



Support Abbas Amini He must be granted asylum now!

Abas Amini, an Iranian Communist asylum seeker who was finally granted protection at a court hearing after two long years in the UK, has sewn his lips, ears and eyes in protest to the Home Office's appeal of his being granted recognition. The Home Office insists that Amini must be refused and deported to Iran!

While in Iran and despite the repressive regime, Amini fought hard against the Islamic regime. 33 year old Amini began his organised political activities in Iran at the young age of 15. He was imprisoned for six years at the age of 17. In prison, he was seriously tortured by the

Islamic regime of Iran. He managed to flee and arrived in the UK in 2001. He was forced to leave his spouse and child in Iran. Today, this hopeful dissenter has been pushed to such heights of despair by the British government that he has lost his will to live. Despite the requests of the activists of the International Federation of Iranian Refugees to not harm himself, he has rather sewn his lips and eyes together and die than be returned to Iran where he will face serious persecution. While the Islamic regime of Iran was responsible for Amini's persecution and torture and flight, today, it is the British Home Office that

his responsible for placing his life at risk. Today, it is the UK government that has pushed a political activist to such despair. Amini says he is hunger striking and protesting not only for himself but for all asylum seekers whose rights have been violated by the UK government.

The International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) holds the UK government responsible for Amini's life. While this government is busy wheeling and dealing with the Islamic regime in Iran, it continues to sacrifice asylum seekers with its racist and



anti-human policies.

IFIR calls on all groups and individuals to remind the UK government that it cannot play with Amini's life or the lives of innumerable asylum seekers from Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. Amini must be granted asylum. We must not allow racist asylum policies to take any more victims. Amini must live.

You can send letters of support to Amini via ifir@ukonline.co.uk.

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Urgent Alert: Demonstration to support Abas Amini

**Wednesday May 28th 2003
50 Sneinton Dale
Sneinton
Nottinghamshire
Assemble at 9.30am**

Called by: Federation of Iranian Refugees / Nottingham Refugee Campaign Group / Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum

We are calling this demonstration in support of Abas Amini. Mr. Amini is a 33 year old Iranian who arrived in the UK in August 2001. After initially being turned down for asylum, and after four court adjournments, he was eventually able to appeal to the adjudicator on March 24th 2003. Six weeks later, he was informed that he had been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK [i.e. full refugee status].

The Home Office who were not represented at the adjudication then decided to contest the decision. As yet no decision has been made on the Home Office's appeal against the granting of Indefinite Leave to Remain.

However, because of his fear of return to Iran and his anger at the Home Office's indifference to the weight of evidence supporting his asylum case, Mr Amini took the decision to go on hunger strike on Tuesday 20th May. Since then Mr Amini has been taking only very occasional fluids. Mr Amini also decided to sew up his lips, eyes and ears in an agonising protest. This is the second time Mr. Amini has been on hunger strike since arriving in the UK.

Friends of Mr Amini are desperately worried that this unnecessary move by the Home Office may result in serious, possibly irreparable harm, or even death.

Between the ages of 13 and 33 Mr Amini spent 6 years in an Iranian prison, for his political beliefs and protests, including the writing of poetry critical of the government. During this time he suffered long periods in solitary confinement, beatings, including falaka - beatings on the soles of his feet, suspension of various kinds, mock executions and other forms of physical and mental ill-treatment. During his last period in prison, he was able to escape after a guard was bribed.

Medical opinion supports Mr Amini's account of torture in Iran and recognises the psychological pain he continues to suffer.

For further information, contact Federation of Iranian Refugees' Regional Organiser Sam Azad:: 07957430990 or Reza Moradi at 07730846433.

**Sign petition defending Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers:
<http://www.petitiononline.com/IFIR/petition.html>.**

JOIN IFIR

* I wish to join **the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)** as:

__ Member (£25.00 p.a.)__ Affiliated Group (£100.00 p.a.)

* I wish to make a donation of: £__ I wish to subscribe to Hambastegi English or Iran Monitor: __ (£50.00 p.a.)

Name: _____ **E-mail:** _____
Address: _____

Please make cheques payable to the International Federation of Iranian Refugees and mail to P. O. Box 27236, London N11 2ZF.

* I wish to make a standing order:

To: The Manager of (your Bank) _____
 (Address of your Bank) _____

Please pay **the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)** the sum of £_____ each month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate) until further notice and debit my Account no: _____ Sort Code: _____ starting on (date): _____

Name: _____ Address: _____
 Signature: _____

[FOR OFFICE USE ONLY] To: **International Federation of Iranian Refugees**, Lloyds TSB bank plc. Sort Code: 30-99-86, account no. 0057223.

IFIR Country Directors

Australia: Arsalan Nazeri, Tel: +61 401005422, ifir@iprimus.com.au; Belgium: Hossein Pesh Ehsan, Tel: + 32 478 904 163, ifirbe@hotmail.com; Canada: Minoo Homili, Tel: +14162019861, minoo_homili@yahoo.com; Denmark: Mahmoud Gasvini, Tel: +45 51603121, nahid@mail.danbbs.dk; England: Reza Moradi, Tel: +44 7931866985, moradi1591@hotmail.com; Germany: Nasrin Ramzanali, Tel: +49 172 5350946, ifirgermany@web.de; Holland: Magid Poostanchi, Tel: +31-613248331, ifir_holland@yahoo.com; Norway: Ghafar Gholamveysi, Tel: +47 40851738, ghafar@chello.no; Sweden: Esmaeil Moloodi, Tel: +46 70 492 0349, ifrs@hotmail.com; Switzerland: Mahmood Rahbary, Tel: +41 78 795 75 81, m_rahbary@hotmail.com; United States: Afsaneh Rahimi, Tel: +1 310 413 1578, RahimiA2000@yahoo.com.

For information on Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, India, Pakistan and Turkey branches, please contact IFIR Secretariat.

IFIR Secretariat

Siamak Amjadi; Rebwar Aref; Farshad Hoseini; Keyvan Javid, Deputy Executive Director; Esmaeil Moloodi; Maryam Namazie, Executive Director; Ramin Niakan; Nasrin Ramzanali; Mohammad Shokohi

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international refugee news,
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releases:

www.hambastegi.org

Editor: Maryam Namazie

E-mail: ifir@ukonline.co.uk

Tel: +44 7730 107 337; **Fax:** +44 8701351303
 P.O. Box 27236, London N11 2ZF, England
www.hambastegi.org

Send letters of protest to the UK Home Office and defend Abas Amini



Home Secretary David Blunkett
Home Office, 50 Queen Annes Gate, London SW1H 9AT
Fax: +44 20 7273 4647
public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

We are shocked to learn that the Home Office has appealed a court decision to grant Abas Amini, a 33-year old political opponent of the Islamic regime in Iran, asylum after two years of waiting in a state of limbo. He is at risk of being deported to Iran; he will face serious persecution and execution if returned.

The Home Office's unfair decision has pushed Amini to such heights of despair that he has sewn his lips, eyes, and ears together and gone on hunger strike to protest this appalling decision. He says he would rather die than be returned to Iran where he spent six years in prison and was seriously tortured by the Islamic regime in Iran.

We call on the Home Office to stop victimising Amini and other asylum seekers from Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. The British government's racist asylum policy and its imposition of refusals, detentions and deportations as well as abject poverty and rightlessness on those fleeing political Islam and despotism is condemned. Amini must not die.

Needless to say, we hold the UK government accountable for Amini's life.

Signed:

Name

Organisation (if any)

E-mail

Cc: ifir@ukonline.co.uk

Picket and vigil outside the Home Office

Tuesday 17 June, 12pm-2pm
50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1
(nearest underground station: St. James Park)

Since the war on Iraq, thousands of Iraqi asylum seekers in Britain have been left in a legal limbo unsure of their future. Now the government is planning to begin deporting them to Iraq. But Iraq remains unsafe and there is little sign of security, stability, legitimate government representing people of Iraq, and freedom emerging in the near future.

We demand:

- No deportations to Iraq
- Full refugee status to all Iraqi asylum seekers in Britain

For more information, contact the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees - UK, 07734 704742, d.jamal@ukonline.co.uk. The demonstration is supported by Campaign Against Racism and Fascism, International Federation of Iranian Refugees, Worker-Communist Party of Iraq (UK Branch), Worker-Communist Party of Iran (UK Branch), Iraqi Women's Rights Coalition.