum seekers and refugees!

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