

Rt. Hon Jacqui Smith, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Office
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Dear Ms Smith,

Oladipo Victor Aiyegbayo Home Office ref.: A1363001 / DOB: 31:1:1974, a Nigerian national and resident of Nottingham; is currently detained in Colnbrook IRC and due to be forcibly removed from the UK today Friday 7th November @ 22.20 on Virgin Nigeria Airways flight VS651 from London Heathrow to Nigeria.

Victor is a Nigerian national who came to the UK because he had been the victim of threats, intimidation, and aggression from members of a Nigerian student cult who pursued him wherever he lived. Student cults are a menace in Nigeria and Country reports refer to them as lawless and violent gangs, who use a variety of persistent techniques to coerce membership. Victor did not want to join the cult, and several times tried to evade them by moving to different parts of the country. Even in the UK, Victor says that he has been pursued as his phone number became known. Cult members have been known to torture, brutalize and murder anyone resisting their attempts to join, or who betray them.

Victor is a musician and has been settled in Nottingham. He has been in a relationship with his partner Monica, since 2006. Monica is a Nigerian national with Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK. Victor is a Nigerian drummer and session musician. It was while in Manchester for a performance that Victor has been detained. He has been detained for eleven months. What has happened has been like a Kafkaesque scenario for the couple. Monica was expecting their first child and when she was four months pregnant, Victor was detained whilst in Manchester preparing to give a performance Their baby girl was born in April without her father at her Mothers side to greet their new child.

He has only seen his daughter at visiting time in the IRC He has already had one removal notice served, but was not placed on the flight because of an intervention by his solicitor. However, his case owner reported this as "refusal to fly".

Because Monica and Victor were not married, Monica was not able to put Victors' family name on the birth certificate (although she did make it the baby's middle name) – the Immigration Case Worker alleged this was evidence that the child was not Victors'. Both Victor and Monica have had DNA tests to prove paternity. Monica has approached the Registry Office in Nottingham to Re Register baby Denise but has been told that both parents will need legal representation, in addition to the DNA evidence, so that their signatures can be witnessed on the document. Due to a mistake by his Immigration advisor, the Home Office stated that Monica and Victor were "estranged". The Immigration advisor then wrote a letter to the Home Office stating that this was an error, but it was too late. The Home Office are insisting that there is no evidence of family life in the UK. This is not true. Being apart, and the risk of imposed separation is causing the family extreme anguish.

Under new legislation he will not be able to return for at least five years, unless they are able to bring forward their marriage plans (which they are not permitted to do), or Monica – who is the Mother of a young baby only seven months old, is able to save money and find a safe place to visit him.

It seems that laws are conspiring to frustrate their attempts to do the right thing by their daughter ,for for this young family to be together. After two years, bringing a child into their family, they are now no longer permitted to be together. It seems as if every hurdle is put in their way. Even today, Monica is trying to hurry the Register Office in Nottingham to release a form available at every Register Office, to send to Victor so that he can sign if he can find a legal representative.. However, the Nottingham Registry Office is insisting that they must post the form to Victor, as they say they are not permitted to fax it.

Please, we urge you, use your discretion to permit this family to remain together. Errors in legal correspondence are not the fault of the family. Allow Victor to remain in the UK so that he can continue to build his family life with his young daughter and his partner. Please, help Victor to show his daughter that he wants her to carry his family name. Don't let bureaucracy and lack of compassion stand in their way.

Yours sincerely

Name:

Address:

City: Postcode: Country:

Date: Email: Phone: