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## **Detainees at Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre held unlawfully**

An inspection report on Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre, published today, reveals many detainees are being held at the centre indefinitely, and others have vital information missing from their files.

The report, by Dame Anne Owers, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (HMCIIP), reveals that records for one Eritrean detainee stated he had been in detention for six months, when he had in fact been in immigration detention for two years.

The report also revealed that several detainees are being held at the centre with no prospect of removal from the UK. This is in breach of UK law, the European Convention on Human Rights, and UK Border Agency Policy that detention should be 'for the shortest period necessary'.

Caroline Slocock, Chief Executive of Refugee and Migrant Justice said:

"Indefinite detention of foreign nationals in immigration removal centres is unlawful. People should never be detained indefinitely, and for the authorities in charge of them not to even bother keeping accurate records shows a shocking disregard for the welfare of the individuals and for human rights. Without proper records, it is also difficult to see how the Home Office can enforce its own policy of using detention for 'the shortest period necessary'.

"We welcome the report's recommendations that the UKBA ensures the first date of detention is recorded for each case file, and we are calling on the Government to release detainees now for whom there is no prospect of removal. Refugee and Migrant Justice urges the UKBA to urgently address this issue."

### **Background Information:**

**The average length of stay** at Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre has increased from 46 days at a previous inspection, to 61.

HM Inspector of Prisons report on an announced inspection of Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre can be downloaded [here](#):

<http://www.ncadc.org.uk/Newszine116/Campsfield%20House%20%20IRC%202010.pdf>

**Home Office Enforcement Instructions and Guidance 55.1.3: Use of detention** state: Detention must be used sparingly, and for the shortest period necessary:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/detentionandremovals/chapter55?view=Binary>

This policy is supported by Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

**Report on an announced inspection of Oakington Immigration Reception Centre 16–20 June 2008 by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons** refers to a similar case, of a Chinese prisoner who had been at the centre for two years and the authorities 'appeared unaware of the fact' (p.5):

[http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-prisons/docs/oakington\\_%282008%29-rps.pdf](http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-prisons/docs/oakington_%282008%29-rps.pdf)

**The most up-to-date official figures on immigration detention** were taken from a 'snapshot' on 31 December 2009. They state on that date, 325 people had been detained for more than six months, 95 for more than 12 months and 65 more than 18 months. These figures work out that one in five immigration detainees is kept locked up for more than six months.

These figures are included in the Home Office in its quarterly statistical summary:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/immig409.pdf>

**Refugee and Migrant Justice**, formerly the Refugee Legal Centre, is the largest specialist national provider of legal representation to asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants. RMJ was awarded the Liberty/Justice Human Rights Award in 2005, in particular for its litigation work with Zimbabwean asylum seekers.

Visit our website: <http://www.rmj.org.uk/>

Caroline Slocock, chief executive of Refugee and Migrant Justice is available for interview. For more information or to arrange interviews please contact Alex Valk at [avalk@rmj.org.uk](mailto:avalk@rmj.org.uk) or call 0207 780 3214.