

PRESS RELEASE

FROM RICHARD J JONES

OF

FRENCH & CO SOLICITORS

27 NOVEMBER 2009

We can confirm that we act for Child M (a 9 year old Iranian) and his family in respect of their ongoing claim for asylum.

Regrettably Child M, his mother and elder brother were arrested again last week by the UK Border Agency and taken to Yarl's Wood detention centre in Bedford . They were held pending their removal from the UK to Iran – removal directions having been set by the Home office for 6 pm on 12 November 2009.

It is the family's case that their lives are in grave danger if they return to Iran following the discovery by officials of photocopies of the outlawed novel "the Satanic Verses" at their family home and business.

We can confirm that we have recently been provided with an expert report from a former Iranian official, which states, inter alia, that the arrest warrant issued in Iran would put the family in grave danger if they were to return to Iran . On the basis of this new additional material we have issued a fresh Judicial Review Application on behalf of the mother, and at the eleventh hour on 12 November 2009 the UK Border Agency cancelled the removal directions set for last Friday evening.

Notwithstanding the decision to cancel the families removal directions last week, Child M and his mother and brother remain in detention at Yarl's Wood detention Centre.

We intend to make an application for bail during the early part of next week given our unheeded attempts, of late, to secure their release from custody.

We continue to be very concerned about the welfare of Child M who has already suffered psychological damage, as verified by a psychiatrist from his previous detention at Yarl's Wood for several weeks last year.

There has been much publicity of late about the inappropriateness of detaining children. On this front we are also trying to judicially review the current government policy on the detention of minors.

FRENCH & Co

(Nottingham)

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