

Theresa May MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
2 Marsham St
London SW1 4DF

Dear Ms May

Vahidi Family: Mohammad, Zahra, Farhad (Home Office Reference V1069256).

I am supporting the campaign to stop the Vahidi family from being deported to Iran where they are likely to face detention, torture or worse.

The Vahidi family claimed asylum in the UK in 2007 after Mr Vahidi left Iran following an incident at his place of work where he was innocently involved in the leaking of information. His friend, who was also involved, was killed as a consequence.

Farhad, a student at Manchester College, his mother and his older brother Farid (who has made a separate claim for asylum) have been protesting against the Iranian government's crackdown on peaceful demonstrators following the election results in June 2009. They were photographed taking part in a peaceful demonstration outside the BBC in Manchester. Given the evidence that peaceful protestors in Iran have been detained and tortured, the fact that the protests in the UK received worldwide coverage makes it even more dangerous for the family if they are returned.

After having their appeals rejected, they have been given removal instructions for Friday August 20th.

Why the Vahidi family should be allowed to stay in the UK:

The human rights abuses and political unrest in Iran at present means that there have been virtually no deportations to Iran recently. Amnesty International's 2010 annual report on Iran states: 'Iranians in large numbers are being imprisoned for peacefully exercising their rights. Not only should they not be incarcerated in the first place, but while held they are further abused and victimized' (Download from Amnesty website here: <http://bit.ly/bFyLEW>)

Mohammad Vahidi has been denied legal representation in Iran because he is considered a fugitive from the Government.

There is fresh evidence for their case proving that a family member has been interrogated by the Iranian authorities about the whereabouts of Mr Vahidi, suggesting further that he will face serious danger if returned to Iran.

Zahra, Mr Vahidi's wife, is suffering from severe health problems and is being treated at Tameside Hospital and Manchester Royal Infirmary.

The family's involvement in peaceful demonstrations makes them liable for arrest in Iran. Farhad says 'If we went back to Iran, we would be arrested and tortured or worse. Iran is a battlefield, innocent people are being arrested all the time. Here in the UK, all my friends use Facebook but, if people use Facebook in Iran, they are liable to be arrested.'

I want the Vahidi family to be released and allowed to stay indefinitely in safety in the UK.

Yours sincerely

Name	Address	Date
.....
	