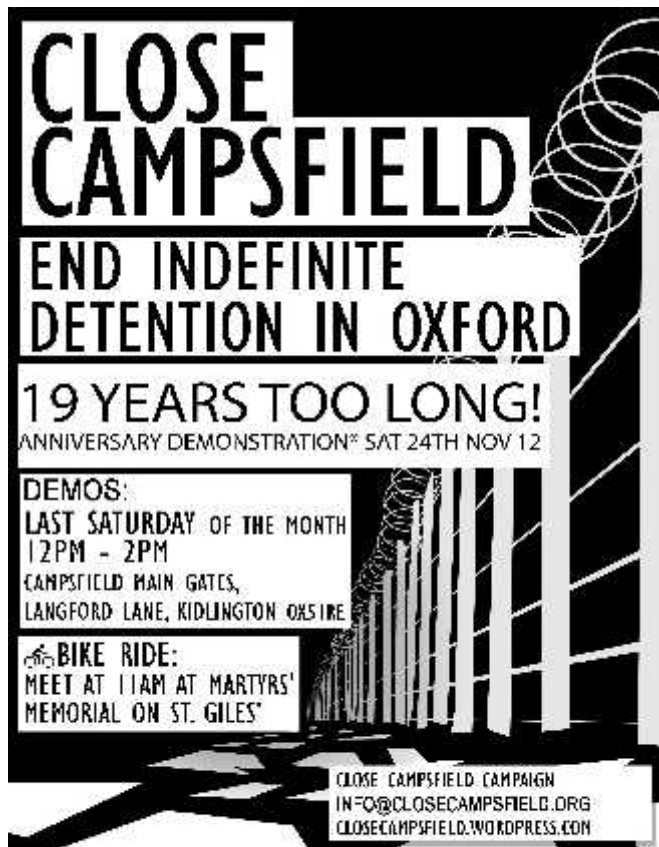


<http://closecampsfield.wordpress.com/>

# The Campsfield Monitor

*Newsletter of the Campaign to Close Campsfield*

*£/p contribution welcome*



\*Over 25,000 innocent people imprisoned in Campsfield since 1993  
speakers: former detainee, Stop Deportations, John McDonnell MP,  
open mic, bring banners, music, placards!  
followed by Barbed Wire Britain meet, 2pm Exeter Hb, Kidlington, refreshments

**25 November 1993:** two minibuses bring the first detainees from Harmondsworth to Campsfield. Some 25,000 innocent people, refugees and undocumented migrants, have been imprisoned in Campsfield for a day or two to months, even years, without charge, without judicial oversight or proper reason given, or time limit.

## RIP Ianos Dragutan †2 August 2011 in Campsfield

*From Morning Star 12 October 2012*  
A Northampton man killed himself in an Oxfordshire immigration detention centre just weeks after a prison inspector's warning, an inquest found today.

The jury at Oxford Old Assizes returned a verdict of suicide in the case of Moldovan-born Ianos Dragutan, 31, who was found hanged in a shower cubicle at Kidlington's Campsfield House last August.

Mr Dragutan had served three months at London's Wandsworth Prison for possessing false documentation before arriving at Campsfield on July 31, the court heard.

Two days later officers told Mr Dragutan to collect his belongings for release, although it is believed that he was also due to face questioning in connection with a rape case.

When police arrived Mr Dragutan left the waiting room, entered the shower block and hung himself, the court heard. ...

In 2005 Kurdish teenager Ramazan Kumluca killed himself after more than four months in Campsfield, while the centre has also seen repeated rooftop protests and hunger strikes.

A spokesperson for the Campaign to Close Campsfield said it was a 'sad state of affairs.'

'This is the second suicide now at Campsfield and it should encourage more people to see the injustices that are occurring at Campsfield and we should all be demanding it should be closed,' he said.

A UK Border Agency spokeswoman insisted today Mr Dragutan's death could not have been prevented – but 'nevertheless demanded urgent action from our contractor.'

Comments by members of the Campaign who attended the inquest:

*'The UKBA have a cheek, when they are the ones who are the overseers on the spot for ensuring that the contractor maintains standards!'*

*'It's a personal tragedy for the individual and the family and it is a*

*sad state of affairs that the shower facilities at Campsfield are suitable places for people to hang themselves. 'This is the second suicide now and it should encourage more people to see the injustices that are occurring at Campsfield and we should all be demanding it should be closed.'*

### **What is Campsfield?**

Campsfield 'House' Immigration Removal Centre near Kidlington, some 6 miles north of Oxford in Oxfordshire. It opened in 1993, holds up to 216 male detainees, and is run by Mitie under contract to the UK government. Campsfield is one of 10 main detention centres in the UK, 8 of which are run by private companies for profit.

*For more information see*  
<http://closecampsfield.wordpress.com/>

### **Death of Prince Ofusu in Harmondsworth**

*From NCADC website 7.11.12*

On Tuesday 30 October, Prince Ofosu died in suspicious circumstances inside Harmondsworth IRC. Throughout this week serious allegations of abuse and maltreatment by detention centre staff have

surfaced, leading many to question, what caused his death?

The Home Office and private security firm GEO, who are contracted to run the centre, have refused to give any details of the incident, including the man's name, nationality and circumstances surrounding his death. Detainees inside the centre and a GEO member of staff, who wishes to remain anonymous, issued a joint statement confirming the man's name as Prince Ofori, a 31-year-old Ghanaian man. The statement goes on to detail a series of incidences of abuse and violence inflicted upon Prince by GEO staff in the 24 hours leading up to his death. Statement: <http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2012/11/502181.html>

The whistle-blowing officer states that Prince was stripped naked at the block and the heating system was turned off. He was left in the cold without even a duvet till his death 24 hours later. The statement describes him being held in the block, 'forcibly restrained' and hit by 'massive blows' from a member of staff. The officer involved in the incident, known as 'Jim', was reportedly told to remove his blood stained clothes to hide the evidence, and to request leave.

Last Tuesday, activists from various

campaign groups held a noise demonstration outside the centre to show the staff, detainees and visitors that they would 'not let this death be silenced!' With megaphones, horns and whistles activists made their presence known to the people inside.



*Detainees at the window, Harmondsworth*

Six other people have died at Harmondsworth since 1989

See *Driven to Desperate Measures: 2006-2010* by Harmit Athwal, on deaths of asylum seekers, migrants [http://www.irr.org.uk/pdf2/DtDM\\_2006\\_2010.pdf](http://www.irr.org.uk/pdf2/DtDM_2006_2010.pdf)

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## **Hunger strike by Sudanese detainees at Campsfield**

*'I am not a criminal. I left war and disaster behind, for freedom, not incarceration.'* – Mohammed El Tahir, hunger striker in Campsfield.

In May 2012, 13 Sudanese men, many from the Darfur region, initiated a hunger strike in Campsfield to denounce their unfair and unlawful situation. Coming from the Darfur region in Sudan, where they all had suffered the consequences of war and genocide, they should not have been put in immigration detention under UK law in the first place. Some of them had only met a lawyer once and they requested medical attention which had not been provided. The hunger strikers said they would stay on hunger strike 'to the extreme' until they were released or removed to a safe country.

They asked for support outside Campsfield to make their voices louder and Oxford Migrant Solidarity (OMS), a young group created to visit detainees in Campsfield, began to visit them, to claim for their freedom, and to help them fulfil their demands. In coordination with the Oxford Sudanese community, Arabic translators, Close Campsfield campaigners, No Borders, Medical

Justice and some helpful lawyers, a fast and effective campaign was started, publicizing the hunger strike, putting pressure on the Immigration offices, staging demos in town and outside Campsfield, and providing real legal and medical support.



Most of the Sudanese refugees were soon released, although they were first divided and sent to different detention centres. Sadly, one of them is still in detention. This hunger strike did not happen in isolation. People without papers across the world continue to refuse food in protest at their detention and repression. Systematic suppression of people without papers is part of daily life in Europe.



***Demo in support of Sudanese hunger strikes, Carfax, Oxford***

*From Campaign press release,  
18 July 2012*

*UKBA breaching own guidelines on  
detention of torture victims  
Sudanese man's hunger strike  
reaches 56 days*

Tarik Adam Rahma, a victim of torture under the current Khartoum regime, has been on hunger strike for 56 days in protest against his indefinite detention.

His condition, of deep concern to medical organisations including Medical Justice, has worsened due to UKBA failing to provide him with regular attention from a doctor, despite extreme stomach pain and stabbing pains in his chest, as well as back pain from a pre-existing condition.

*Update:* Tarik had removal orders for Thursday 19 July. But his lawyer and a fax/phone/email campaign directed at Alitalia Airlines ensured his removal was stopped.

Tarik has not been deported but remains in detention. He has been refused bail. He is one of a number of Darfuris whom the government says have deliberately damaged their fingerpads in order to avoid being deported to, e.g. Italy, which may hold a record of their finger prints taken as they passed through.



### **Recent immigration figures**

In the 12 months to end June 2012, 28,242 people entered immigration detention, an increase of 7% on the previous year. 3034 people were in detention at the end of March 2012, the highest number recorded. During the second quarter of 2012, 60 children entered detention, an increase of 34 on the second quarter of 2011 (26) and a decrease on the second quarters of 2010 and 2009 (114 and 247 respectively). Of those leaving detention, three children were detained for longer than 15 days.

Government statistics:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q2-2012/immigration-q2-2012snr?view=Binary>

### Campsfield calendar

*Demonstration and public meeting every month; stalls at Oxfam One World, Green, freshers' fairs, Oxford May Day, Burford Levellers' Day.*

#### *November 2011*

Mitie met with a representative of the Ecumenical Council of Corporate Responsibility

#### *December 2011*

Campaign members on BBC Radio Oxford (Bill Heine) with former detainee Didier.

#### *January 2012*

The monthly demonstration marked 10 years since Home Secretary David Blunkett announced that Campsfield would close because it was 'not fit for the 21st century'. Fire at Yarl's Wood intervened, the places were needed to continue locking up innocent people, and the decision was reversed.

*February* The Campaign jointly initiated an ad hoc Support Committee for the Somalian Hunger Strikers in Lutsk Detention Centre which called a picket of the Ukraine embassy in Notting Hill on the 5th, in response to a call from 58 Somalis in their fourth week of hunger strike at Lutsk detention centre.

<http://media.bordermonitoring-ukraine.eu/>



*Outside the Ukrainian embassy*

#### *March*

Campaign benefit with singer, songwriters Robb Johnson and Tracy Curtis at the Folly Bridge Inn. Raffle prizes included copies of books by Mark Haddon signed by the author.

Groups from STAR and post-Freshers-Fair sign-ups coalesce to form Oxford Migrant Support

#### *April*

Bike rides from Oxford to Campsfield throughout year benefit from new high viz vests.

No Borders begin to distribute hundreds of leaflets outside Barnardo's shop in Cowley Road to protest at their involvement in 'Cedars' detention centre for children.

pete.coxon@hotmail.co.uk', and 'Proceeds shared with Anglon Welcomes, Open Door, BID and Refugee Resources'."/>

**HANDS OFF OUR FRIENDS!**

**THE BENEFIT GIG FOR THE CAMPAIGN TO CLOSE CAMPSFIELD RETURNS**

Robb Johnson -  
"There is no  
songwriter to  
compare in the  
UK" - Radio 2

Supported by the  
inspiring song of  
Tracey Curtis

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10 at 7.30PM at FOLLY BRIDGE  
INN, ABINGDON ROAD, OXFORD**

TICKETS: £10. CONCESSION £5. CONTACT 01665 497799 OR EMAIL  
[pete.coxon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pete.coxon@hotmail.co.uk)

Proceeds shared with Anglon Welcomes, Open Door, BID and Refugee Resources

## May:

Start of hunger strike by Sudanese, mostly Darfuris, in Campsfield. Most get released, but 2 continue long hunger strike. One remains in detention still.

The Campaign issued a press release expressing serious reservations about the appointment of Councillor Alan Armitage (LibDem), a lay member of the Upper Tier of the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal at hearings where decisions are made about whether foreign national prisoners should be deported, as Lord Mayor of Oxford. Earlier, members of the campaign met Mr Armitage to express their concern, particularly as his work appeared to conflict with City Council policy that Campsfield should close. At his inauguration,

members of No Borders protested in Oxford Town Hall at his appointment.

## June

Parliamentary question by Andrew Smith MP elicits info that the UKBA's Oxon/Bucks/Bucks Local Immigration Team, based near Heathrow, Between April 11 and March 12, there were 27 home enforcement visits and 52 illegal working enforcement visits.

After campaign supporters denied access to Campsfield to visit, correspondence between Andrew Smith MP and Mitie, and meeting between excluded visitors and Mitie

## July

Chinese detainees beaten in Campsfield

## October

Over 100 interested new students sign up at the Campaign stall at Oxford University Freshers Fair.

Inquest into death of Ianos Dragutan

## November

Campaign supporters do meeting with Warwick University Amnesty International, which has supported a number of demos at Campsfield.

24 November 19th Anniversary demo.

## **Chinese detainees beaten**

Six Chinese nationals were beaten by at least eight other inmates at Campsfield on the evening of July 5, reported the *UK-Chinese Times*.

One man required hospital treatment and the remaining Chinese were locked in a room. The victims said they called the police but were never contacted by them. They were then transferred to other detention centres.

The Chinese embassy expressed its concern to British authorities. 'Even though the Chinese citizens are detainees, they are victims and have the right to ask for an investigation by the UK Broader Agency,' said Liu Nanlai, deputy director of the Human Rights Research Center under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/723382.shtml>

## **Without Barnardos, 'The Cedars' would not exist**

*From No Borders leaflet handed out at Barnardo's shop in Cowley Road, Oxford:*

Barnardo's is under contract to provide services at 'Cedars' – an immigration detention centre run by the notorious G4S, whose guards killed the Angolan asylum seeker Jimmy Mubenga on a BA flight from Heathrow.

We don't believe adult migrants should be detained or deported, but the impact on children is even worse. In *State Sponsored Cruelty*, a 2010 report by Medical Justice, 74 out of 141 detained children surveyed had been 'psychologically harmed' by detention, resulting in food refusal, development regression and suicidal behaviour. 48% were born in the UK, and were at risk of deportation to a country they had never even visited. Al Aynsley Green, ex-Children's Commissioner for England said 'Detention is harmful to children and therefore never likely to be their best interests'.

The government promised to end child detention. But, with Barnardos giving them cover by promising to ensure that child detention was done in a humane way, they instead went ahead with Cedars detention centre near Gatwick.

In July last year, Barnardo's set 'red lines' for its involvement in the pilot scheme. The conditions included withdrawing services if more than 10 percent of the families deported in the first year of the trial went through the centre; if any family has stayed at the centre more than once or for longer than the one week maximum; or if disproportionate force is used with a family on route to or from the centre.



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[A report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons reveals that at Cedars most of if not all these red lines have been crossed.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmipris/immigration-removal-centre-inspections/cedars/cedars-2012.pdf> ]

It's not an easy decision to take to protest against a charity. But Barnardo's' involvement in child detention taints everything else they do.

If you're not sure who to contact, you can try calling their Head Office to complain on 0208 550 8822. Tweet them at [@barnardos](#) and email them via

<http://www.barnardos.org.uk/contact-form.htm>

## **Oxford Migrant Support (OMS)**

A young group of students and non-students created in Oxford last year to express solidarity with migrants locked up at Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre, close to Oxford. Due to the current British and European migration laws, people can be detained indefinitely, with no knowledge of when they will be released. The longest current imprisonment in Campsfield of which we are aware is 4 years. OMS

fighters against the existence of such detention centres, and argues that they are the consequence of racist policies. Only the 'good migrants', white and/or wealthy, are allowed to cross the borders of Europe. The rest are deported and imprisoned in a new kind of prison: detention centres. Their crime is movement, their only failure the bad luck of being born in a country that didn't issue them with the passport many of us take for granted. Many flee genocides, political persecution, torture, famine, severe poverty or other similar circumstances. However, once they arrive in the UK they are imprisoned, many of them not for the first time. In detention, they face poor legal and medical provision and sometimes inhuman treatment, and their freedom is further restricted for an undefined length of time.

During the last year, OMS has been visiting different people in the Oxfordshire detention centre (Campsfield), ranging from 18-years old guys who have been living in the UK for years and face removal to a country they do not know any longer, often war-torn places like Afghanistan, Iraq or Pakistan, to refugees and asylum seekers escaping from war and poverty in Africa, or just people willing to try another type of life abroad. Our main aim is to break the isolation they are in, to build a bridge from their lonely and

uncertain situation through a solidarity group, and to communicate over the barbed wire fences.

We visit people in detention individually or in pairs, providing a weekly time for both the visitor and visited person to enjoy each other's company. We are also in close contact with legal and medical support, so can speed up legal processes, reinforce confidence and determination in facing legal and personal challenges, and try to help provide people with basic human rights which are denied to them. But most of the time our visits are about chatting, sharing, understanding and communicating. To let them know that they are not alone, to break the individualism and elitism of our 'developed' society. By forming wonderful friendships in the process, both inside and outside of Campsfield, we show that solidarity knows no borders, passports, or different languages and cultures.

Our group is organized horizontally by all of us, it is self-funded and non-materialistic. There are over 200 people detained in Campsfield. Come along if you want to meet them and us and fight these discriminatory migration policies and their cruel repercussions.

We meet every two weeks during term in Wadham College. Email

[oms@riseup.net](mailto:oms@riseup.net) for details or to join the mailing list.

### Messages from detainees

*'I also would like to let you know that a demonstration had place this evening outside Campsfield House, I was so delighted to see people with a loud speaker weaving to us, makes us feel like we are not totally forgotten and that people with good hearts still exist, that was a good thing to know.'* – Email from detainee to supporter outside, 3 July 2012, after demonstration in support of hunger strikers

Some people could see the banner with the phone number on it and called/sent text messages. One person said *'thanks for believing in us'* and others said *'thank you for the effort'*.

Posters, photos, cover designs and banners in this *Monitor* are by Joe, Pete M, Aileen, Peter C, Andy, Bill, Stig, UK BA. Reports as credited or by anonymous supporters of the Campaign.

**From Campsfield  
Independent [Home Office-  
appointed] Monitoring  
Board Report for 2011**

**3.4.1** It is regretted that Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) no longer visit the Centre due to staff shortages.

*Comment: BID had stopped running workshops due to lack of co-operation from centre staff. Workshops have now resumed. Legal visits from BID were never stopped.*

**4.8.1** The movement of detainees around the Detention Estate still gives cause for concern...

**5.3.4** A UKBA commissioned inspection in August was severely critical of the Healthcare Department, matters of concern included: Staff training, Chronic disease management, Critical incident reviews, Lack of privacy, Confusing policies, Detainee notes, Clinical supervision, Doctors authorising drugs over the telephone, On call and provision of doctors at weekends....

*Comment: We continue to hear many complaints from detainees about health issues, access to necessary treatment and attitudes of staff.*

**Paid Work 5.2.16** Work opportunities include: Cleaners,

Kitchen Orderly, Cook, Dining Room Orderly, Painter, Litter Picker, Assistants (Fitness Suite, Library etc.), Block Orderly (Blue, Yellow and SSU), Buddy, Recycling Orderly, Campsfield Magazine, Gardener ...

**5.2.17** The number of opportunities for paid work increased from 50 to 75 at contract change ...

*Comment: Many detainees want to work, to occupy their time and get some money, especially if they are destitute. They are paid about £1 per hour, so MITIE, the centre managers, are making a huge saving on not employing people from outside on the minimum wage. If detainees work they should be paid properly.*

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/corporate-reports/imb/annual-reports-2011/campsfield-house-2011.pdf>

Oxford & District Trades Union Council statement on 'Slave Labour at Campsfield' in 2008:

<http://www.closecampsfield.org.uk/oldindex.html>

## **Immigration detention in the UK**

Anyone subject to immigration control in the UK and those deemed to be here illegally can be detained by an Immigration Officer and held indefinitely. There is no judicial oversight of the decision to detain. Constantly changing legislation by the UK government frequently seems incompatible with our human rights obligations.

The Home Office's policy on detention is set out in Ch. 55 of the EIG (Enforcement Instructions and Guidance). This document makes it clear that there should be a presumption in favour of release in all cases. It also spells out when detention is lawful, procedures to be followed and identifies those considered unsuitable for detention, (e.g. minors, torture victims, those with serious medical conditions, mentally ill, elderly etc.). UKBA's own rules and guidelines are frequently ignored regarding who should be detained under immigration rules ie. for administrative purposes.

Immigration detention is a major plank in UK immigration policy. The UK Borders Agency claims that detention is necessary to facilitate removal and is used only as a last resort and for the shortest time possible, when removal is imminent and travel documents

available. The Joint Committee on Human Rights report 'Treatment of Asylum Seekers', in 2007, found evidence that detention was used as a deterrent and also its application was arbitrary in many cases.

People detained for the purpose of 'removal'

- a) Asylum seekers deemed failed. Many have had poor or no legal representation. Cases often have not been properly heard. Many detainees are torture victims. Disbelief even in the face of evidence, is common. People are returned to areas of conflict such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Somalia.
- b) Overstayers. People who came legally, with a visa, but at some point failed to renew it or regularise their status here. In some cases they have been here for 20 or 30 years and have all their family here. Detention and removal contravenes their right to family life under Article 8 of the ECHR.
- c) Foreign National Offenders. These are people who have committed a crime, served their sentence and get double punishment, immigration detention and a deportation order. Many previously had refugee status indefinite leave to remain, but lose it.
- d) Detainees wanting to go home often wait in detention for months before travel documents are obtained.

Alternatives to detention are not considered, such as allowing people the dignity of working to support themselves, as they do in Canada. Victims of torture are denied their rights even when independent medical evidence is overwhelming. Bail is refused for reasons such as ‘will abscond’, ‘is a danger to the British public’ (often for working without a permit), ‘has used deception to enter the UK so cannot be believed’ - none of which need to be justified by the Immigration Judges. Many detainees are held for months, some for years. In some cases removal is not possible, usually where those held are deemed to be stateless or there is a nationality dispute.

The human cost for detainees of the whole detention “industry” is unacceptable. It is well documented that immigration detention has a devastating effect on the mental health of asylum seekers and other detainees. The many cases of self harm and attempted suicides in detention are evidence of this.

The massive financial burden for the taxpayer is another story. The average cost to detain one person for a year is about £45,000 (Hansard, Column WA67, 4/2/2010). The private security firms who run most of the eleven Removal Centres are making huge profits.

## **Bail Observation Project – Phase 2**

The Bail Observation Project was established in 2010 in response to concerns about the immigration bail process. The first report *Immigration Bail Hearings: a Travesty of Justice? Observations from the Public Gallery* was published in 2011. There have been further developments since the publication of the report and new guidance has been issued for immigration judges (now known as First Tier Tribunal Judges). It therefore seemed timely to undertake a second systematic study of immigration bail hearings. As in the previous study this is the work of volunteer lay observers.

Between February and August 2012 twenty three volunteers carried out observations of 212 immigration bail hearings for 220 applicants in four different courts, under 45 different judges. Bail was granted in 76 cases and refused in 98, and 46 applications were withdrawn.

A quarter of applicants (58) came from the South Asian countries of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and a further 11 applicants came from Afghanistan. It was not possible to ascertain the nationality of some applicants. A third (82) of all applicants required interpretation.



***New report due out in the new year***

There was substantial variation in the conduct of the hearings and a disturbing lack of consistency in approach and process. There was much disparity between judges. The standard was set by those who maintained their independence, treated all the parties in court with respect and ensured that the process was understood, that interpretation was appropriate and comprehensive and who actively guided those applicants who had no legal representative to speak for them. However, this was not a common standard. In many instances the judge did not seem to act independently, but accepted the

Home Office case as outlined in the bail summary without question, did not give adequate time for interpretation, or help those applicants without legal representation. Some judges were described by observers as hectoring or even ranting and rude.

New guidance for First Tier Tribunal Judges (formerly known as Immigration Judges) was published in July 2011 and revised in June 2012 but we found little evidence that issues addressed by the guidance, such as the length of detention, were being taken into account as a matter of course. Detainees had been held for periods ranging from a few days to more than two years. There is no fixed time limit. This uncertainty adds to the stress of detention and the resulting mental health issues which the Gatwick Detainee Support Group has recently described in *A Prison in the Mind*.

Video link has become standard for most hearings as it is regarded as cost effective. However, there is a human cost - the process is stressful for detainees who sit alone in a room in the detention centre while their sureties, lawyer (if they have one) and interpreter (if needed) must all attend the court. All too frequently there were technical problems with poor sound, inadequate lighting or

mechanical breakdown. Sometimes it seemed that the judge could not see the detainee well. There is a particular difficulty when interpretation is needed.

We conclude that there has been little substantive change since the report of our first study was published in 2011: there is still a lack of consistency in every aspect of the hearing process. However, we feel that our public presence in the courts has been noted and was welcomed by some judges. We have found more cases in this wider sample of good practice which could set a benchmark. There remains a need for monitoring and accountability, and for public scrutiny if justice is to be done and also seen to be done.

### **BID – Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID)**

BID was set up in 1998 to provide a dedicated and free bail service to detained asylum seekers and migrants. It is a registered charity and receives funds from donations, charitable trusts etc. There is no government funding. The headquarters is in London with offices in Portsmouth and Oxford.

In 2011/12, BID offices supported 2,509 people - almost 500 more than in the previous year, despite a small reduction in staffing at BID. We ran bail workshops

and legal surgeries in six centres and a total of 1,228 people attended these.

Again, this was an increase of more than 400 on last year's total. Slightly fewer Bail applications were prepared – 260 as compared to 265 in 2010/11. Of the 191 applications that were heard in court, 72 were successful. This is a 37% success rate, as compared to the national success rate for all bail applications of 30%, and this in the context of BID taking on the most difficult cases. Of people we supported, 506 were released.

### ***BID Oxford***

BID Oxford opened in 2001 to work locally with immigration detainees at Campsfield and Bullingdon Prison (both in Oxon.). We still focus on Campsfield IRC (216 places) but as the detention estate has expanded we have grown and now also cover Brook House, near Gatwick (400 places) and some people in Morton Hall in Lincolnshire, which opened last year, as well as our clients who have been moved about.

Our prime function is to get people out of immigration detention.

- 1) Preparing and arranging bail hearings in court with pro bono barristers.
- 2) Making written applications for Temporary Admission to the Chief Immigration Officer.
- 3) Helping detainees run their own bail hearings, where they represent

themselves. Shortage of pro bono barristers has created the need for this, and the numbers requesting help.

BID's *Notebook on Bail: how to get out of detention* helps detainees cope with representing themselves. This is available in libraries at most centres. <http://www.bing.com/search?q=Notebook+on+Bail%3A+how+to+get+out+of+detention&qs=n&form=QBRE&pq=notebook+on+bail%3A+how+to+get+out+of+detention&sc=0-0&sp=-1&sk=>

### UK Detention Forum

In October 2012, 30 campaigning, church and voluntary organisations put their weight behind a three-pronged approach to challenge the government's policy and practice in immigration detention, specifically in the first instance to challenge:

- The practice of locking people up without time limit
- The lack of adequate judicial oversight of who, why, or for how long, people are locked up
- The practice of locking up people the law would describe as vulnerable.

Around 70 groups are loosely allied to the detention forum (see website [www.detentionforum.wordpress](http://www.detentionforum.wordpress)); the

Oxfordshire-based Close Campsfield Campaign, Barbed Wire Britain, the Coalition Against Bullingdon IRC, and the Bail Observation Project are among them. The broad membership includes groups ranging from those who think immigration detention is necessary, but currently full of bad practice which needs changing, through to groups such as Close Campsfield and Barbed Wire Britain, that want such detention abolished altogether.

This leads to inevitable tensions; for members of unfunded campaigning groups like ours, working alongside people who want to work with the Immigration Minister to change practice can at times feel like treading water. Some workers of funded organisations who visit and support migrants do not wish to prioritise ending detention altogether, and so do not raise this in their discussions with civil servants, the UKBA or parliamentarians.

But the approach we have all endorsed is one that gets as many people as possible to be dismayed at the practice of detention, with the aim of producing a sea change in parliament and, ultimately, a change of law. All of us are committed to getting elements of practice and policy changed, and any change in the right direction, small or large is



worth fighting for – and the more people and groups fighting for these changes the better.

So we continue to support this work, including forthcoming approaches to big community organisations like the trades Unions, Women’s Institutes or Amnesty, and a range of religious groups, as well as to many parliamentarians and to organisations in parliament such as the Joint Committee on Human Rights, and the Home Affairs Committee. We’re not going to get rid of detention without creating a landslide of awareness and a vast shift in active public opinion – and we are determined to work for this change, however we can.

This report will be discussed at the Barbed Wire Britain meeting on 24 November, after the 2012 Anniversary Demonstration.

### **Migreurop**

In 2002, human rights organisations gathered during the European Social Forum in Florence decided to act as a network to document and denounce the growing development of immigration detention centres across Europe, in particular through the use of maps of detention camps

<[http://www.migreurop.org/IMG/pdf/L\\_Europe\\_des\\_camps\\_2009.pdf](http://www.migreurop.org/IMG/pdf/L_Europe_des_camps_2009.pdf)>

updated regularly. Ten years later, 43 NGOs from 16 countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East have

joined MIGREUROP, a membership which reflects the reality of ‘Fortress Europe’: border control, detention, deportation and the externalisation of this policy to third countries to contain migrants away from the Europe Union. The updated 2012 map available in MIGREUROP’s Atlas on Migration shows the intensification of detention in a variety of detention sites: closed reception centres for asylum-seekers, police stations, immigration detention centres, pre-departure accommodation centres. The Atlas is available in French <<http://www.migreurop.org/article2210.html?lang=fr>> and will be published in English in early 2013.

### **Recent publications**

‘ “Vile liars and truth distorters”: Truth, trust and the asylum system’, Melanie Griffiths, *Anthropology Today*, vol. 28, no.5, October 2012 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8322.2012.00896.x/pdf>

“”Get me out of here”: Bail hearings of people indefinitely detained for immigration purposes’, Caroline White, *Anthropology Today*, vol. 28, no.3,, pp. 3-6(4), June 2012 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8322.2012.00870.x/abstract>

*NCADC Campaigning Toolkit:*

*An aid to understanding the asylum and immigration systems, and campaigning for the right to stay*  
[http://www.ncadc.org.uk/toolkit/toolkit\\_web.pdf](http://www.ncadc.org.uk/toolkit/toolkit_web.pdf)

***A workshop to introduce this guide to people in Oxford will take place early in 2013. For details contact NCADC South or the Campsfield campaign. [lisa@ncadc.org.uk](mailto:lisa@ncadc.org.uk)***

The Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (GDWG) has published a study, *Prison in the Mind*, on the mental health effects of immigration detention based on case studies conducted at Brook House.

NB 'It may be inappropriate to label these symptoms as mental health problems, and instead could be seen as a normal reaction to the circumstances that long-term detainees find themselves in.'

<http://www.gdwg.org.uk/downloads/GDWG-PrisonInTheMind.pdf>

UNHCR Detention Guidelines 2012  
<http://www.unhcr.org/505b10ee9.html>  
'UNHCR is particularly concerned that detention is in growing use in a number of countries. Our research shows that irregular migration is not deterred even by stringent detention practices, and that practical alternatives to detention do exist. In addition, there are well-known negative and at times serious physical and psychological consequences for

asylum-seekers in detention.' – Alice Edwards, UNHCR

Pluto has published two important books recently on borders, immigration and refugee rights.

These are Alexandra Hall's *Border Watch: Cultures of Immigration, Detention and Control* (Pluto, 2012) and Frances Webber's *Borderline Justice: The Fight for Refugee and Migrant Rights* (Pluto, 2012).

Review By Don Flynn of the former:  
<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/2012/09/immigration-detention-not-peripheral-issue-condensed-essence-immigration-control>

NCADC recently gave a relaunch on its site of the 2009 prize-winning film on detention in the UK, *1000 Voices*:  
<http://vimeo.com/6946061>

### **Good websites:**

<http://calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.ncadc.org.uk/mrn>

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/>

<http://stopdeportations.wordpress.com/>

<http://noborders.org.uk/>

[irr.org.uk](http://irr.org.uk)

## **Oxford groups**

### **Asylum Welcome**

Supports refugees, asylum seekers and immigration detainees in Oxford and Oxfordshire. 01865 722082  
[office@asylum-welcome.org](mailto:office@asylum-welcome.org)

### **Bail for Immigration Detainees**

BID prepares bail hearings for detainees; makes written applications for Temporary Admission; helps detainees run their own bail hearing. BID, Methodist Church Centre, Jeune Street, Oxford, OX4 1BN. Tel. 01865 200 357. Fax 01865 793 009. Mobile 07824 877 508 [ionel@biduk.org](mailto:ionel@biduk.org)  
[www.biduk.org](http://www.biduk.org)

### **Campaign to Close Campsfield**

works to close the immigration detention centre at Kidlington and all others, campaigns for rights of detainees and against immigration detention everywhere. 01865 558145.  
[Closecampsfield.wordpress.com](http://Closecampsfield.wordpress.com),  
[info@closecampsfield.org.uk](mailto:info@closecampsfield.org.uk),

### **Freedom From Torture**

(formerly Medical Foundation). Cares for survivors of torture. Oxford supporters group:  
[halcyon.leonard@ntlworld.com](mailto:halcyon.leonard@ntlworld.com) or  
01865 452783.  
([www.torturecare.org.uk](http://www.torturecare.org.uk))

### **Medical Justice**

Trains local doctors to give independent medical advice to detainees. Arranges for medico legal reports, campaigns for improved health care. [mjoxford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mjoxford@yahoo.co.uk)  
All referrals for medical reports:  
[med@medicaljustice.org.uk](mailto:med@medicaljustice.org.uk)

### **NoBorders**

Network of groups resisting migration controls and the persecution, detention and exploitation of migrants. Practical solidarity and direct action; working towards a world with no borders.  
[noborders.org.uk](http://noborders.org.uk), Oxford:  
<http://noborders.theoarc.org.uk/>

### **Open Door**

Weekly drop-in 11-4 Thursdays for refugees and asylum seekers, hot meal, games, signposting advice, East Oxford Community Centre. Contact:  
[jo.moffett-levy@virginmedia.com](mailto:jo.moffett-levy@virginmedia.com)

### **Oxford Migrant Solidarity**

Supportive group showing solidarity with and visiting people in detention in Oxford. Communicating despite the fences. Contact: [oms@riseup.net](mailto:oms@riseup.net)

### **Refugee Resource**

Counselling and therapeutic activities, employment advice, mentoring and coaching. Old Music Hall, 106-8 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JE. Tel. 01865 403 280 / 0845

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**CAMPSFIELD MONITOR**

458 0055. [www.refugeeresource.org/](http://www.refugeeresource.org/)  
[info@refugeeresource.org](mailto:info@refugeeresource.org)

**Trade unions**

In workplaces, active to a greater or lesser degree in support of migrant workers. To contact appropriate union, contact secretary of Oxford & District Trades Union Council [oxfordtuc@aim.com](mailto:oxfordtuc@aim.com), or tel. 01865 558145.

**Visit a detainee!** Contact the Campaign or Oxford Migrant Support or Asylum Welcome (see above)



**Campaign to Close Campsfield**

[Closecampsfield.wordpress.com](http://Closecampsfield.wordpress.com)  
[info@closecampsfield.org.uk](mailto:info@closecampsfield.org.uk)  
01865 558145 / 01993 703 994

**Demonstrate:** last Saturday of the month at noon.

**Meetings:** first Tuesday, 7.30, Oxford Town Hall

**Email list:** To join, send an email to [closecampsfield-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:closecampsfield-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)



*Photo of Campsfield on UK BA website. Will Campsfield now be rebranded 'The Weeping Willow', in the style of 'The Cedars', and sundry 'Houses' (Brook, Tinsley, Campsfield itself) dotted around the UK?*

