

Rt. Hon Jacqui Smith, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Office
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London SW1 4DF
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Dear Home Secretary

Sarwar Gareb (Home Office Ref: G1031671, D.O.B 01-01-1973) has been detained in Campsfield detention centre since Friday.

Sarwar came to the UK on 10th September 2000 to escape persecution by the 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' rights which led to his imprisonment and torture by the two parties.

Since coming to the UK he has been a teacher, a journalist and an artist as well as being an active member of his local community in Leicester. 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 have committed suicide since going back. Many live in hiding. The same parties whose persecution forced Sarwar to leave Iraq – PUK and 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 a book about the abuses of the leadership of the PUK and the KDP, he has given interviews on satellite TV about their human rights violations 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 I am afraid 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.

I hope very much that you will release Sarwar Gareb from detention and grant him indefinite leave to remain, as I believe that he should be given every possible opportunity to continue his contribution to his Leicester community.

Yours Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

City:

Postcode:

Country:

Date:

Email:

Phone: