

Rt. Hon Alan Johnson, MP ,  
Secretary of State for the Home Office,  
The Home Office  
2 Marsham St  
London  
SW1 4DF  
Fax: 020 8760 3132  
Email: Privateoffice.external@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk,  
UKBApublicenquiries@UKBA.gsi.gov.uk , CITTO@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Alan Johnson,

Re: Anselme Noubiwa HO Ref: N1126839

Anselme Noubiwa, a Cameroon national, is currently detained in Colnbrook IRC and, I understand, is to be forcibly removed from the UK to Cameroon on a charter flight on 21 April 2010.

Anselme Noubiwa fled Cameroon in 2006 because he was at risk of punishment for not adhering to the tribal traditions of the Bamileke people. As the son and heir, Anselme was expected to assume his father's role, which included 'marrying' his many wives. When his father died in May 2006, Anselme refused to become the Paramount Chief because polygamy contravened his Christian beliefs. In an attempt to force Anselme to comply with tradition, the village elders subjected him to the most degrading and terrifying torture.

Anselme's application for asylum was refused and the Immigration Judge who heard his appeal rejected the account of his experiences despite compelling evidence in the form of a newspaper account of his ordeal in L'Effort Camerounais, the newspaper of the Catholic Bishops Conference in Cameroon.

Anselme has since substantiated his evidence by providing an official letter from the Editor of L'Effort testifying to the veracity of the article and the integrity of the newspaper and a letter from Amnesty International. He has also produced a

medico-legal report by a doctor trained by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture and highly respected for the quality of his reports, which documents his trauma, plus a report on Bamileke traditions, which is consistent with his story of abuse. The Home Office argued that the doctor who wrote the last report did not work for Medical Foundation and a new report was commissioned. The new report has not been finalised and has not yet been submitted to the Home Office for consideration, Anselme should not be rushed out of the country before it can be finished and given proper consideration.

Most importantly ample evidence has been submitted already to prove that re-location in Cameroon, deemed possible by the Home Office, is impossible for Anselme, a Paramount Chief. The Kingmaker has stated that, if he will not comply,

*"Then I fear for him. If he is the Paramount Chief, he has no choice in the matter. He is simply a custodian of the customs and cannot change anything to suit his personal desires. If he comes back he will either marry those wives or bear the consequences." Bishop Joseph Atanga has stated, "if the price he must pay for his faith is self exile or face possible death, then the Lord be with him wherever he may be - and he has my blessings."*

Anselme has lived in Tees Valley since July 2006. He is an extremely well known and popular member of the community, always willing to help others. He attends St Mary's RC Church, is active in the local community and was studying English at Stockton Riverside College. He has been in regular attendance at Portrack Baptist Church, Stockton over the past 2 years and retains very good links across the area with RC and Anglican churches. He is an integral member of the church community and regularly attends the Sunday afternoon French-speaking Mustard Seed Church and the weekly drop in sessions for refugees at the parish church. Anselme also cleans the church on a regular basis - being known as the ecumenical church cleaner.

Anselme has many friends and supporters, including his MP, the Bishop of Durham, who wrote in a national newspaper to express his outrage at the inhumane manner in which Home Office officials have treated his case and the

Catholic Bishops' Conference. There have been many articles written about him, both in the UK and abroad. Typing his name into google produces over 200 references. There is no way that he can slip into the country unnoticed and not be found by other members of the Bamileke tribe, who are very powerful at all levels of society – most importantly in the police force – and who would seek to kill him, in order to elect a new chief.

There is concern that the Home Office is returning vulnerable people to Cameroon when the documented experiences of those previously removed demonstrate that they have been subjected to further violence. Of even more concern is the undocumented disappearance of people forcibly returned from the UK. Anselme's removal directions for the Charter Flight on 21st April 2010 show a callous disregard for the Human Rights of the individuals scheduled to fly. It is regrettable that an airline should co-operate in the forced removal of such individuals to danger.

Many people have signed an online petition (<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/anselme/index.html>) in support of Anselme and he has over 400 supporters on the social networking site Twitter.

We ask you stop Anselme's removal and give him a place here.

Yours sincerely,

Name:

Address:

City:

Postcode:

Country:

