

Dear Friend,

APPEAL – Can you help someone be released from Dungavel Detention Centre.

Positive Action in Housing has been approached by someone who has been kept in detention for over **six months** despite having never committed any crime – other than seeking asylum in the UK.

Can you help him be released by offering to stand as a cautioner at his bail hearing? This means you will have to attend a bail hearing in Glasgow and offer him a place to stay. He will only need somewhere to stay for a limited time while we access more sustainable accommodation for him. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like any further information.

JOHN FROM LIBERIA

John is 26 years old. He has been in the UK since January 2006 and is fluent in English.

The most recent US Dept of State's 'Country Reports on Human Rights Practices' on Liberia noted that in Liberia "the following human rights problems were reported:

"• ritualistic killings and deaths from mob violence • police abuse, harassment, and intimidation • arbitrary arrest and detention • denial of due process and fair public trial • incidents of trial-by-ordeal • official corruption and impunity • violence and discrimination against women, especially rape • female genital mutilation (FGM) • societal ethnic discrimination" [not an exclusive list] (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61577.htm>)

Despite this John was detained immediately on application for asylum and his application was fast tracked. During his 6 months in detention he has been moved between 5 different detention centres, often in the middle of the night and always without any explanation or notice.

The Liberian government deny John's citizenship, meaning that there is not prospect of him being removed from the UK in the near future. The only way for John to avoid being left in detention, and the only way in which there can be any judicial oversight to his detention, is for him to apply for bail.

The only way he can do this is through finding someone who is willing to act as a cautioner. John does not know anyone in the UK had never been to Scotland before he was transferred to Dungavel. He has no friends or contacts here. All he has seen of our country is the fencing and barbed wire around Dungavel and so has to rely on the kindness of strangers.

As you can imagine John is desperate to get out of detention to get his life and his asylum application back on track. He tells us that he has never been in any kind of trouble with the police or committed any crime.

Would you be willing to stand as a cautioner for John? Do you have a spare room where he would be able to stay?

If you think you or someone you know has a spare room and might be able to then please contact David or Jamie on 0141 353 2220 or e-mail david@paih.org