

27 January 2009

## Help Sarwar Gareb get out of Campsfield detention centre and stay in the UK



Sarwar Gareb in front of the Kurdistan Regional Government office in London

Sarwar Gareb, a human rights campaigner, is detained in Campsfield after being arrested on Friday 23rd January while signing in at Loughborough Reporting Centre.

Sarwar came to the UK on 10th September 2000 to escape persecution by the nationalist Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). Working as a journalist he consistently fought for the rights of children, women and workers' which led to his imprisonment and torture by the two parties.

His asylum application was first denied on the 18th January 2001, the day after he arrived in the UK. His subsequent appeals have since been rejected.

Sarwar, who lived in Leicester, has been a teacher, a journalist, an artist and an active member of his local community since arriving in the UK.

He is a chair of Relive magazine and a member of many organisations including Leicester Civil Human Rights Movement, Long Journey Home, International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns, the Asylum Seeker Participatory Action Research and the National Union of Journalists.

Recent deportees to Kurdistan have been killed in car bombs, kidnapped and committed suicide since going back. Many live in hiding. **The same people who forced Sarwar to leave Iraq – members of the PUK and the KDP – are now in government.** They have been condemned by human rights groups, including Amnesty International, for imprisoning human rights campaigners and those who oppose them politically.

Sarwar has been outspoken of his criticism of them from the UK. He has written an expose and critical analysis - 'the Hidden Pain' - of the leadership of the PUK and the KDP, he has given interviews on satellite TV about the brutality of their regime and has been an active member of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, attending demonstrations outside the Kurdistan Regional Government's offices in London.

If he goes back to Iraq his life will be in serious and imminent danger. He will be a huge loss to his local community and the many groups and causes he is involved in.

**What you can do:**

**Sign Sarwar's petition** to the Home Office requesting that he be given indefinite leave to remain at <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/sarwar-gareb.html>

**Send urgent faxes/emails immediately to Rt. Hon Jacqui Smith, MP**, Secretary of State for the Home Office, asking that Sarwar be released from detention and be given indefinite leave to remain. Please use the 'model letter' below or write your own version. If you do so, please remember to include his HO ref: **G1031671**.

Fax: 020 8760 3132

Emails [smithjj@parliament.uk](mailto:smithjj@parliament.uk)

**International Federation of Iraqi Refugees  
Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq**

For more information please contact: Dashty Jamal on 078 5603 2991, or Richard Whittell on 07824996724 or e mail: [ifir@hotmail.com](mailto:ifir@hotmail.com)

---

**IFIR: PO.BOX1575, ILFORD, IG1 3BZ, LONDON UK: CONTACT Dashty Jamal,**  
**d.jamal@ntlworld.com, Mobile:00447856032991 ,Aso Goran: asobalabarz116@hotmail.com,**  
**[Jamal-hasan@hotmail.com](mailto:Jamal-hasan@hotmail.com) 0041787557786... ifiraqirefugees@googlemail.com**  
**www-federationifir.com [www.csdiraq.com](http://www.csdiraq.com)**