

## Zimbabweans released from indefinite detention

Three Zimbabweans were released from detention today on the order of a judge at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. All the men were being held in immigration detention in spite of the fact that removals to Zimbabwe are currently suspended. The Home Office had argued that their detention was necessary, even though there is no immediate prospect of removal.

Represented by Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) a legal charity which provides legal advice and information to people held in immigration detention, the men pronounced themselves delighted with the verdict. Celia Clarke, the charity's Director vowed they would continue to challenge the indefinite detention of Zimbabweans who cannot be removed in the foreseeable future. "We hope that this decision will make the Home Office think very carefully about detaining Zimbabweans from now on. It is simply unacceptable to deprive people of their liberty when they cannot realistically be removed from the UK."

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### Notes for editors

1. BID is an independent charity that prepares and presents free bail applications on behalf of those detained under Immigration Act powers. BID does not receive legal aid funding. BID also carries out information and research work on the policy and practice of immigration detention in the UK. BID has offices in London, Portsmouth and Oxford and makes bail applications for those held at any of the Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) in the UK. We also support people to make their own applications for release on bail, without a legal representative using our self-help book on bail, *How to Get out of Detention*. Further information can be found at [www.biduk.org](http://www.biduk.org)
2. The government has the power to detain people under Immigration Act powers if they believe they will abscond, or their removal is imminent. This detention is sanctioned by an immigration officer, and is not overseen by a court. There is no automatic bail hearing, and no time limit on detention. This means that people can languish in detention indefinitely.

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