

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

I am writing in regard of Yves Yitgna Njitchoua Home Office Ref: Y1068251: a national of Cameroonian and resident of Manchester, currently in Campsfield IRC. Is due to be forcibly removed from UK today Wednesday 26 November 2008 @ 19:00hrs on Kenya Airways Flight KQ101 from London Heathrow terminal 4 to Nairobi, and flight KQ518 to Douala Cameroon.

Yves is an active member of Social Democratic Front - the main political opposition group in Cameroon. He is also a regional Co-ordinator for the political group Cameroon Diaspora Coalition in UK. His involvements in these two groups make him at risk of being detained and persecuted for his political views if returned to Cameroon as intended. Yves has been actively demonstrating against the human rights abuses and corruption that goes on in his country, and has been very critical of Cameroon's President Biya. He is terrified for his fate if sent back to his country of origin because he knows how he endured torture and detention at the hands of the authorities prior to his escape to sanctuary.

Yves has been a law-abiding person since claiming asylum in UK in 2005. His health is not good and is therefore not physically or mentally fit to fly long haul. Yves is a leading political activist in the CDC (Cameroon Diaspora Coalition) and supporter of Social Democratic Front (SDF) in Cameroon for which he says he was sent to prison and tortured. He fled to the UK for protection. Since making his asylum claim, his case has been given some consideration. Even one judge commented that they accept that Yves had been arrested and detained and escaped as claimed in his account about his problems in Cameroon forcing him to flee.

USA: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - Cameroon 2007

The government's human rights record remained poor, and it continued to commit numerous human rights abuses. Security forces committed numerous unlawful killings. They engaged in torture, beatings, and other abuses, particularly of detainees and prisoners. Impunity was a problem in the security forces. Prison conditions were harsh and life threatening. Authorities arbitrarily arrested and detained Anglophone citizens advocating secession, local human rights monitors and activists, and other citizens. The law provides for the arrest of homosexuals, as well as persons not carrying national, government-issued identification cards. There were reports of prolonged and sometimes incommunicado pretrial detention and infringement on citizens' privacy rights. The government restricted citizens' freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, and harassed journalists. The government also impeded citizens' freedom of movement. Other problems included official corruption; societal violence and discrimination against women; female genital mutilation (FGM); trafficking in persons, primarily children; discrimination against indigenous pygmies and ethnic minorities; and discrimination against homosexuals. The government restricted worker rights and the activities of independent labor organizations. Child labor, hereditary servitude, and forced labor, including forced child labor were problems.

I believe that the current UK Home Office policy of deporting asylum seekers who have been victims of torture and detention in their country of origin does not reflect the reality of cases like Yves' and, should he be removed, will be cast into an arena of fear where even in that large country, there will be no hiding from the authorities who are determined to root out at every level persons who are opponents of corruption and human rights abuses.

Please stay the removal of Yves, release him from detention and review his case

Yours Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

City:

Postcode:

Country:

Date:

Email:

Phone: