

# ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9

**NCADC has been supporting individuals, families and communities to campaign against deportation for 14 years.**

**In 2008/9 NCADC has helped 81 anti-deportation Campaigns go public.**

## **Mafungasei Maikokera Is Here To Stay**

### **Statement by a successful campaigner**

*Firstly I would like to say a big Thank You to NCADC, NO-Borders, Barbed Wire Britain and all I cannot mention by name but contributed in my fight for freedom including Fisher Meredith, Birnberg Pierce, all the students and lecturers at Leeds University especially the MA students in Activism and Social Change for 07-08 you were an inspiration not forgetting my Lord Jesus Christ.*

*I claimed asylum in 2002 in 2004 I was detained went through police cells to detention centres all in the name of looking for sanctuary went through thick and thicker not thin to the point of getting assaulted by Government authorities – escorts living under slum landlords who use their power to abuse us verbally and mentally just walking in our bedrooms as if its their own telling you if you complain that will affect your asylum case. Isn't that intimidation stealing from vulnerable people living on £35 of vouchers per week and expected to collect them from the housing providers office where one has to get a bus and also supposed to go and sign at the Home Office without them paying for your bus ticket and being told to walk as you will be expected to sign or face being locked up in Guantanamo/Belmarsh detention centres.*

*My fellow brothers and sisters I went through it all but only conquered this year when received my status on the 2nd of April so if it means setting a campaign please go ahead because you fight to win not to loose cause if you go for war be prepared to die or to survive the fight still goes on. I am a survivor and will keep on surviving never give up until you make it.*

*Aluta Continua.*

*Mafungasei Maikokera*

## **CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION**

Things are never easy in the fight against deportations. People face continuing hardship as they campaign to stay, and ever tougher rules and ever more expensive procedures to go through. Now more than ever, we at NCADC are proud to offer some small support to people who fight their campaigns, and respectful and admiring of those determined individuals and families who have won their right to stay during the year.

This has been a year of changes for NCADC. One of our two workers, Emma Ginn, who has done a huge amount for NCADC and many anti-deportation campaigns over the past few years has left to join Medical Justice, where we wish her every success. Our funding is more secure now thanks to Lankelly Chase, Rowntree Esme Fairbairn and Barrow Cadbury so we are in the process of recruiting one or more workers to bring us back to strength so we can do more in the coming year. But despite only having one worker, with the support of a strong management committee, a special grant from Barrow Cadbury to put on local training sessions, and the dedication of the existing worker John O and Nellie de Jongh who has occasionally deputised for him, we have maintained a strong presence. The coming year will see more changes, more actions, and we hope an even stronger network of support to even more successful campaigns to stay. – *Romain Ngouabeu*



*Romain Ngouabeu (left), chair of NCADC 2008/9. Romain represented NCADC at meetings of Strangers Into Citizens, the regularisation campaign. (For a critique of the SiC proposal, see back page.) He and other Management Committee members also organised a picket, with the Barbed Wire Britain network, of the European Union's London office in June 2008 to protest at the 'Returns Directive'.*

## **THIS YEAR / LAST YEAR**

This time last year UKBA were unable to remove people to Zimbabwe and DR Congo, pending the outcome of two country Guidance cases, 'Zimbabwe – RN v SSHD' and 'DR Congo – BK v SSHD'. Both cases were resolved late in 2008. Two different results, RN was won by the people, the government won BK.

So, many hundreds of Zimbabweans who fought to stay in the UK and resisted all attempts to remove them from the UK are now getting leave to remain in the UK on the back of the RN judgement. Many hundreds of DR Congolese (who also resisted against removal) are now being removed from the UK on the back of the BK judgement.

Two different results, which highlight the insouciance of the immigration courts to the reality of daily violence in countries that drive people to seek asylum. There is no argument that both Zimbabwe and DR Congo are failed states and that millions of Zimbabwean's and DR Congolese are externally/internally displaced and there is not the slightest sign of a return to normality. For many DR Congolese, life is a daily diet of deprivation–displacement–death at the hands of both government and non-state agencies, rape of women is endemic, but the UK immigration courts say DR Congo is safe.

There has been a significant rise this year in the number of faith groups (more than welcome) getting involved in Anti-Deportation Campaigns, mostly in the north east/west of the UK.

Also, a rise in the number of fairly regular 'ethnic charter flights': Jamaica, Nigeria, KRG have joined Afghanistan and eastern Europe as regular destination countries for mass removals.

The number of people contacting NCADC seeking help to find free legal advice (to pursue their failed claims) has risen 1,000%; unfortunately we were unable to assist. This does not include those contacting NCADC after first refusal and their legal representative declining to represent them at appeal, whether for lack of legal aid or what is to our minds a 'lack of duty of care', deciding there is no merit in appealing.

### **ANTI DEPORTATION CAMPAIGNS SUPPORTED BY NCADC – UPDATES ON COUNTRIES**

**June 2008:** New campaigns: Prossy Kakoozam, Jonathan Kazembe, Tracey and Ericka, Asad Gul Alban, Kemi, Taiwo and Yasmin Salami.

**Chad, Djibouti/Eritrea, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe, all experienced deteriorating situations.**

**July 2008:** New campaigns: Pedro Fernando, Bridget O'Koro and Osaivibie, Sarwar Gareb, Kamal Begi, Alliance Ngondiop, Anselme Noubiwa.

**Afghanistan, India, Kashmir, Mongolia, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), Somalia, all experienced deteriorating situations.**

**August 2008:** New campaigns: Qin & Jian Wang, Ndeh Family.

**Algeria, Afghanistan, Bolivia, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Fiji, Kashmir, Mauritania, Philippines, Russia and Georgia, Somalia, Sudan, all experienced deteriorating situations.**



**September 2008:** New campaigns: Kris Family, Child M (Mehrshad Sadeghi), Bahman Mohammadi, Alkhader Family, Luc Antoine Sambou, Associate Nimpagaritse, Rana Karimizadeh, Irene & Nadeem, Fred Nukagem and family, Elsa and Bethlehem, Genevieve Adetoro.

**Bolivia, DR Congo, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Yemen, all experienced deteriorating situations.**

**October 2008:** New/revived campaigns: Brian, Chelsea and Selina, Mustafa Abdulrahim Mustafa, Kenny Olwole Ogunbowale, Christian Rodrigue Mbianga, Jane Mary Mutetsi, Abdi Ahmed, Feleke Eshetu, Anselme Noubiwa, Bahman Mohammadi, Stephane Siewe.

**DR Congo, India (non-Kashmir), North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), Peru, Somaliland (Somalia), Thailand, all experienced deteriorating situations.**

*'NCADC emails are a godsend; they keep you in touch with what is going on' – Gill Baden, BID*

## National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns

Dear Mr Byrne, I think you are being Primary and nursery  
 to hard on Selina and her Family because School  
 Brian has settled in great with lots of friends in year three, plus Chelsea is great when  
 she's in nursery play with her friends  
 why would you take them away  
 and why you be so nasty and send  
 them back to Ghana and what if  
 what if something bad happens  
 when they are in Ghana  
 signed by  
 Roma Class 5

'Dear Mr Byrne, why are you so nasty?' Letter from school class in support of the family of Selina Adda.

**November 2008:** New/revived campaigns: Oladipo Victor Aiyegbayo, Alliance Ngondiop, Constant Moussavou, Jila, Emad & Aref, Britain's youngest prisoners, Yves Yitgna Njitchoua, Mustafa Abdulrahim Mustafa.

**India, Kashmir, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Thailand, all experienced deteriorating situations.**

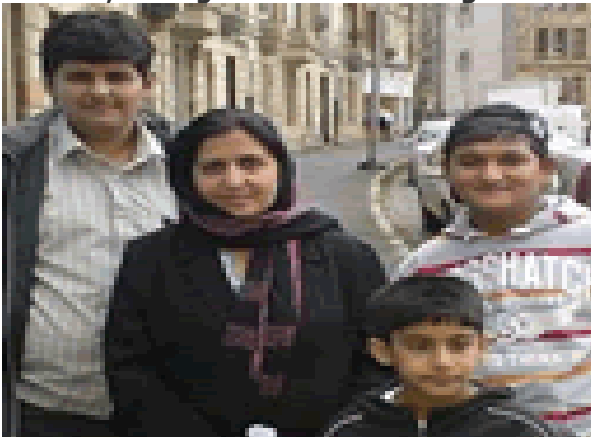


**December 2008:** New/revived campaigns: Taranjit Bajaj and Hussain, UK/Nigerian Families, Farhan Zakaria, Farouzan, Sahar and Reza.

**Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories, Guinea, Kashmir, DR Congo: deteriorating situation.**

**January 2009:** New campaigns: Abbas Ali Babakir, Raphael & Oluseye Shauba, Naverah Nuzhat Saleemi, Deare Hamanajam, Oluseye Shauba, Salome Chikuta, Leila Motakhabi, Rashida Yasmeen.

**Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories, Mali, Sri Lanka, Madagascar: deteriorating situation.**



Rashida and family

**February 2009:** New/revived campaigns: Patrick Masengo, Leila, Soorena and Danoushm, Satnam Singh Gurwara, Titi Nzamba Bolele, Elysee Mvovo Bonantadidi, Yahya Al Faifi, Assia Souhalia, Kesthona Kabuku Batekisa, Aude Okomba-Osako, Youyou Toromina Masamba, Delshad Zorab.

**Bangladesh, Guadeloupe, North Korea, Sri Lanka: deteriorating situations.**

**March 2009:** New campaigns: Sandrine Mbuyi Ntambwe, Alpha Mobodi.

**Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, North Korea, Northern Ireland, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan: deteriorating situations.**

**April 2009:** New campaigns, Eric Tcheujoue, Jeevitha & Neeraja, Helen Bih, Cherbal Family, Sulaiti & Gabriel Wahuyo, Zakir Ali Rostami, Ezatullah & Sifatutullah, Sunny Michael, Hasam Azizi, Eric Tcheujoue, Anselme Noubiwa, Ubaka Kenneth Nwosem.

**Fiji, Kenya, Moldova, Nepal, Fiji, Kenya, Moldova, Nepal: deteriorating situations.**

**May 2009:** New campaigns, Yambi Kanda, Dominic Mwafulirwa, Jean-Baptiste Foukong Bassime.

**Pakistan, Sri Lanka, DR Congo, Afghanistan: deteriorating situations.**



Guy Njike Campaign protest outside parliament, Guy is 'Here to Stay'

## EVENTS – A SAMPLE FROM OUR COMMUNICATIONS

**June 2008:**

- The UK Children's Commissioners' Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child was published.

*'The child's best interests are not a primary consideration in immigration decisions. Immigration control takes priority over human rights obligations to children seeking asylum and their families.'*

*'Nationality and immigration, including asylum, is reserved to the UK Government and this can lead to tensions between legislation, policy and practice at devolved and non-devolved levels. Across the UK, children seeking asylum experience serious breaches of their rights.'*

# National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns

## July 2008:

- Article 8 'Right to Family life' was strengthened by Law Lords

*'An appeal based on the right to family life against a refusal of asylum and leave to enter should not be dismissed routinely because policy required the appellant to leave the country to apply for entry clearance abroad.'*

*'Only comparatively rarely, certainly in family cases involving children, should an Article 8 appeal be dismissed on the basis that it would be proportionate and more appropriate for the appellant to apply for leave from abroad.'*

- Asylum Aid launches 'The rights of women seeking asylum: a charter'

*'Women come to the UK to seek protection from a range of human rights abuses abroad. Whilst some of their experiences, such as being detained for their political activities, are the same as men's, some of their experiences are gender specific. Many have suffered, or are at risk of, gender persecution, including rape or sexual violence, honour crimes, forced marriage, domestic violence or female genital mutilation in countries where the state fails to protect them.'*

*'In leaving behind everything that is familiar these women show remarkable courage. They deserve to be treated in a way that recognizes their particular needs as women and how their asylum claims are affected by their gender.'*

*'All asylum seekers have the right to be treated consistently, with fairness, dignity and respect in accordance with the UK's obligations under the international refugee and human rights conventions.'*

## August 2008:

- Report on an announced inspection of Yarl's Wood IRC by Anne Owers, HMCIP, published.

*'Escort vehicles with caged compartments were inappropriately used to transport children. – the average length of children's detention had increased and this had a detrimental effect on children and their families. – overall provision of health services was a concern – Children staying for more than a few days received an unsatisfactory educational experience and there were few activities outside school hours. – There was no evidence that children's individual needs were systematically taken into account when decisions to detain were made. Our interviews with detained children illustrated the effect of sudden arrest and detention on their wellbeing and reflected how scared they were while held in detention. – The standard of care delivery was reasonable for basic primary care, but some serious gaps in provision, including poor access and communication, impacted negatively on detainee wellbeing. Services for children were under-developed.'*

- Report on an announced inspection of Tinsley House IRC by Anne Owers, HMCIP, published.

*'Our principal concerns about safety related to children. While staff in the family centre made considerable efforts to support children and their families, they could do little to mitigate the damaging effects of their detention, the length of which often extended into days or even weeks. While support from local social services staff had improved, there was still a lack of appropriate care planning and no formal links with local children's safeguarding arrangements. Not all staff had received child protection training . . . . We were disturbed to observe some unprofessional conduct by external escort staff . . . . we were concerned to find two recent examples of forced medication applied to detainees threatening self-harm, which had not been subject to thorough review to ensure their appropriateness.. . . . We were particularly troubled by the plight of single women.. . . . Living conditions were appropriate for most detainees, but the conditions for single women were extremely poor.'*

## September 2008:

- 'Innocent Prisoners. The Scandal of Britain's Child Detainees': New Statesman launches an online campaign to highlight the plight of 'Children in Detention' which receives massive support.
- Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights for the Council of Europe, condemns UK's Asylum system.

*'Improvements must be introduced to strengthen effective respect for the rights of asylum-seekers and immigrants in the United Kingdom... The UK authorities should consider regulating the so-called "Detained Fast Track" by introducing special legislation fully in compliance with the standards laid down by the European Convention on Human Rights, 'This type of detention should in particular be forbidden for vulnerable persons, such as unaccompanied minors, for whom alternative measures should be provided seriously concerned about the reduction in legal aid to asylum-seekers ... asylum seekers should be kept in reception centres, not detention or removal premises... to limit drastically the use of administrative detention of migrants and recommended that a maximum time limit for such detention be introduced into domestic law.'*

*'... Further efforts are also needed to provide alternative solutions to detention for families and children... cases of ethnic Tamils subject to deportation to Sri Lanka ...[he] regretted that the authorities failed to resolve these at the national level, thus encumbering the over-burdened docket of the European Court of Human Rights.'*

## *National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns*

- Thomas Hammarberg also voices his concerns over the trend to criminalise the irregular entry and stay of migrants.

*'Criminalization is a disproportionate measure which exceeds a state's legitimate interest in controlling its borders. Such a method of controlling international movement corrodes established international law principles. It also causes many human tragedies without achieving its purpose of genuine control.'*

### **October 2008:**

- Landmark Case on Children

*'EM (Lebanon) v SSHD. [the] child in question was permitted to intervene in the proceedings ... the rights of children need to be separately considered ... [it] may be appropriate for children to be separately represented in some immigration proceedings. In the case of EM (Lebanon) v SSHD [2008] UKHL 64 the House of Lords looked at Article 8 again (having done so earlier this year as well) and delivered another landmark judgment. It is believed to be the first time in European legal history that a higher court has found that a future, foreign breach of a non-absolute human right would be sufficiently serious so as to prohibit the victim's removal to the country where there is a real risk the breach would take place.'*

### **November 2008:**

- 'Not white enough for the British, not black enough for Mugabe' Nellie de Jongh circulated her personal experiences of life in the UK.
- Boris Johnson calls for illegal immigrant amnesty in London.

*'Boris Johnson last night (Friday 21st November) called for an "earned amnesty" for thousands of illegal immigrants living in the capital. The London mayor has launched a review into the feasibility of granting an amnesty to an estimated 400,000 people living illegally in London. It is expected to report in two months.'*

### **December 2008:**

- 'Immigration monster unleashed'

*A project to replace the mess of immigration legislation by a 'simplified, clear and coherent legal framework' to control borders, manage migration and 'reform the path to citizenship' was announced in the Queen's Speech at the opening of the 2008-9 parliamentary session. A partial draft of the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Bill was published for consultation in July 2008, and forms the basis of the legislation. The draft Bill brings together in one place provisions on permission to enter and stay in the UK, and expulsion; criteria for naturalisation as a British citizen; powers of examination and detention; immigration offences; carriers' liability; employers' liability for undocumented workers; and provision for appeals. So far, there are 214 clauses and three*

*schedules, and dozens of regulation-making powers which will provide the detail - and important topics such as immigration officers' powers of search and seizure, data sharing, biometric registration, asylum support, and the system of appeal and review of immigration decisions (other than first-instance appeals) remain to be covered. When it is complete, the Bill is set to be a monster.*

*A monster in more ways than one. In the course of 'simplification', rights are lost, and the powers of immigration police, and the scope for criminalisation of those crossing their path, enhanced.*

- A parliamentary question reveals that there were 66 'ethnic charter flights' in 2008.

If all the previous UK Immigration Acts didn't get you, this one will! Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill received its third reading in the House of Lords in April. Pretty grim reading.

### **January 2009:**

- The UK Border Agency commits to keeping children safe from harm: The welfare of children within Britain's immigration system is a number one priority, according to new UK Border Agency guidelines which come into force today 06/01/09. Any expectations that this would ameliorate the children involved was met with broad scepticism. By the end of January it was quite clear nothing had changed.
- Human Rights Watch / World Report 2009 / Events 2008:

*'Sixty years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the governments demonstrating the clearest vision on international rights protections, sadly, are those seeking to undermine enforcement. In their foreign policies and in international forums, they invoke sovereignty, non-interference, and Southern solidarity to curb criticism of their human rights abuses and those of their allies and friends. Governments that champion human rights need urgently to wrest back the initiative from these human rights spoilers.'*

### **February 2009:**

- £150,000 compensation for being 'dawn raided' and detained

*The Home Office agree to pay £150,000 compensation to Congolese (Republic) family - who included a one year old baby and a child of eight - left traumatised by dawn raids by immigration officers on their home. The family were asylum seekers at the time and they have now been given leave to stay in the country. Their claim related to their arrest and detention between the 6 June 2006 and 3 August 2006 (57 days) and 29 September 2006 and 2 October 2006 (3 days). On both occasions they were detained at Yar's Wood Detention Centre.*

## National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns

- Deporting gay asylum-seeker 'was unlawful' High Court orders Home Secretary to find and return 38-year-old man to Britain. A gay asylum-seeker who was unlawfully deported last year and now lives in fear of persecution must be found and returned to Britain, a High Court judge ruled.

### March 2009:

- NHS treatment ruling  
High Court rules that failed asylum seekers are not entitled to free treatment – but hospitals can make up their own minds on whether to treat them if they have no money.

*Failed asylum seekers are not entitled to free treatment on the NHS, three judges at the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday. But hospitals can make up their own minds on whether to treat them if they have no money, said the judges. Lord Justice Ward said: 'Because most of those who suffer are invariably penniless and destitute and quite unable to pay for the treatment they need, their predicament has become a legitimate cause of widespread concern.' He said to receive free health service treatment, the patient must have resided lawfully in the UK for at least a year.*

- Tinsley blockaders plead guilty to 'aggravated trespass'.  
*Seven anti-deportation campaigners who blockaded an immigration detention centre at Gatwick airport earlier this month pleaded guilty yesterday to 'aggravated trespass' at Crawley Magistrates Court. Six of them locked and glued themselves to the gate of Tinsley House on 17th March in an attempt to prevent Iraqi refugees being taken to Stanstead airport to be forcibly deported on a special charter flight to northern Iraq later that day. All seven have been released on conditional discharge and ordered to pay the court fees. Two other protesters, who were also arrested on the action, have pleaded not guilty and are due in court again soon.*



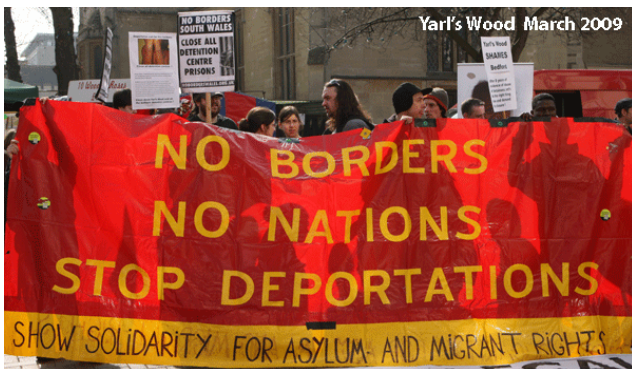
### April 2009:

- UNHCR guidelines for assessing refugees from Sri Lanka:  
*The long awaited new UNHCR guidelines for assessing refugees from Sri Lanka, are published. They detail the appalling security situation, the abductions and disappearances, the feared 'white vans' combing the cities picking up people who are then never seen again. The report details internal flight risks and whether it is realistic to claim that a person can relocate to another part of Sri Lanka to be safe. This is often a reason for dismissing a refugee claim for protection. The report details the violence and risky security situation and states clearly: 'Consequently, any return of a refugee to Sri Lanka must be on a strictly voluntary basis.' This will be a great relief to the cohort of Sri Lankans currently under threat of return.*

### May 2009:

26 Million people displaced by violence in 2008.

- International efforts have failed to reduce the scale of internal displacement caused by conflict, according to an Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) report 'Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2008'. At the end of 2008, the number of people internally displaced by conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations across the world stood at approximately 26 million, the same figure as in 2007.
- Ayodeji Omotade – Beats British Airways  
*'What would you do if someone on your flight was distressed and crying out for help? Would you stay silent or would you speak? I spoke and BA didn't like it. This type of corporate tyranny must be challenged and stopped.'*  
Ayodeji Omotade was accused by the prosecution of being a 'catalyst' for a protest on a British Airways flight carrying a detainee. He was cleared of the charge of behaving in a threatening, abusive, insulting or disorderly manner towards crew, after waiting over a year for his case to be heard.



*'We don't want your Immigration legislation,  
We don't want your child control,  
Nor dark aspersions in the tabloids,  
Foreign national children are UK's assets,  
Hey, Woolas, Smith, leave those kids alone'*  
– OutCry! Campaign to end detention of children and their families for immigration purposes. Launched by BID and the Children's Society

## **'OUTSOURCING ABUSE'**

An important event for the NCADC and the defence of basic rights in the UK was the publication in June last year of the report *Outsourcing Abuse: The use and misuse of state-sanctioned force during the detention and removal of asylum seekers*. It describes the injuries sustained by asylum deportees at the hand of private "escorts" contracted by the Home Office. It reveals evidence of widespread and seemingly systemic abuse and that assault claims have largely been brushed off by the Home Office.

The report was published by Birnberg Peirce & Partners, Medical Justice and the NCADC and written by the lawyer Harriet Wistrich, Dr Frank Arnold of Medical Justice and Emma Ginn, who at the time of writing worked for the NCADC. It caused a considerable stir and resulted in the appointment by the government of Nuala O'Loan, former Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland to investigate the allegations contained in it.

Publication of *Outsourcing Abuse* followed a series of ground-breaking stories in the *Independent* newspaper covering the same subject.

Mrs O'Loan's report is awaited (she is also chair of an inquiry into human rights in Britain set up by the Equality and Human Rights Commission).



*Mafungasei (Fungi) Maikokera addressing the 'Outsourcing Abuse' public meeting at the House of Commons chaired by Lord Avebury and addressed also by Diane Abbott MP, 10 December 2008*



*Apollo Milton Okello (second from right), a member of NCADC's Management Committee, challenges Brian Pollet, head of UK BA detention services, July 2007. Milton's own experience of violent attacks by 'escorts' features in the report 'Outsourcing Abuse'.*

## **TRAIN THE TRAINER**

The objective of this project, which was funded over two years by Barrow Cadbury, has been to equip a number of individuals in the community to run their own anti-deportation workshops, explaining to participants how to fight deportation.

This project was completed by the end of 2008, by holding seminars for those who wished to run their own processes, in Birmingham, Leeds, Glasgow and London. Many nationalities (around 18) received this training; many carried it back into their own areas/communities, but, sadly, some have themselves been deported. We have received many requests for seminars to be held in various areas of the country since the project formally finished.

We have residual funding from the project to enable us to hold three further seminars: Newcastle, Oxford and Cardiff. As our trainer will have given birth by May, we plan to hold these seminars later in the year, and will publish details on the website.



*Debating tactics for campaigning*

## National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns

We recognise that it would be very valuable to be able to offer ongoing support to those who are delivering this training in their own areas, and are seeking further funding for this purpose.



Train the Trainer workshop in Nottingham

### FINANCE

We have had a very strong finance and HR committee under the leadership of Dorothy Ismail, with the treasurer, Juste Djossou, and Evelyne Mbatkop Nana. As a result we have a stronger financial system which can generate reports on core funding, project work, income and outgoings for funders and the management committee.

Our finances for this year are now enough to support two full time workers and some project work, as well as volunteer and management committee expenses. We look forward to a stable year 2009/10 but will continue to chase more funding for our vital work.

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

There have been 6 management committee meetings and 3 meetings of the officers during 2008/9. They have been well attended, with members from all over the UK including Northern Ireland, the majority of whom have fought or are fighting campaigns to stay in the UK. During the year we have dealt with funding applications, longer term strategy, updating our policies and finance procedures, recruitment, considered regional anti deportation, working with the press, the use of volunteers, international links, airline work, links with the TUC, as well as our ongoing work to support campaigns.

#### Committee 2008/9:

Romain Ngouabeu (chair), Bill MacKeith (vice chair), Liz Peretz (secretary), Juste Djossou (treasurer), Miriam Hollis (complaints officer), Dorothy Ismail (chair of finance and HR committee), Kehi Daon Paul, Evelyne Mbatkop Nana, Sarwar Gareb, Regina Guebu, Marie-Camille Ngamei, Abang Tambe Eodow, Kazadi M'wepu, Mbila Bononge Diazano, Caitlin Nic Tomhair, Dorrie Fearnley (co-opted)

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B20 2QS      ncadc@ncadc.org.uk**

### Extract from a letter from a long-time NCADC supporter

*Dear 'Strangers into Citizens' campaign, I went to attend the march and rally your organisation launched yesterday [4 May] under the banner of 'strangers into citizens'. I read your leaflet and I don't agree with your stand on this critical issue. It appears to me that by running this campaign you are approving the border control and immigration controls which are not only inherently racist but in contravention to all human rights.*

*I believe in regularising immigration without any condition whereas you seem to suggest criteria for settlement. Movement of people is a political and economic reality which governments need to accept. People move as a result of market demand for workforce or due to political situation in their countries. The problem with most governments, British in particular has never debated the issue in relation to human rights. The establishment has always maintained the rigorous immigration legislation to create conditions in which ordinary people from other countries are exploited, they are asked to work well below the minimum wage, they live in poor conditions, etc. On the other hand media, controlled by financial exploiters, beat the drum to create myths of people taking over the 'crowded Island' and wiping off the state benefits, etc. As a result of your campaign, there was a long phone in programme on LBC and in that programme most people with some exceptions who phoned were not prepared to accept any immigration. This kind of behaviour is prevalent among certain parts of society because they are not shown the true picture of victims of immigration laws and no sensible debate on immigration takes place.*

*Everyday realities are different to what your organisation argue. People are deported on a regular basis, immigration raids take place without any protection to individuals, mostly immigration victims are not allowed to work, families are split as a result of immigration rules, communities are divided into sections because of these laws and an environment of exploitation and harassment.*

*I myself was a victim back in 1980's when my family and I was faced with harsh choice of either leave or fight to live and work without fear. We choose the later to fight and eventually we succeed after a long and hard struggle of 3 years in campaigning.*

*In order to devise any policy or campaign it is vital that these individuals and families are fully participated and listened to. Your campaign seems in a vacuum or seems a ploy to highlight the issue totally the wrong way.*

*Regards  
Shahid Syed*