

## **Bulletin 11 July 2008**

### **SDV News and events**

#### **SDV Music Night – Tomorrow**

Look forward to seeing lots of people at the gig tomorrow. More info on the website.

[www.sdv.org.uk](http://www.sdv.org.uk)

#### **Support SDV through Easysearch**

Please remember to use easysearch when searching the internet. By doing so you can raise money for SDV. Go to the link below, choose Scottish Detainee Visitors as the cause you would like to support, and get searching. It's easy to use and seems as effective as Google. AND it is literally money for nothing! You can also navigate to easysearch from the SDV website where you will find all sorts of other ways to raise funds and details of events.

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

### **Immigration, asylum and detention news**

#### **Asylum-seekers are sent back to Darfur**

The ban on deporting asylum-seekers back to Darfur has been lifted by the Government despite warnings of widespread murder and torture of dissidents in the Sudanese region.

One Darfuri has already been sent back to Sudan and another man, Abubaker Yousef Mohamad, will be returned next Sunday, The Independent has learnt. He is alleged to have been detained for two months and beaten the last time he was deported. Other Darfuri asylum-seekers have been told to expect deportation.

Ministers stand accused of hypocrisy for resuming the expulsion of Darfuris just 10 months after Gordon Brown called the region one of the world's "darkest corners", adding that "human rights are universal".

They were warned that asylum-seekers put on flights back to the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, would become targets for the police and security services. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has argued against the return of Darfuris to Khartoum, saying they face torture or death.

Deportations of Darfuris to Sudan were halted last year while the Home Office fought a legal battle with protest groups opposed to removals. It promised removals would be put on hold while it reviewed fresh evidence of ill treatment faced by Darfuris at the hands of Sudanese authorities.

The Home Office has confirmed it had authorised the resumption of removals of Darfuri refugees.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylumseekers-are-sent-back-to-darfur-861264.html>

## **The eight-months pregnant asylum seeker left penniless on the streets**

Pregnant Ling Lin should be looking forward happily to her baby's arrival in just a month. Instead, Lin, who fled China in fear of her life, was condemned by Britain's asylum system to living rough and in fear on the streets of Scotland.

The 23-year-old faced persecution in her homeland because she followed a religion forbidden by the government.

But she has failed to find the security she craved here and is part of an invisible army of destitute asylum seekers and refugees living from hand to mouth in Scotland.

New figures show more than 1000 destitute asylum seekers and refugees, including hundreds of children, have been given small crisis grants by charities to provide food and other basics in Scotland.

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/real-life-stories/2008/07/07/exclusive-the-eight-months-pregnant-asylum-seeker-left-penniless-on-the-streets-86908-20634413/>

## **Other news and events**

### **Jobs you might be interested in: Positive Action in Housing is Recruiting**

PAiH is recruiting and Administrative Manager (salary £22,672.15) and a Project Officer - Casework & Outreach (salary £21,251.41)

Closing date for both posts is 1 August. Full details from PAiH's website:

<http://www.paih.org/Latest-News-Appeals/Admin-Manager-and-Project-Officer.html>

### **Zimbabwe: the struggle for democracy, Tuesday 15 July 2008, at 7pm STUC, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG. Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees**

What is the situation like for ordinary people in Zimbabwe today? Inflation is 2,000,000% and the average wage will only pay for 5 loaves of bread a month. The government is attacking, beating and killing members of the opposition. But despite this desperate situation, the people of Zimbabwe are carrying on an inspiring struggle to end the regime of Robert Mugabe.

Many Zimbabwean refugees in Britain, particularly women, have recently been forced to return by destitution. Many who escape from Zimbabwe to Malawi or South Africa are in constant danger of being returned.

**Our speaker from Zimbabwe** is Mike Sozinyu, a socialist who has been at the

forefront of these struggles. He is active in supporting workers building trade unions independent of the government and part of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, such as the Medical and Allied Workers Union, the Graphical Workers Union, the Engineering Workers and the Electrical Workers Union. Mike is a leading member of the Zimbabwe Social Forum, which brings together all of Zimbabwe's social movements each year to coordinate their activities. He also works closely with Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) and the Harare Residents Association. He is a supporter of the opposition party Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), and has been arrested by the regime 3 times.

**Agnes Tolmie** is a member of the Women's Committee of the Scottish Trades Unions Congress. Agnes has visited and worked with South Africans, recently been involved with Zimbabwe women who visited Britain and has taken an active interest in the refugee situation in Scotland.

**Linet Sihle Ncube** is a refugee from Zimbabwe who now lives in Glasgow. She has been involved in supporting other refugees, and is secretary of the African women's group Karibu.

**Mobile phones and chargers are urgently needed by activists for communications inside Zimbabwe. Please bring your old ones to the meeting.**