

Willie Walsh,
BA Chief Executive Officer
British Airways
Waterside
Harmondsworth
Middlesex UB7 OGB
Fax: 020 8759 4314
Tel: 084 4493 0787
Email: willie.walsh@ba.com

Dear Mr Willie Walsh

Re: Christian Rodrigue Mbianga

I am writing to you regarding Christian Rodrigue Mbianga, a Cameroon national due to be forcibly removed from the UK on Saturday 11 October 2008 at 06:15hours on British Airways Flight BA302 to Paris and onward to Cameroon on Flight AF940.

Christian fled Cameroon and sought asylum in UK on 12/3/07 because of his political activities for Social Democratic Front (the main opposition party in Cameroon) and also because of his position and actions with the political party Cameroon Diaspora Coalition (CDC). Christian suffered when the Cameroonian authorities targeted him as a consequence of his politics. He has been taken to detention and is a victim of torture in Cameroon. Whilst in UK, Christian has been active with his politics by helping CDC leader Brice Nitcheu to organise demonstrations and meetings in protest at the current Cameroon government, which has one of the worst human rights records in the world according to reliable and independent human rights observers. He has been active with his political views whilst in UK – attending several demonstrations against human rights abuses carried out by Cameroon government officials, organising on-line petitions and publicity criticising Cameroon government. Late last year, Christian's family had their home raided by government officials. Christian's father and sister were arrested and taken away for interrogation. They also had their right to travel taken away from them, and were also subjected to beatings. The authorities keep demanding that the family reveal Christian's whereabouts. If he is forced back to his country, he is certainly going to be a target for those officials seeking him out because of his criticisms of the government in Cameroon.

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 Christian's 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 Christian's safety, which means his human rights are still at great risk on return.

I believe that the current 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 Christian's 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.

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

Lastly, it is the duty of the Home Office to inform British Airways of the fact that Christian is mentally unwell – he has been attending counselling sessions for his psychological problems that relate back to his torture trauma – and to obtain medical clearance that he is fit to fly. Medical Foundation, Medical Justice, the NHS psychologist, his GP are of the view that Christian is indeed a victim of torture and he has a lot of problems stemming from this experience. As far as I know the Home Office has not done this.

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

Yours sincerely

Name:

Address:

City: Postcode: Country:

Date: Email: Phone: