Home Office Ref:
G1158044,
G1158044/2
G1158044/7

‘Child M’ Must Stay!

‘Child M’ is an 8 year old Iranian child who’s been living in Manchester since June 2007. He came to Britain on holiday with his family but while they were here the Iranian authorities searched and boarded up their home in Iran. They were warned by friends not to return to Iran because an arrest warrant had been issued for Child M’s mother and older sister. Because of this they claimed asylum in Britain. They believe they will face the death penalty in Iran for distributing copies of *The Satanic Verses.*

Their asylum claim was turned down due to lack of evidence. In July Child M and his family were detained by Immigration Officers and were due to be deported to Iran. New evidence was obtained and their immediate deportation was halted.

Child M and his family were then locked-up at Yarl’s Wood Immigration Removal Centre where they were held until 4th September. They spent a total of 51 days in conditions which are prison-like. The detention of children is “an inhuman process” (Children’s Commissioner, September 08), and can “significantly impair a child’s mental and physical health,” (BID Report into the Detention of Children, March 2008).

The Home Office’s own rules say that a child should not be kept in detention if another alternative exists. Whilst they were in detention, Child M’s home in Manchester sat empty.

There can be no justification for locking up an 8 year old child.

To prevent further damage to Child M and his family, the UK government should review their position and grant this family asylum.

We, the undersigned, call upon the Secretary of State to protect ‘Child M’ and grant his family permission to remain.

Name	Address	Signature

Please return completed petitions to: Child M Must Stay Campaign, c/o Gorton Mount Primary School, Mount Road, Gorton, Manchester, M18 7GR