

Mr. Sam Okwulehie
Kenya Airways
Bedfont Road
Staines
Middlesex
TW19 7NL
Fax: 020 8745 5027

Dear Mr. Okwulehie,

I am writing in regard of Yves Yitgna Njitchoua, due to be forcibly removed from UK today Wednesday 26 November 2008 @ 19:00hrs on Kenya Airways Flight KQ101 from London Heathrow terminal 4 to Nairobi, and flight KQ518 to Douala Cameroon.

Yves is an active member of Social Democratic Front - the main political opposition group in Cameroon. He is also a regional Co-ordinator for the political group Cameroon Diaspora Coalition in UK. His involvement in these two groups makes him at risk of being detained and persecuted for his political views if returned to Cameroon as intended. Yves has been actively demonstrating against the human rights abuses and corruption that goes on in his country, and has been very critical of Cameroon's President Biya. He is terrified for his fate if sent back to his country of origin because he knows how he endured torture and detention at the hands of the authorities prior to his escape to sanctuary.

Yves has been a law-abiding person since claiming asylum in UK in 2005. His health is not good and is therefore not physically or mentally fit to fly long haul. Yves is a leading political activist in the CDC (Cameroon Diaspora Coalition) and supporter of Social Democratic Front (SDF) in Cameroon for which he says he was sent to prison and tortured. He fled to the UK for protection. Since making his asylum claim, his case has been given some consideration. Even one judge commented that they accept that Yves had been arrested and detained and escaped as claimed in his account about his problems in Cameroon forcing him to flee.

USA: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - Cameroon 2007

Poor understanding of human rights has contributed to abuses in the country. The government's human rights record remained poor, and it continued to commit numerous human rights abuses. Security forces committed numerous unlawful killings; they regularly engaged in torture, beatings, and other abuses, particularly of detainees and prisoners. Impunity was a problem in the security forces. Prison conditions were harsh and life-threatening. Authorities arbitrarily arrested and detained anglophone citizens advocating secession, local human rights monitors and activists, and other citizens. The law provides for the arrest of homosexuals and persons not carrying identification cards. There were reports of prolonged and sometimes incommunicado pretrial detention and infringement on citizens' privacy rights. The government restricted citizens' freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, and harassed journalists. The government also impeded citizens' freedom of movement. The public perceived government corruption to be a serious problem. Societal violence and discrimination against women; trafficking in persons, primarily children; discrimination against indigenous Pygmies and ethnic minorities; and discrimination against homosexuals were problems. The government restricted worker rights and the activities of independent labor organizations, and child labor, slavery, and forced labor, including forced child labor, were reported to be problem.

I believe that the current UK Home Office policy of deporting asylum seekers who have been victims of torture and detention in their country of origin does not reflect the reality of cases like Yves' and, should he be removed, will be cast into an arena of fear where even in that large country, there will be no hiding the authorities who are determined to root out at every level persons who are opponents of corruption and human rights abuses.

I am requesting that your airline should refrain from the business of carrying passengers who are not physically or mentally fit for long-haul travel. In Yves case, he is a very depressed and vulnerable man who at risk of being abused by the authorities determined to punish him for his serious criticisms of the current regime in Cameroon. The police force, due to their corruption and allegiance to President Biya, will not be able to guarantee Yves' safety, which means his human rights are still at great risk on return.

The UK Home Office says it is up to the carrier, whether they carry deportees!

Please do not carry out the UK's enforcement policies, no more deportations by Kenya Airways!

Yours Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

City:

Postcode:

Country:

Date:

Email:

Phone: