



## Urgent Action

# Open Borders for Afghans

According to an Amnesty International Urgent Action, Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan have closed their borders to refugees fleeing northern Afghanistan. Almost 80,000 people are fleeing the fighting in the region, and a serious drought has put the population at risk of starvation. Fighting in Afghanistan's northern Takhar Province has intensified recently, as the reactionary Taliban and anti-Taliban alliance fight for control of territory. Civilians have been targeted in Takhar, causing many more to flee and leaving others internally displaced. These

border closures will have disastrous consequences for Afghans fleeing the fighting and drought.

Pakistan closed its North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Baluchistan border to Afghan refugees without valid travel documents late last week. Afghan refugees, who almost never have travel documents, have recently been fleeing to the NWFP in increasing numbers, according to the UN, with almost 30,000 crossing since early September. Taliban guards are stopping Afghan refugees

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**Editor: Maryam Namazie**

**E-mail:** ifir@ukonline.co.uk  
**Tel:** 0044 7730 107 337  
**Fax:** 0044 870 129 4167  
**Address:** P.O. Box 27236  
London N11, England  
**Web Site:** www.hambastegi.org

# Nigerian facing deportation

Nigerian asylum seeker, Akubuo Anusonwu Chukwudi, the most prominent activist in the German Caravan for the Rights of the Refugees and Migrants, has again been arrested. He is facing imminent deportation. On Monday morning, November 20, the offices of the International Human Rights Association, Bremen, were invaded by police and Akubuo was arrested and taken into detention. He immediately went on hunger strike. The arrest of Akubuo has led to widespread protests in Germany. Offices of several political parties have been occupied.

A German court has decided that the deportation of Akubuo Chukwudi from

Germany is to go ahead, even though the Interior Minister is still considering the matter.

IFIR condemns the German government's detention and plan to deport Akubuo and calls on groups and individuals to demand his release, an end to his deportation, and his right to asylum. Faxes can be sent to:

Verwaltungsgericht Schwerin  
Fax: +49-385-5404114  
Innenminister des Landes  
Fax: +49-385-588-2974  
+49-385-588-2972  
Ministerpräsident des Landes  
Fax +49-385-565144

Send copies to [KARAWANE-Rostock@gmx.de](mailto:KARAWANE-Rostock@gmx.de),  
[THE VOICE Jena@gmx.de](mailto:THE_VOICE_Jena@gmx.de),  
and [mail@humanrights.de](mailto:mail@humanrights.de).

# Detention is State- Sponsored Violence

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## Editorial

# Detention is State-Sponsored Violence

By Maryam Namazie

Innocent people are often incarcerated in order to deter, control and intimidate the population at large. In Iran, runaway girls are imprisoned by the police for refusing to conform; in Jordan, women escaping honour killings are locked up while their accused male relatives roam free; and in Pakistan, women who have been raped are arrested and put away on charges of adultery.

In the West, too, there are innumerable innocent people who are detained and imprisoned – sometimes indefinitely. An ever-increasing segment of these innocents are asylum seekers who have fled war, civil rights violations, terror and persecution and have entered “illegally,” without first obtaining valid travel documents from their persecutors. Upon reaching “safety,” they are persecuted once again - imprisoned, treated like criminals, abused, dehumanised, brutalised, strip searched, shackled, chained and isolated. Women, men and children are physically and mentally tortured and broken. They are placed in conditions that will make any sane human being insane.

Like death row inmates, detainees are faced with the daily mental anguish of awaiting deportations back to persecution. Deportation, like the death penalty, is another form of premeditated murder committed by the state.

Yet, western governments continue to build these concentration camps – many of them privately run - right by our homes and in our cities. Many of these centres are top security prisons. Many are old buildings, warehouses, army bases, and



shutdown prisons and dorms no longer functional for citizens. In the US, every day, an average of 20,000 are held in immigration detention centres, many of them

asylum seekers. In the UK, over a thousand are held in inhuman living conditions such as in Campsfield. In Australia, child sexual abuse, brutality and poor living conditions in detention are rife. Recently, a father in the Woomera detention centre “farmed” his son out to other detainees for sex in return for cigarettes. A Woomera medical officer stated that the sexual abuse was not reported to outside agencies because the Australasian Correctional Management (ACM), a private US company contracted to Immigration to run the detention centre, did not want the abuse to be known. Despite the scandal, the Australian government is negotiating with the ACM on extending its three-year contract, which expires next month.

Australia is the only western country, which has a non-reviewable, mandatory deten-

tion policy for all asylum seekers who enter without documents. Its adverse consequences on actual human beings are unmistakable. Peaceful protests staged at the detention centers against living conditions turned violent in August when 80 detainees burnt buildings. In July, 140 asylum seekers barricaded themselves in at Sydney’s Villawood camp and threatened to cut their throats, protesting inhumane conditions and mistreatment. In Western Australia, a series of fires was started at the Port Hedland detention center. Earlier this year, a dozen asylum seekers at the Curtin camp sewed their lips together as part of a protest. Conditions have led to such depression that three Somali asylum seekers have recently “voluntarily” returned to persecution rather than remain in Australia after three years in detention, as they had been traumatised by their experience.

The detention of asylum seekers is state-sponsored violence against victims of persecution. There is no justification for such brutality. Detention and deportation must not be tolerated in the twenty first century.

# Turkish Security Kill Two

Turkish security forces opened fire on a group of 17 Bangladeshi and Pakistani asylum seekers on the Turkish – Iranian border.

Two Bangladeshi asylum seekers were killed and three sustained serious injuries. The remaining 12 were arrested and imprisoned. These asylum seekers are the victims of reactionary Islamic

rules in their countries, suffering the same fate as millions of people from Islamist societies like Iran and Afghanistan.

IFIR condemns the atrocity committed by the Turkish security forces and holds the UNHCR and the Turkish government accountable for the lives and safety of asylum seekers fleeing persecution.

# Holland Campaign for Benefits

The April 2000 implementation of the recent asylum law in the Netherlands has terminated welfare rights and benefits to those asylum seekers whose applications have been refused. According to official sources, over ten thousand asylum seekers will be adversely effected and will face expulsion from refugee camps and lose their benefits. The Justice Ministry has also announced that of the current 75,000 asylum applicants receiving welfare, 85% will be rejected.

The housing agency (COA) and Justice Ministry have joined forces to set up makeshift courts around the country to cleanse the country of asylum seekers. Various

state apparatus have been mobilised to undermine hard won basic civil rights to asylum and protection from persecution.

The IFIR-Holland Branch, in collaboration with a number of refugee and progressive organisations, has launched a campaign to defend the right of Nasim Nasirabadi, an Iranian woman asylum seeker, to welfare. Nasirabadi is a victim of domestic violence who has been denied access to a shelter because her asylum claim has been rejected. By highlighting her case, the campaign aims to expose the government's plan to cut benefits to asylum seekers and to demand full civil rights for all asylum seekers.

# Open Borders for Afghans

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at checkpoints on the road from Jalalabad to the Torkham border crossing with Pakistan, beating many of them. Those without written permission to cross from both Taliban and Pakistani officials are being turned back. Restrictions are particularly applied to families travelling with women.

The Tajik government closed its border with Afghanistan in mid-September. In early November, Russian-led border guards in Tajikistan turned back over 100 refugees fleeing the fighting in Afghanistan. Some 3,000 Afghan refugees were camped on the border at the time, apparently hoping to flee to Tajikistan.

In May, the Iranian parliament voted to close, in principle, its border with Afghanistan, supposedly to prevent "drug-smuggling." Iran has deported tens of thousands of Afghan refugees since April 8, under a "voluntary" program, jointly implemented with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

IFIR condemns the governments of Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan and calls on groups and individuals to demand that borders are

reopened and that no Afghan asylum seekers are turned back or forcibly deported to Afghanistan, where they would be at risk of serious civil rights abuses.

A. SATTAR  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Constitution Avenue  
Islamabad  
PAKISTAN  
Fax: 011 92 51 9207217

Miasmal Sharipovich  
RAKHMONOV  
Respublika Tajikistan  
g. Dushanbe  
pr. Rudaki 80  
Apparat Prezidenta  
Respubliki Tajikistan  
Prezidentu  
RAKHMONOVU I. Sh.  
TAJKISTAN  
Fax: 011 992 372 21 25 20

Hojjatoleslam Abdolvahed  
Musavi-Lari  
Ministry of the Interior  
Dr. Fatemi Avenue  
Tehran, Iran

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## UK Civil Rights Caravan Continues

Though the one-month tour of England is over, the UK Civil Rights Caravan is continuing to defend the rights of asylum seekers and to demand an end to racism and racist violence. Future activities include joining the November 25 Campsfield Detention Centre demonstration near Oxford, the November 27 picket against the deportation of a Nigerian asylum seeker from Germany at the German embassy, the December 10 picket against Plan Colombia, the December 11 picket for the freedom

of Samar and Jawad, and the December 16 protest at Harmondsworth Detention Centre near Heathrow Airport.

Given the tremendous outpouring of support for the Civil Rights Caravan, additional visits are being planned to Glasgow and Edinburgh during January 19 to 21 and Hull during February 23 – 25.

The Civil Rights Caravan, led by the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism and the National Civil Rights Movement will be organising a conference and human rights festival during April 20 – 22.

## International Conference on Refugee Women

The Canadian Council for Refugees will be hosting an international conference on refugee women fleeing gender-based persecution, during May 4-6, 2001 in Montreal.

The CCR has also created a network of over 120 individuals and organizations interested in the issue, now communicating through a new listserv, called "GENDER". For more information on the network and con-

ference, visit the CCR's web page at <http://www.web.net/~ccr/gendpers.html>.

If you are interested in joining the network, or for any other information, contact Afsaneh Hojabri, Project Coordinator, E-mail: [ahojabri@total.net](mailto:ahojabri@total.net), CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES, 6830 Drolet, # 302, Montreal (Quebec) Canada, H2S- 2T1, Phone: (514) 277-7223, Fax: (514) 277-1447.

## New York Demonstration Against Detention

On November 24, the International Federation of Iranian Refugees – New York Branch and other organisations organised a protest against the increased detention of over 20,000 people in immigration detention centres, the incarceration of over 2 million people in US prisons, and the privatisation of prisons and detention centres. The US has the largest prison

population in the world - 1/4 of the entire planet's prison population. In 1994, one in three black men between the ages of 20-29 were in prison, jail, on probation or on parole. 53% of prisoners are convicted of non-violent offences. There are currently 90,00 women in jail, 60% of which are black or Latina. More than 20,000 of people are held in US Detention Centres under prison-like conditions. Many are people seeking asylum in the US from

persecution in other countries who have committed no crimes. People can spend an indiscriminate amount of time in detention lasting as long as 2 years. Many asylum seekers in detention are families with children.

Other organisations which endorsed the demonstration includes:

Citizens and Immigrants for Equal Justice, Youthpeace,

DRUM (Desis Rising Up & Moving), Direct Action Network New York City, Centre for Immigrant Families, Centre for the Uninformed Families Facing Deportation, Columbia Student Solidarity Network, Committee for Humanitarian Assistance to Iranian Refugees (CHAIR), Global Sweatshop Coalition, Filipino Workers Centre and Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants.

# International Refugee News

**\* Tory plans to lock up all asylum-seekers on arrival in Britain were in disarray after Ann Widdecombe admitted that initially she could detain no more than one in ten refugees.** The Home Office estimates that it would have to build up to 50 detention centres and increase capacity to about 25,000 if it had to implement Conservative policies. (The Times (London), November 27, 2000)

**\* The US government has issued new standards on the treatment of 20,000 people held daily in federal and local facilities while immigration decides their fate,** including detainees will have access to attorneys, they won't face routine strip searches before and after visits from attorneys, detainee telephones will be maintained and access to them will be allowed. Legal calls are not to be monitored without a court order. (The National Law Journal, Monday, November 27, 2000)

**\* A woman central to the Woomera Detention Centre inquiry has revealed she reported more than one case of sexual abuse of children to centre management.** As well as the alleged rape of a 12-year-old boy by his father in March, Barbara Rogalla reported the molestation of a 15-year-old boy by an adult detainee. Police were called but the boy had decided not to

press charges and was sent back to the same area of the centre as his alleged molester. (The Australian, November 27, 2000)

**\* The Immigration minister, Phillip Ruddock, has urged that allegations of a brothel operating inside the Woomera detention centre in South Australia should be referred to the police.** A former nurse at the centre said she had been told by other staff that young teenage girls were involved, exchanging oral sex for cigarettes. The nurse, Maree Quinn, who worked at the centre until a month ago, said the brothel was run by three women detainees in a dormitory. (Australian Broadcasting Corporation, November 25, 2000)

**\* About 50 Middle Eastern asylum-seekers were under medical supervision on Friday after a weeklong hunger strike to protest against delays in hearing their applications to stay in Australia.** The department said about 35 detainees had not eaten for up to eight days and were being monitored closely by staff at the Woomera detention centre, 450 km (290 miles) north of Adelaide, which holds mostly people from Afghanistan and Iraq. (Reuters, November 24, 2000)

**\* The Greek coastguard on Friday arrested 13 "illegal immigrants" and two Turkish nationals ferrying them across the Aegean. The**

**ministry said the boat carrying the immigrants, all Iraqi Kurds, was intercepted by the coastguard off the Aegean island of Kos early on Friday.** So far this year, the Greek coastguard has arrested 3,853 "illegal immigrants" and 149 people involved in ferrying them to Greece. (Reuters, November 24, 2000)

**\* UNHCR is continuing to appeal to Pakistani authorities to reopen its borders to Afghan refugees fleeing fighting in northeastern Afghanistan.** Its staff had not been allowed access for weeks to more than 18,000 new arrivals in desperate need of help. The new arrivals, mostly women and children, are in very poor nutritional and health condition. There have been reports of several deaths among them, mainly children. (UNHCR, November 24, 2000)

**\* The Turkish authorities have detained 63 "would-be immigrants" after the captain of the ship they were travelling on was injured.** The ship was carrying **Bangladeshis, Afghans, Moroccans and one Turk** near the Canakkale straits, which connect the Sea of Marmara with the Aegean Sea in northwestern Turkey. The captain had picked up the migrants near the Turkish resort of Kusadasi and intended to take them to Italy.

After realising the ship was under surveillance, the captain told passengers he would not travel to Italy. One passenger shot him in the arm in an attempt to force him to continue the voyage. (Reuters, November 23, 2000)

**\* The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia registered an increase in xenophobia linked to EU enlargement plans.** "The whole scene in Europe has become much more violent" said Winkler, the centre's director. Winkler said the number of people suffering from all forms of racial discrimination was "highly under-reported" because victims feared being excluded or being forced to leave their country of residence. (Reuters News Agency, November 23, 2000)

**\* Bill Morris, leader of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), accused the Government of shelving its plans to reform the system of handing vouchers to asylum-seekers instead of cash.** (November 23, 2000, The Independent)

**\* Groups working with refugees and asylum-seekers in Scotland said they were overwhelmed by the scale of the problem, and urged improvements in the system.** One asylum-seeker told of the grim conditions and isolation of his new life in

Glasgow. He said refugees faced attacks and harassment, and there was official indifference to many of their problems. (November 23 2000, The Times)

**\* Under reporting of racial harassment is widespread despite the number of recorded incidents soaring since the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence.** The number of black and ethnic minority people reporting harassment had risen since the Lawrence case. However, most agencies considered under-reporting and under-recording of harassment still a big problem, with asylum seekers identified by several respondents as the group least likely to report harassment. (The Guardian, November 22, 2000)

**\* The European Commission intends to ask member countries to forecast how many immigrants they wish to admit in future and what sort of skills they should have, as a first step towards setting a common European Union immigration policy.** (The Financial Times, November 22, 2000)

**\* A nurse at the Woomera Detention Centre was browbeaten by management into tearing up an initial report of a rape of a 12-year-old boy who had been admitted to the medical clinic by four guards concerned for his welfare.** The woman also said that, as a registered nurse, she had a mandatory

duty under South Australian law to report the allegations to police and to ensure that the child was seen by a doctor in hospital. However, the nurse claims she was persuaded by management not to do so. (The Australian, November 21, 2000)

**\* Home Secretary Jack Straw has pledged to crackdown on the number of asylum seekers who "disappear" in the UK.** He said improving and tightening border controls would prevent many people who are unlikely to be granted asylum from entering the country. The Home Office has set a target of removing 30,000 failed asylum seekers from the UK by 2002. (British Broadcasting Corporation, November 21, 2000)

**\* A 29-year-old woman being deported to China jumped from a jet way at Los Angeles International Airport and was badly injured.** The woman suffered head injuries and was in critical condition. (The Associated Press, November 21, 2000)

**\* The Belgian government will finance a campaign to halt the inflow of Kazakhs after some 2,500 Kazakh citizens applied for refugee status there within a year.** The Belgian government said it would pay the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) 50,000 dollars to launch an information campaign. (Agence France Presse, November 21, 2000)

**\* The Refugee Council is calling on the Federal Government to make**

**health care at immigration detention centres the responsibility of the health department.** Private practitioners are currently arranged for detainees, by Australian Corrective Management, the company contracted to manage the centres. (Australian Associated Press, November 21, 2000)

**\* Save the Children called on Prime Minister Tony Blair to ensure the UK Government's policy on children seeking asylum conforms to standards set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.** When the UK signed up in 1991, it chose not to include children seeking sanctuary in its provisions under the convention. 36 children seeking asylum were locked up in detention centres between May and July of this year. Save the Children is calling on the Government to demonstrate that children seeking asylum are first children; they should get the same chance in life as all other children. (Press Association (UK), November 20, 2000)

**\* Croatian and Slovene police agreed to boost cooperation in the fight against "illegal immigration" across their border, which doubled over the past three months in comparison with the same period last year.** (Agence France Presse, November 20, 2000)

**\* A series of fires at Port Hedland detention centre in Australia left seven people hospitalised, and**

**was probably the work of detainees venting frustration.** The detainees were probably fed up with conditions at the isolated detention centre. (The Australian, November 20, 2000)

**\* Police detained 63 Iraqi Kurds on the Greek island of Mykonos, and arrested three men suspected of smuggling them into Greece.** The "immigrants," who travelled from the Turkish coast, were arrested after landing on a remote beach. They were being held at an indoor stadium on the island. (The Associated Press, November 20, 2000)

**\* About 100 Kurdish refugees from northern Iraq tried unsuccessfully to force their way past French police at Calais on Monday to board ferries bound for Britain.** The Kurds were prevented from entering the embarkation area and later blocked a road near Sangatte, close to the entrance to the Channel Tunnel and to a Red Cross centre where they are sheltered. (Reuters, November 20, 2000)

**\* Almost every refugee child who has come to Scotland has suffered some form of hostility and racist abuse, according to a study called I Didn't Come Here for Fun, which was compiled by Save the Children Scotland and the Scottish Refugee Council.** (BBC, November 20, 2000)

**\* The UK government is to allow asylum seekers to receive change in cash when they spend shopping vouch-**

ers. (The Daily Telegraph, November 18, 2000)

\* **Australia's treatment of refugees was both insensitive and restrictive and it was time to review the mandatory detention of "illegal immigrants,"** West Australian Chief Justice David Malcolm said. He said Australia was "at risk" of breaching United Nations conventions by detaining all "illegal immigrants" on arrival. (Australian Associated Press, November 17, 2000)

\* **Turkish security forces shot dead two of a seventeen-person group that tried to enter Turkey illegally from the Turkey-Iran border.** Two Bangladeshi people were killed and three "illegal immigrants" were injured in the fire. The injured immigrants had been taken to the Agri State Hospital, and security forces had captured the other twelve. (Ankara Anatolia news agency, November 15, 2000)

\* **The Irish authorities are to begin fingerprinting all asylum-seekers over the age of 14.** The new Refugee Act provisions will apply to thousands of asylum-seekers who are already in the system seeking decisions on their applications. (Agence France Presse, November 15, 2000)

\* **Residents of Tramore, Co Waterford, in Ireland have begun a campaign to stop the threatened deportation of a Nigerian woman, Ms Ebi Ojoh who has been living there with two of her children, a boy aged 15 and**

**a girl aged 8, since June.** Ms Ojoh says her application for asylum in Ireland was dealt with under the "fast track" procedure and rejected. Her appeal against the decision has also been turned down and now her only option is to apply to the Minister for Justice to be allowed to stay on humanitarian grounds. (The Irish Times, November 15, 2000)

\* **A shutdown prison in Lanarkshire could become Scotland's first immigration centre for asylum seekers.** Home Office immigration officials are considering Dun-gavel in a bid to meet the increasing demand on detention centres throughout Britain. (The Herald, Glasgow, November 15, 2000)

\* **In the first nine months of the current year, 27,000 "illegal immigrants" entered Slovenia - mainly from Croatia and Hungary.** The figure represents an increase of 70 per cent compared to the same period last year. **Slovenia's Minister of Internal Affairs said that the surge in immigration had been the main reason why Croatia had been declared a safe third country.** This means that immigrants detained in Slovenia will be returned to Croatia if that is from where they entered Slovenia and even if they ask for asylum in Slovenia. In addition, under an amendment to the asylum law, while their asylum requests are being

considered, the asylum seekers will not be allowed to leave asylum centres. (HINA news agency, Zagreb (via BBC), November 15, 2000)

\* **Airlines and ferry companies will have to pay fines of thousands of pounds if they allow people to arrive in Ireland without proper immigration documentation.** The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform said he had obtained Government approval for the drafting of new legislation, the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill. (The Irish Times, November 15, 2000)

\* **Authorities in Cyprus have detained 38 Kurds, Syrians and Iraqis, including 6 women and 13 children aged between 2 and 15, who arrived in Cyprus on a fishing boat illegally overnight.** (Reuters, November 15, 2000)

\* **The Federal Opposition wants a review of contractual arrangements between an overseas company that runs the Woomera Detention Centre, in South Australia's north, and the Immigration Department.** This follows allegations of child abuse at the centre. (The Australian Broadcasting Corporation, November 15, 2000)

\* **A father in the Woomera detention centre "farmed" his son out to other detainees for sex in return for cigarettes.** In a sworn affidavit, a Woomera medical officer alleged the sexual

abuse was not reported to outside agencies because centre management refused to call police without permission from the boy's parents. "There was a widely held opinion among nursing staff that sexual assault on minors was a regular occurrence among the detainee community and hence socially acceptable." The Australasian Correctional Management ACM is a private US company contracted to the Department of Immigration to run the detention centre. (The Australian, November 15, 2000)

\* **The fight against "illegal immigrants" will be a top priority in the defence white paper to be unveiled on December 6 after federal cabinet this week decided to substantially upgrade coast watch activities.** The government has also decided to dramatically increase security at detention centres for "illegal immigrants," turning the centres into top-security prisons. The plan to increase the effectiveness of coastwatch operations includes better coordination between the police and defence forces. It will allow the purchase of early warning aircraft, upgrades to the Collins class submarines, and transport, training and equipment support for the armed forces in East Timor. (The Age (Australia), November 15, 2000)

\* **A German court convicted four teen-age skinheads of attempted**

**murder and arson for injuring a family of asylum-seekers from Kosovo in a firebomb attack on their refugee hostel.** (Reuters, November 14, 2000)

**\* The Government is seeking tenders for the construction of a multi-million-pound centre for asylum-seekers within 10 miles of Dublin Airport.** At present, asylum-seekers awaiting deportation are detained in Garda stations. The centre will accommodate up to 400 people. (The Irish Times, November 14, 2000)

**\* Italy and Albania cited progress in joint efforts to halt illegal trafficking of migrants and goods between the two countries, separated by only a thin stretch of sea.** (Agence France Presse, November 14, 2000)

**\* UNHCR report said entry restrictions imposed by European and North American governments**

**would not be the answer, as they merely drove immigrants and refugees into the hands of unscrupulous traffickers and smugglers.** The report also said that existing international refugee policy is inadequate and unfair. It criticized western European policies to combat illegal immigration and abuse of asylum systems, which it said led to a "Fortress Europe" against genuine refugees. (The Associated Press, November 13, 2000)

**\* Many of the 48,000 immigrants into Ireland in 1999 were black. Less than one fifth of the total were asylum-seekers. Yet, the public's perception of almost all black and coloured people now is that they are asylum-seekers.** The small group of asylum-seekers, only 16.26 per cent of total immigrants, is getting "disproportionate negative attention." (The Irish Times, November 13, 2000)

**\* British immigration officers are to be stationed in the Czech Republic's main airport in a bid to clamp down on "illegal" asylum seekers.** The presence, agreed by the two governments, will be in place despite the Czech bid to become a member of the European Union in the first wave of expansion. Free movement of people and goods is one of the principal benefits of EU membership. But it is understood that the British team will be there to prevent an influx of eastern

Europeans from outside the EU from using the Czech Republic as a route to the west. (The Independent (UK), November 12, 2000)

**\* Tasmania's Anti-Discrimination Commissioner has taken court action against the Federal Immigration Minister, Philip Ruddock.**

**Jocelyne Scutt has issued an application in the Federal Court in relation to the deportation of Kosovo Albanian refugee Akif Lutfiu.** Mr Lutfiu went into hiding in Hobart after overstaying his visa last April. He was taken into custody after being found in a nightclub three months later and sent back to the Balkans. Dr Scutt claims that **Mr Ruddock impeded an Anti-Discrimination investigation by deporting Mr Lutfiu while it was being conducted.** (Australian Broadcasting Corporation, November 11, 2000)

**\* A NATO commander said the alliance was making major changes in preparation for new missions it would face in coming years including fighting crime and "illegal immigration."** "In the last 10 years, NATO had to adapt itself to the new security situation" in the world, Kernan, the alliance's new supreme allied commander-Atlantic, said. "In the future, the task will not only be to defend the borders but to fight against ethnic violence, international crime and "illegal immigration." (AFP, 6 September 2000)

## New Civil Rights in Iran Monthly

IFIR and the Committee for Humanitarian Assistance to Iranian Refugees (CHAIR) have issued the first civil rights monthly last week. The Civil Rights Monthly aims to expose the violations of rights in Iran and defend the right to asylum of Iranian asylum seekers. The monthly is available on IFIR's web site: [www.hambastegi.org](http://www.hambastegi.org).

## Radio Program

IFIR has a weekly radio program, discussing refugee and civil rights issues as well as international organizing efforts. The program is broadcast on Saturdays from 9:00pm to 9:30pm Tehran time on 41 meters short wave (7520 kilohertz). The program is broadcast via Radio International that can be heard in Iran, surrounding countries as well as in Europe. Radio International broadcasts daily programs from 9:00pm to 9:45pm Tehran time.

**To listen to the programs, go to:  
[www.radio-international.org](http://www.radio-international.org)**

### Executive Director:

Maryam Namazie

### Persian Hambastegi:

Fateh Bahrami

### International

### Secretariat Members:

Siamak Amjadi

Javad Aslani

Farshad Hussein

Keyvan Javid

Abbas Mohammadi

Mehrmousch Moosavi

Nasrin Ramazanal

Mohammad Reza Poya

Amir Tavakoli