

Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP
Secretary of State for the Home Office
3rd Floor Peel Buildings
2 Marsham Street
London SW1 4DF
Fax: 020 8760 3132
Dear Home Secretary

I have made myself familiar with the case of Irene Nakalema from Uganda, HO ref: N1135424 and her son who is 15 months old. She is currently detained at Yarl's Wood IRC and due to be forcibly removed from the UK **on Sunday, 28th September** on British Airways flight BA 63 at 21:10hrs from London Heathrow Airport to Entebbe for onward travel to Kampala.

Irene came to the UK in April 2007 on a valid passport to attend a conference in Edinburgh. Whilst there and just before she was due to return to Uganda she received news from home that her husband had been seized from their home by armed men from the government. Irene's husband was a supporter of FDC (Forum for Democratic Change). He has not been seen or heard of since. Irene was then too terrified to return to Uganda, fearing that she too would be seized by the same group.

She immediately claimed asylum but was refused leave to remain. Despite her solicitor sending the actual newspaper from Uganda which carried the report of her husband's disappearance and mentioned Irene as the wife, it was not believed that he had been arrested and that Irene's life would be in danger if she returned to Uganda.

Their son Nadeem was born in June 2007 in Blackburn.

Immigration officials came to pick up Irene on September 23. They attempted to force an entry at the front door and surrounded the back of the house before gaining entry. They then handcuffed Irene and removed her and her young son to Yarl's Wood Removal Centre. Nadeem now has diarrhoea and if it continues will certainly not be fit to travel.

Irene is terrified of being returned to Uganda and fears for her life there. She has made a life for herself and Nadeem in Blackburn, is a regular churchgoer and is settled in the community.

I ask you to exercise your powers of discretion so that Irene and Nadeem can stay in Blackburn.

Yours sincerely

Name:

Address:

City:

Postcode:

Country:

Date:

Email:

Phone: