

Rt. Hon Jacqui Smith, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Office
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London SW1 4DF
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Email: biapublicenquiries@bia.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Ms Smith,

Mustafa Abdulrahim Mustafa HO Ref: M1247034, from Sudan and resident of Nottingham is detained in Campsfield House IRC and due to be forcibly removed from the UK on Tuesday 2nd December on BMI flight BD997 from Heathrow Terminal 1 @ 16:00, flying to Beirut, and then on to Khartoum

I have made myself familiar with the case of Mustafa Abdulrahim Mustafa and would like you to use your discretion to prevent the removal of Mustafa from the UK on Tuesday 2nd December 2008.

Mustafa was a cameraman in Sudan, where he was employed to work in the media unit of the Sudanese army, and earlier, for a television station in Sudan. His ID as a camera man/journalist was handed to the Home Office on his arrival in the UK. Mustafa was required to film military operations and as part of his work; he overheard conversations from a senior military officer (rank of Major General), which caused him some concern. This was in 1997 and the senior ranking officer was talking about the killing of civilians in the military operations in the South. Questioning his senior officer, Mustafa was verbally abused – both his ethnicity and his profession, and he was then dismissed from the Unit. At about this time another cameraman went missing after questioning the scenes that they were required to film.

Mustafa was detained and tortured for six months in one of the regular and ad hoc “ghost houses”. “Ghost houses” sprang up everywhere. Any ordinary house could be commandeered to be used as a small prison or place of imprisonment and torture. This is a normal tactic for silencing the local citizens, as everyone learns that anyone can disappear. Mustafa was detained in a room in which he could touch both walls with his arms outstretched, was required to sleep on a bare concrete floor, not permitted visitors or legal advice, and was beaten severely on many occasions. Mustafa is now having treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, suffers from ongoing pain in his legs, and has visual impairment in his left eye after blood collected in the eye after a beating.

Mustafa was released after six months and threatened. He left the area and tried to relocate from Khartoum (where his family had moved when he was a child) to Al Fashir to be with extended family. Mustafa is of dual ethnicity – his father is from the Masseleit tribe and his Mother, Dinka.

Subsequently, Mustafa became caught up in the military siege of Tawila in Darfur. Many homes were raided as Government militia raided homes looking for anyone they suspected of being in opposition to Bashirs Government. Thousands of people were thus ransacked and raided, rounded up and imprisoned on the most spurious of reasons.

Mustafa was not at home when his Aunts house was raided, but his camera equipment was confiscated, and so too was footage that he had recorded in Darfur which was to be passed to the Justice and Equality Movement for smuggling out of the country. A neighbour recommended to Mustafa that he leave Sudan.

Mustaf is a very highly respected member of the Sudanese community in Nottingham. He is a gentle and kindly man, generous with the very little that he has, to help and assist others. His experiences and what he has witnessed continue to affect his ability to sleep or to rest. Yet under his coaching the Sudanese went into the semi final of the International football league in Nottingham.

We believe that Mustafa is at risk from the regime of President Basher. We believe that what he has witnessed makes him a target to be silenced. We ask that you do not remove Mr Mustafa.

Yours Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

City:

Postcode:

Country:

Email address:

Date: