

## **ENFORCED REMOVALS (FAQs)**

### **Do you believe that the G4S guards killed Jimmy Mubenga?**

It's up to the courts to decide – three guards from G4S have been arrested and are now on bail – the police are deciding whether to charge them with manslaughter.

### **Should Jimmy Mubenga have been removed in the first place?**

This campaign isn't about the rights and wrongs of the decision to remove Jimmy Mubenga – it's about all removals being done safely and with respect for people's human rights.

### **Do you think that the UK shouldn't remove anyone?**

We would hope that people would make a voluntary departure but we acknowledge that the UK government does need to forcibly remove some people from the country. But there is no reason why this cannot be done safely and with respect for people's basic rights. This campaign is not about stopping forced removals: it's about changing the system so they are done safely, by well-trained staff who respect international human rights standards and are accountable if something goes wrong.

### **Surely prison service and police training is good enough?**

We are not saying that there's anything wrong with police and prison service training. Merely that it isn't specific to the unique environment on board an aircraft. Training must be significantly improved and the awarding of contracts should be dependent upon the suitability and robustness of the training. It should include mandatory training in the safe use of restraints like handcuffs and leg restraints. First aid training should be given by the Red Cross or St John's ambulance. Government approved trainers should run accreditation courses and not private in-house companies.

### **You say that dangerous control and restraint techniques are being used – on what basis do you say this?**

Sources with detailed working knowledge of the removals process have told Amnesty that these techniques were still in use at the time of Mr Mubenga's death. Our briefing details a series of new and recent cases where allegations of improper use of control and restraint have resulted in injury and mistreatment of people during the removals process.

### **Who are your sources within G4S?**

We're not at liberty to reveal our sources, not least for their own protection. The important thing is that they have raised these concerns, much of which is consistent with other allegations of abuse and reports in the public domain.

### **The government says that it's conducting a fundamental review of the techniques used on aircraft to make them safer – so do you need this campaign?**

We welcome this review and request that the government consults Amnesty International to ensure that human rights standards are complied with during removals. It's of concern to Amnesty that it's taken so long. The Government itself states that private security companies have been used for nearly 20 years. A prison service audit recommended this in 2008 and prison service training manuals state the need for realistic scenario-based training.

### **All the problems you talk about relate to the company G4S, but they lost the contract – isn't all this now irrelevant as it's a different company doing the removals now?**

Amnesty has been told that G4S staff responsible for escorting detainees have moved to Reliance. The uniforms will change but the people and the dangerous practices will remain the same. The new contract holders Reliance have significantly undercut G4S raising severe concerns that sufficient funds will not be made available for the necessary improvements in training, accountability and oversight.

**For more information please take a look at our briefing '*Out of control - the case for a complete overhaul of enforced removals by private contractors*' and watch our spoof training video at [www.amnesty.org.uk/removals](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/removals)**