

Re: ANSELME NOUMBIWA HO.REF. No. N1126839

Anselme fled Cameroon because he was at risk of punishment for not adhering to the tribal tradition of the Bamileke. Chosen as the heir to the tribal chief, Anselme was expected to assume his father's role, which included 'marrying' his father's wives. Anselme refused to do this because it contravened his Christian beliefs. The village elders then subjected him to torture. The Medical Foundation for the Care of the Victims of Torture has submitted a medico-legal report to the Home Office to support his claim. An article about his situation was published in the newspaper of the Catholic Bishop's Conference in Cameroon. The editor has written an official letter testifying to the veracity of the article and the integrity of the newspaper, published by Cardinal Tumi. Anselme also submitted the BINAM research report to show his account of events and abuse is consistent with Bamileke tradition. The Home Office initially rejected his case but Anselme's credibility has been restored as his story is now believed but the Home Office says he can relocate elsewhere in his country as there is an independent judiciary and the police will protect him

Anselme arrived in the UK in July 2006 and has since settled in the North East. He is a valued member of the community and of Tees Valley Voices for Justice. He attends St. Mary's Church in Stockton, where he is a member of the church cleaning team. Few Christians are ever tested in the way he has been tested. He has given up wealth and power at a young age for the Christian faith he professes.

Anselme was arrested and detained on the 14<sup>th</sup> April. His forced removal back to Cameroon on the 21<sup>st</sup> June was postponed and he has new removal directions for 14<sup>th</sup> July.

Amnesty International have provided him with a letter which rejects the idea of an independent judiciary and police protection of citizens. New evidence from a lawyer in Cameroon emphasises the danger, even death, which a tribal chief will face if he goes against tradition. Anselme's family clan wield great influence over the economy, are in branches of Government and hold high rank in the Police force. Contacts at the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission in Cameroon have also emphasised he will not be able to live safely in Cameroon, the power exercised by traditional rulers and societies and the 'heinous' practices.

In a similar case in March a family was removed back to Cameroon from Stockton, previously they had lived in Middlesbrough. One child had attended Sacred Heart School. Again the Home Office said the family could safely return and live elsewhere in the country. Mother was immediately imprisoned with her 6 month old baby and five year old son for three weeks. Her release was bought by the powerful man persecuting her and who now holds her a virtual prisoner. He forced her to give her children away to a woman visiting the prison. A young man University President of his Political Party was also returned one year ago, having been told the Home Office held the Cameroonian Government would no longer be interested in him. He was imprisoned and tortured and has now had to flee to another country.

We are now facing another tragedy. Anselme must be killed before his tribe can appoint a new tribal chief. We do not wish to receive news of his torture or demise.

We ask that the Minister review this case in the light of the evidence before him.

We too wish to build a just, tolerant and safe society and ask that Anselme be allowed to live here in such a society.

Signed: ..... Date .....

Address: .....