

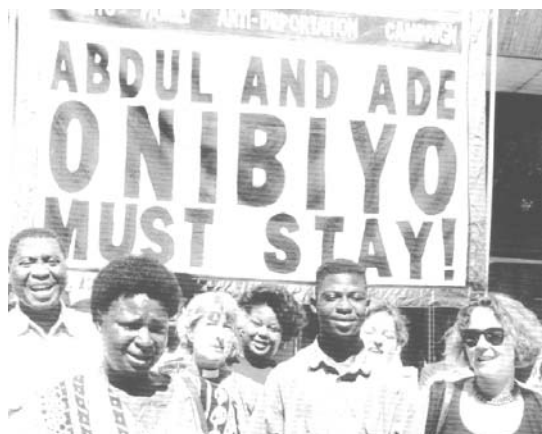
NATIONAL COALITION OF ANTI-DEPORTATION CAMPAIGNS

ANNUAL REPORT 1997-98

Our last AGM, was held on Saturday 7 June 1997, in Downs Baptist Church, Hackney, London. The venue and time were significant, the Ogunwobi family had been in Sanctuary there for over three years, a new Labour Government had been in office for a month and the family was still threatened with deportation. However a few weeks after the AGM the Ogunwobis were told they could stay in the UK. One of the UKs longest sanctuary came to an end in the midst of emotional scenes.

We start this report by congratulating the Ogunwobis for their persistence, endurance and above all their courage. And recognise that members of the Ogunwobi Campaign and many individuals and organisations who had done a lot of hard work during the three long years, in which the family remained inside the church. The congregation of Downs Baptist Church, who not only provided the family with sanctuary but made it possible to sustain it through to a successful end. Sadly, no body will ever be able to compensate the family for the lost three years of their life.

There were other good news, Prakash and Prem, from B,ham won their six year fight against the Home Office. As did Florence Okolo and her children from Manchester. Albert Tong who was deported to Ireland, in 1996, is now back in the UK, with his wife Becky and daughter Monica. Ekram Gokce was removed to Turkey in September 97, on arrival in Turkey he was arrested and detained, is now back in Barrow-in-Furness with his wife Jane. We have just heard that Kwabena Ampofo, who was deported to Ghana, in August 96, has been given entry clearance to join his wife Helen in the Republic of Ireland. We have listed 22 other campaigns which have won since the last AGM. We would like to mention two campaigns by name, which were well fought and



Abdul, Joyce and Ade Onibiyo

convincingly won against the will and might of the Home Office.

(1) Mohammed Siddique, a Kashmiri political activist from B,ham, had been living in the UK since 1964. He was imprisoned for 15 years for allegedly kidnapping and imprisoning an Indian diplomat. On his release he was re-imprisoned by the Home Secretary Michael Howard on the Grounds that his presence was not "conducive to the public good" and that he should be deported. A very militant and vocal campaign based in the heart of the Kasmiri community in

B,ham, was fought for two years. The Immigration Appeals Tribunal, ruled that Siddique, could not be deported because they were satisfied that he was settled in the UK before the Deportation law (Immigration Act 1971) came into effect. In fact the Tribunal were very annoyed that the Home Office were even trying to deport Siddique.

(2) The second and the most political of our campaigns was that of the Onibiyo Family. Abdul and Joyce Onibiyo had been settled in the UK since 1964. They went back to live and work in Nigeria. Abdul was a human Rights activist in Nigeria, things did not turn out to be as good as the family expected. On their return to the UK, they were refused returning residents status. An application for Asylum by Abdul was turned down. He was deported to Nigeria and their son Ade to Guyana. Joyce and her daughters Toro and Yemi, were served with deportation notices by the Home Office.

When the new Labour Government came into power, Joyce appealed to Jack Straw the new Home Secretary to rescind the deportation orders on herself and daughters and to allow her husband and son back into the UK, this plea was flatly rejected.

Joyce's Asylum appeal, was heard before a special adjudica-



Mohammad Siddique (fourth from right) with supporters at his successful appeal in London



Anwele, Anwule and Florence Okolo

tor and allowed, the adjudicator made recommendations that Abdul and Ade, should be allowed back into the UK. Finally the Home Office conceded. The Onibiyo family were reunited in November of last year.

In pursuing other deportations the Minister for Immigration Mike O'Brien has been beating his own drum of humanity and compassion in allowing the Onibiyo's to be united, however the facts are otherwise, it was not until the adjudicators decision went against the Home Office, that he showed compassion.

The victory of the Onibiyo Campaign has been an inspiration and lesson for other campaigns around the country. Despite enormous odds and at time terrible set-backs the campaign never gave up and the successful outcome is a tribute to their unstoppable endurance.

Abdul, Joyce and their daughter Lola are now very active members of NCADC, and travel around the country supporting other anti-deportation campaigns.

Since last year only one campaign lost (Kani Yilmaz, deported to Germany), and 28 new campaigns have started.

In May 1995, we started with 26 campaigns, in 1996 it rose to 56, in 1997 to 74 and this year we passed the 100 mark.

The number of people fighting deportation involved in the NCADC are just the tip of an iceberg the actual number of people against whom deportation actions are taken and enforced is extremely high. Latest figures available from the Home Office say that this year, in January, 520 persons were deported, 505 in February 505 and 550 in March.

Previous yearly figures:total deportations 1991 to 1997

1991	1992	1993	994	1995	1996	1997
5,800	6,210	6,080	5,110	5,000	5,250	6240

1997, saw the highest number of deportations ever with 6,240 persons being deported, another 24,375 person were refused and removed, this simply means that with every hour that passed in 1997, three people were booted out of the UK, provisional figures for 1998, show the same average.

Detention with out charge (internment) under Immigration rules, still remains alarmingly high at around 800 people on any given day, women and children included, (in 1997 the age range of those interned, was from three months old).

Protests and hunger strikes have continued inside detention centres, and detention prisons. A major disturbance took place

in Campsfield Detention centre in August last year, when Group 4 tried to transfer 2 detainees to prison. Nine Asylum Seekers from Nigeria, Gambia, Ghana and Liberia were charged with violent disorder and riot, which carries a maximum ten-year sentence. The trial of the Campsfield Nine, at Oxford Crown Court, collapsed after 11 days.

Much of the evidence was recorded on security cameras and it was this video evidence which, time and time again, showed Group 4 officers not to be telling the truth.

John Allen in charge of Control and Restraint) denied holding a detainee by the neck during removal, but is shown on video to be doing exactly this, in what looks like a strangulation hold.

This was a magnificent victory for the Campsfield Nine, interned and imprisoned they stood solidly together against the might of the Home Secretary Jack Straw and won.

An Early Day Motion, was tabled in the House of Commons on 15 July 1997. All the points raised in the EDM, (signed by 196 MPs from all parties) have been upheld in Sir David Ramsbotham's report on Campsfield.

EDM 253 Detention of Asylum Seekers:

"That this House welcomes the Government's decision to review the procedures under which asylum seekers are detained; notes the view of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that 'as a general rule, asylum seekers should not be detained' and that, in so far as such detention occurs, 'it should

be proportional to the ends to be achieved and for a minimal period', is gravely concerned that decisions to detain asylum seekers are not subject to automatic and independent review, with a presumption in favour of liberty as provided for in criminal cases under the Bail Act 1976; believes that asylum seekers who are detained should be informed in writing of the reasons for their detention; further believes that, in so far as detention occurs, asylum seekers should not be held in prisons unless charged with criminal offences; and calls on the Government to ensure that future practice meets these concerns and conforms with the fundamental principles of refugee protection and relevant international standards."



Prakash and Prem Chavrimootoo

The officers of the Coalition held 6 meetings, which were all held in London. There have been 3 national meetings (2 in London, 1 in B,ham) in which campaigns from all over the country have taken part. Both co-ordinator's and officers of the coalition have given advice to numerous individuals, with very good results. Have taken part in many of the activities of individual



NCADC lobby of Parliament April 1998

campaigns and with members from different campaigns joined the picket outside Oxford Crown Court, in support of the Campsfield Nine.

4 Newsletters (7,8,9,10) 1,000 copies of each, have been produced and distributed to campaigns, community centres, trade unions, and individuals active in the Anti-Deportation movement.

In addition to news of old and new campaigns, regular reports on what was happening in detention centres, detention prisons which held immigration detainees.

Stories of the struggle of "Sans Papiers" (No 7); Asylum Seekers in detention in the Netherlands (No 8); a hunger strike by immigration detainees in Toronto West Detention Centre, Canada (No 8); Pre-deportation detention in Austria, (No 8); harassment of taxi-drivers by police in Germany for carrying foreign passengers-allegedly helping illegal immigrants to cross Germany's eastern border (No 9), treatment of Slovak Romas in Dover (No 9), were some of the headline stories.

The Newsletters also reproduced articles from "Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit" (GMIAU) the titles were as follows "What's Love got to do with it" which deals with the issues of racism, sexuality and immigration controls (No 8) "the Unhealthy History of Immigration Controls". If you have not already read them we recommend that you get the back copies of the Newsletter, your endeavours might be rewarded. A limited number of old copies of the Newsletter are kept in stock for



Supporters of the Campsfield Nine

interested readers and researchers-to obtain back copies, write to NCADC.

The coalition organised a "Lobby of Parliament" on 29 April 98, which was attended by up to 300 people. A rally in the afternoon in the House of Commons was addressed by 24 people facing deportation themselves along with 4 MPs and 2 officers of the coalition to voice the demands.

"Reunite Dived Families" "Review All Immigration Laws"
 "Stop Deportations-Amnesty For All" "Restore Benefits"
 "End detention Under Asylum Law"

On the international front, we took part in a two day conference in Amsterdam in June 97, organised by "United for Intercultural Action", we have been invited to send delegates to their conference in Dublin, in October this year.

NCADC is planning to send a delegation to Germany in August/September to join the "Caravan for the Rights of Refugees and Immigrants" which will be going from city to city in Germany to highlight the plight of refugees.

Finance: At the start of the financial year in April 98, it looked like that the coalition had only secured £10,000 From "Barrow Cadburys' Trust" leaving a shortfall of £19,000 for the year. A focussed and energetic search for new funds produced results. an extra grant of £5,000 from "Barrow Cadburys'



Ogunwobi Family outside Downs Baptist Church

Trust". Grants of £7,000 from "Joseph Rowntree's Charitable Trust" and £7,000 from "Lord Ashdown Charitable Trust", has made up the deficit. New funding applications are being prepared for the National Lotteries Board and all our current funders, for future years.

We must record the understanding shown by Dipali Chandra of "Barrow Cadburys' Trust" Stephen Pittam of "Joseph Rowntree's Charitable Trust" and Dr Richard Stone of "Lord Ashdown Charitable Trust", we thank them all.

In May 97 there was a change of government, which gave us new hope and raised expectations. The new government, abolished the "primary purpose rule" governing marriage applicants, they have promised and are carrying out an overall review of Immigration policies, rules and laws as we write. Some hopeful soundings have been reported, we will have to wait and see what comes of the Review. However the Labour Government is acting and implementing the laws as they have existed for many years and following the procedures devised by the previous and very hostile government.

Small groups of people in local communities still stand up for Rights and Justice, our determination to help them is Sovereign, beyond party politics and beyond the colour of the government. we shall continue to resist all deportations.

One area of growing support for individual campaigns. are from teachers and children of schools, where pupils are facing deportation. Children from Haggerston School, Hackney who spoke at the NUT, national conference in April, received a standing ovation. Many NUT branches are sending donations to the coalition. Likewise UNISON, who are still solid in campaigns involving their members or members of their families. We will continue to build on this support.

Election of officers:

Muhammad Idrish	Chair	(Birmingham)
Pierre Makhoulf	Secretary	(London)
John Stewart	Treasurer	(London)
Joyce Onibiyo	Vice-chair	(London)
Florence Okolo	Vice-chair	(Manchester)
Susan Zheng	Vice-chair	(Leeds)
Margaret Deasey	Vice-chair	(London)

John O and Luke Rooney were re-appointed as Co-ordinator's



Before I end I would like to thank all the officers of the Coalition and many supporters up and down the country and both co-ordinator's John O from B,ham and Luke Rooney from London-no amount of remuneration can fully compensate their hard work.

Md Idrish

Muhammad Idrish Chair NCADC

The following campaigns have all won since the last AGM

Ade Banjo	(London)	(won)
Adeel Akthar & Son	(London)	(won)
Albert Tong	(Cornwall)	(won)
Beatrice Osei	(London)	(won)
Bridget Tongo & Children	(London)	(won)
Cheung Family	(Manchester)	(won)
Christian Okeahalam	(London)	(won)
Ekrem Gokce	(Barrow)	(won)
Fatma Tahir & Family	(London)	(won)
Lashley Family	(Manchester)	(won)
Mohammed Bashir	(B.ham)	(won)
Mohammed Saddique	(B.ham)	(won)
Mumtaz Begum	(Bristol)	(won)
Nagat Tornish	(Manchester)	(won)
Nnalue Family Campaign	(London)	(won)
Ogunfolami Family	(London)	(won)
Okolo Family	(Manchester)	(won)
Ogunwobi Family	(London)	(won)
Onibiyo Family	(London)	(won)
Prakash & Prem	(B.ham)	(won)
Rabah Laoufi	(London)	(won)
Susan Zheng	(Leeds)	(won)
Tony Milla	(London)	(won)

Winning campaigns at AGM 1997

Adegboye Family	(Edinburgh)	(won)
Aladesenwa Family	(Manchester)	(won)
Aldebs Family	(Cambridge)	(won)
Atia Idrees	(Manchester)	(won)
Audrey Grant	(B.Ham)	(won)
Ganiat Lasoye	(London)	(won)
Gemma Harries	(Cardiff)	(won)
Helen Samuel	(London)	(won)
Hema Patel	(Birmingham)	(won)
Kamlawtee Wells	(Cambridge)	(won)
Karamjit Singh Chahal	(Southall)	(won)
Mamta Chopra	(Bradford)	(won)
Mircea Ilin	(London)	(won)
Morayo Scanlon	(Glasgow)	(won)
Naheed Firdus	(Leeds)	(won)
Ogunjinmi Family	(London)	(won)
Rabil-Ul-Islam	(London)	(won)
Ragbhir Singh	(B.ham)	(won)
Rakosi Family	(Bristol)	(won)
Ram Family	(Southall)	(won)
Sabina Mbiri	(Stockport)	(won)
Sarada Beerling	(Somerset)	(won)
Shelia Agha	(London)	(won)
Tess & Kate	(Leamington)	(won)
Usman Family	(Manchester)	(won)

Only one campaign lost since the last AGM

Kani Yilmaz (London) (deported)

New campaigns since the last AGM

Abdul Kadir	(Middlesbrough)
Abdul Mahmoud	(Bedford)
Alphonse Kouassi	(London)
Amoaka-Atta	(London)
Buba Barrow	(B.ham)
Capti Family	(London)
Chander Gautham	(London)
Dandjiru Family	(London)
Gillean Achu & Children	(London)
Iqbal Family	(Bury)
Lafti Family	(London)
Lemba Family	(London)
Lepa Dzolic	(B.ham)
Lian Hu Su & Family	(Manchester)
Mary Njuguna	(London)
Mehmet Ali Altun	(Norwich)
Michelle Ricablanca	(Manchester)
Nigat, Jahed, Junaed & Abrar	(Birmingham)
Omoregie Family	(London)
Ovienrioba Family Campaign	(London)
Romaiin & Marcel Must Stay	(London)
Sengul Family	(London)
Watuzola Family	(London)

The following campaigns are still active

Abdullah Hussein	(Sheffield)
Anwar Ul Haq	(Manchester)
Bayo Omoyiola	(Liverpool)
Emmuel Eboka	(London)
Samia Batool Shah	(Leeds)
Firmin Gnali	(Birmingham)
Matabo Matikani-Kabongo	(London)
Nanga Family	(London)
Ozbay Family	(London)
Pauline MST	(London)
Wale Croft	(London)

Lloyd Bent (London) (removed)

Campaigns that have lost

John Gotlip	(Edinburgh)	(deported)
Ibrahim Alaka	(Uxbridge)	(deported)
Kwabena Ampofo	(London)	(deported)
Samuel Dibia	(London)	(deported)
Thersa Obeng-Konadu	(London)	(deported)

To contact NCADC

Co-ordinator John O

Phone 0121 554 6947

London Area

Vice-Chair
Joyce Onibiyo

Vice-Chair
Margaret Deasey
0171 263 7358

London Co-ordinator

Luke Rooney
0181 503 6628

West Midlands Area

Chair Muhammad Idrish
Birmingham 0121 523 0580

North West Area

Vice-Chair
Florence Okolo
Manchester 0161 232 8095

Vice-Chair
Susan Zheng
Leeds 0113 243 0219