

# RAM BULLETIN

Refugees, Asylum-seekers and the Mass media Project

advice  
information  
research  
& training  
on media ethics



Promoting best practice in media representation of refugee and asylum issues

No. 30, July 2003

## Asylum-seekers or sitting ducks?

Exiled journalists have issued a challenge to the Press Complaints Commission over a *Sun* front page story ('Swan Bake', 2 July 03) after a RAM Project investigation revealed that key claims in the story could not be substantiated.

According to *The Sun's* crime correspondent 'asylum seekers', 'immigrants' or 'East Europeans' – terms used interchangeably through out – are breaking the law by hunting and eating swans. Swans are a protected species 'owned' by the Queen.

He claims the police 'swooped' on a group of people roasting a duck in a park in Beckton, East London. In a bag nearby were two dead swans, ready to be cooked. He quotes a Metropolitan Police report, describing in detail how the birds are baited.

However, the Metropolitan Police deny such a report exists. Forest Gate and North Woolwich Police Stations say they knew nothing of this 'swoop'. No-one has been charged, summoned, warned or held in custody.

Gary Bird Deputy Editor of the local *Newham Recorder* told RAM that neither the Park's Constabulary nor police in the area have any knowledge of this incident. He is unsure about the origins of the story and suspects it was made up.

Watch this space.

## Fishy

*The Sun* followed up their silly season lead about swans with 'Now asylum-seekers are nicking the fish' (Sat 5 July).

Quoting three anglers as eye witnesses, the story alleges that asylum-seekers are denuding Britain's lakes by snaring fish and barbecuing them.

One 'championship angler', claims that gangs of refugees target lakes all over the South East'. He is quoted as saying "These people

often turn violent when you catch them."

RAM has yet to discover whether anyone has been charged with the alleged offences described. Can they expect a fair trial when a mass circulation newspaper has gone into such detail before they have appeared in court?

## REFUGEE WEEK SPECIAL

*Refugee Week 2003 has come and gone, leaving in its wake lessons to be drawn for a long time to come. In this issue, RAM looks takes a panoramic view of the week and press coverage of the events. SEE Page 2*

## Directory of Exiled Journalists: in a newsroom near you

The RAM Project Directory of Exiled Journalists is off the press at last, with biographies, photographs and stories of over 40 men and women who fled their homeland after being persecuted for trying to tell the truth.

Copies of the limited edition Directory, endorsed by high-profile UK media figures, are being sent to employers in all major UK media outlets. The aim is to ensure that the talents and abilities of exiled journalists are recognized, and they will be given an opportunity to work in UK newsrooms.

The Directory will be available and regularly updated on-line. To access the Directory log on to [www.ramproject.org.uk/directory](http://www.ramproject.org.uk/directory)

## RAM Project to continue

As the Bulletin went to press, news came through that funding has been secured for the RAM Project to continue for another year. Our programme for the coming year will include more work in dispersal areas, use of the media training and further development of the Exiled Journalists' Network.

## EDITORIAL

### STATISTICAL UNITS

One need only read the tabloids to see the spinelessness of those whom Liverpool's Edward Murphy calls 'gutter journalists'.

Their dehumanising stories on asylum-seekers would lead one to believe that they are not talking about lives but about bags of potatoes. So statistical has the asylum debate become that the debate revolves around 'halving the figures'.

Extremists opine that the best way to come out of the asylum woods is NOT to revamp the system to better manage the inevitable influx of persecuted persons. Theories abound about the best way forward, from Blunkett's ingenious offshore processing of refugees, to the notion of Safe Countries which proscribes asylum claims from their nationals, regardless of the particular circumstances.

UK embassies abroad have picked up the cue and are also cutting down figures arbitrarily, leaving genuine visitors and conference attendees to the UK at the mercy of flourishing neighbourhood 'visa agents'.

Asylum is not about figures; it is about a national consultation with all groups to find the best way forward. The recent Conference on the Integration of Refugees, held in Birmingham (30 June to 1 July) is thus a laudable initiative.

The Minister Beverley Hughes got it right about refugees' potential contribution to UK society. Asylum is about enhancing the present system and deciding whether asylum-seekers should work or live on pittances.

Asylum-seekers are not objects to be discarded *en masse* or tarred with the same brush.

They share a common humanity with us all. It would be a monumental mistake for Britain to continue to treat them as anonymous statistical units.

**Gordon Doh Fondo**  
Guest Editor  
[dohfondo@yahoo.com](mailto:dohfondo@yahoo.com)

## REFUGEE WEEK SPECIAL

### Think London: Think Local - think successful seminar

The last in the current series of RAM Media Fora events, 'Think London – Think Local' was designed to help get coverage for Refugee Week events.

It took place on 12 June at the Lancaster hall Hotel in Bayswater and attracted over 90 participants.

Speakers included Ken Livingstone's deputy Nicky Gavron, NUJ General Secretary Jeremy Dear and the Refugee Council's Director of Communications. Fazal Kawani, Chair of Refugee Week 2003.

Participants were able to attend two of the four media workshops on offer, covering 'How to write a press release', 'Working with the local media', 'How to organise a press campaign' and 'Face to face interviews.'

Most were able to take home an exhaustive PressWise 'Use of the Media' information pack.

Many expressed sadness at the fact that this was the last in the current series which began in Birmingham, bringing together close to 500 journalists, refugees, NGO and public servants around media coverage issues.  
[www.ramproject.org.uk](http://www.ramproject.org.uk)

### Refugee TV beams in messages of support

Refugee TV, a project headed by Afghanistan's Arts and Culture Association (ACAA) and its Director Faqir Mayvand, was launched on Friday 20 June at Hammersmith and Fulham Council.

According to the founders, Refugee TV 'will be a non-political and non-religious television station which will help refugees, asylum seekers and migrants access the media'.

The launch event was addressed by Jennette Arnold, Chair of Culture Sport and Tourism Committee at the Greater London Assembly, and the Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham Charlie

Treloggan. Both stressed their support for the venture.

For more information contact ACAA:  
[mayvand@hotmail.com](mailto:mayvand@hotmail.com)  
Tel: 0208 881 0869

### Liverpool's press receives thumbs up

Liverpool used Refugee Week 2003 to welcome its asylum community with pomp and pageantry.

Festivities organised under the aegis of the Merseyside Refugee Support Network and the Liverpool Network for change, brought together asylum seekers and refugees from Kosovo, Latin America, Ethiopia, Iraq, the Congo and Cameroon amongst others.

The keynote speech came from Edward Murphy, Chair of the organizing committee.

"We say welcome to our refugee guests," he said. "We want you to know that the City of Liverpool delights in your presence. Whatever your experiences at the hands of immigration authorities or your racist neighbours, we as a city welcome you".

Edward availed himself of the opportunity to hail the "positive stories coming out of the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo". He attributed this to "a solid campaign by Lynn Wallace, Project Coordinator of the Mersey Volunteer Bureau and her team."

For her part, Lynn challenged "lies in the media which create tensions in communities". She appealed to the press and the community in Great Britain to "give asylum-seekers a chance".

Liverpool's honoured guests had a good time as they were served food from different cultures and treated to dancing and presentations. They went away with the comforting thought that Liverpool can indeed be called home, sweet home.

Perhaps other papers which seek to add discomfort to the lives of asylum-seekers in the UK will can learn from the example of *Liverpool Daily Post and Echo*.

### Bristol Evening Post does refugees proud

The Bristol Evening Post has shown an example of good practice

in its coverage of this year's Refugee Week.

The June 21 edition dedicated a full-colour centre-spread to pictures of refugees celebrating alongside British nationals at Bristol's College Green. Traditional dances from countries as varied as Cote d'Ivoire, Somalia, Chile, Vietnam and Afghanistan were given prominence.

[www.bepp.co.uk](http://www.bepp.co.uk)  
[www.thisisbristol.com](http://www.thisisbristol.com)

### Daily Express recidivates

This year's Refugee Week, like those before, celebrated the positive contributions of refugees and asylum-seekers to UK society,

*The Daily Express*, as usual, had a negative angle. In a story headed 'Fury at 'day trip' for refugees', the paper insinuated that £2,500 spent on refugees to mark the last International Refugee Week was a waste of money.

Strange that the *Daily Express* should settle for such trivia when the rest of the press managed to make stories from the many great events organised around the country that week.

### Refugee Action event at London's City Hall

Lee Jasper, Race Relations Advisor to London's Mayor and PressWise Director Mike Jempson were keynote speakers at the Refugee Action Media Day on Saturday 28 June in the new City Hall beside Tower Bridge.

Chaired by RA Director Sandy Buchan, the events provided opportunities for representatives from refugee community organisations around the country to take part in media workshops run by PressWise, refugee action, a BBC reporter and the Press Complaints Commission.

### Make use of PressWise Services

Refugee organisations that want to make best use of the media, should call 0117 941 5889 and ask about PressWise Training.

We specialise in providing professional training, and support with complaints about any aspect of media coverage.

## Express train story begs questions

The *Daily Express* report of the death of three people when a minibus was struck by a train at a level crossing in Worcestershire ('Driven to their deaths', 8 July 03) is the latest demonstration that editors need guidance about the use of language.

The sub-heading states 'Refugees killed as train hits minibus'. But the opening paragraph starts 'Three illegal immigrants were killed.'

The third paragraph refers to the dead as 'believed to be Iranian' suggesting that the reporters are unsure of their facts.

PressWise, the Refugee Council and the Home Office Positive Images Working group have called on the Press complaints Commission to issue guidance about accurate use of terms by newspapers.

PressWise is also proposing that 'legal status' be added to the list of terms featured in the industry Code of Practice clause on discrimination (13), to make it easier to challenge inaccurate or pejorative coverage of refugees and asylum-seekers.

## Safe hafan in Wales

The Swansea Bay Asylum Seekers [and Refugees] Support Group (SBASSG), is promoting a book of writing by refugees and asylum seekers, on its website

<[www.hafan.org](http://www.hafan.org)> (*hafan* means haven in Welsh)

One of the contributors is Maxson Sahr Kpakio, whose biography can be found in the Directory of Exiled Journalist.

Maxson premiered his poem in March at the RAM Burwalls' Seminar in March and received some very positive feedback.

As a follow-on project from the book, one of the editors Charles Eric has formed a Refugee Writers Association in Cardiff and is inviting all refugees and asylum seekers to submit examples of writing for future publications. Contact him via [www.hafan.org](http://www.hafan.org)

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

*"Asylum-seekers come here for political, religious, social and other reasons. All the 120 asylum-seekers I have met and worked with are individuals, each with their own unique story. Many of them are nice people, professionals who have abandoned their jobs, families and nice homes to come to flee to the UK and start life all over again. Misinformation about asylum-seekers by the press only helps create tensions within communities. In my view, the community in Britain needs to give these people a chance".*

Lynn Wallace, Project Coordinator  
Mersey Volunteer Bureau, 20 June 03

*"Britain runs an asylum system that has left asylum-seekers desperate and in a poverty-stricken situation. That has denied them the possibility of expressing their culture and making a very real contribution to the society here.*

*Asylum-seekers cannot at all be treated as benefits cheats. Many people living on income support may be cheating the government of benefits. Why use race as an argument about benefits cheats? Why not concentrate on the people stealing the real money, such as the tax evaders? Why hone in on one small helpless group of people? Let us open the doors of the UK and give asylum-seekers a chance to express themselves to the fullness of their capacity".*

Karl Oram, Liverpool special invitee  
to Refugee Week, 20 June 03

## 'We are fighting with one hand behind our back'

Hostile media coverage of refugees and asylum seekers could be hampering the work of the British Red Cross, according to its Director of Communications, Rev. William Beaver.

Commenting on the coverage of the Sangatte affair, in an interview with Reuters' Alertnet news service, Rev. Beaver said the Red Cross had to draft a reply to an editorial in the *Daily Mail* that urged readers not to donate their money – because Sangatte was run by the French Red Cross.

'Unfortunately the letters are always smaller than the original article... So we are fighting with

one hand behind our back,' he explained.

'The major challenge for the Red Cross at the moment is to accurately explain the dilemma refugees face,' he explained. 'We need to convince people that asylum seekers are not as painted by some of the newspapers.'

[www.alertnet.org](http://www.alertnet.org)

British Red Cross: 020 7235 5454

## The Sun's macabre plot thwarted

News reaches RAM from the Kent Refugee Support Group about a failed ploy by *The Sun* to deter asylum-seekers from entering Britain.

The dastardly plan was to form a human chain spelling out the word NO on top of the White Cliffs of Dover. Buses were to be laid on to deliver the participants, and a helicopter hired to take an aerial photo.

Oh yes - and all the participants were to be Black or Asian - since the idea was to illustrate the legend that ethnic minorities say NO to asylum-seekers. Only problem - they couldn't find enough (Black and Asian) volunteers, so the whole crazy plan was scrapped. Or did Editor Rebekah Wade have sudden attack of second thoughts?

## Will the BBC go ahead with its game plan?

As July 23 approaches, opposition has grown to the BBC's plan to invite audiences to vote on the asylum claims as part of a special theme day.

Since PressWise alerted the press to the proposal back in May - the Guardian ran a front page piece about it in June - the idea has been criticised as ill-thought out and distasteful at public meetings.

One person who is especially angry about this is refugee writer Alex Miljkovic. A year ago he put in a proposal to the Arts Council for funding a SATIRE set in the future where asylum claims are handled as part of a game show.

*Sun* columnist Richard Littlejohn used the idea in his 8 June column. If you want to tell the BBC what you think go to

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/feedback/program/comment.shtml>

FEATURE**A NEW KIND OF HOSTILITY**

*Ugandan journalist and media expert **Jesse Mashate** on the challenges awaiting exiled journalists once they reach the safety of the UK*

**IN MAY 1986, as editor-in-chief and proprietor of the Kampala-based *Weekend Digest*, I was arrested and charged with treason for publishing a story about an impending coup in Uganda based on information from the President himself.**

Following an international diplomatic and media outcry, I was released from military confinement and appeared in court on concocted sedition charges which remain outstanding despite strenuous efforts to have them dropped.

I resisted the advice of British and American diplomats to leave Uganda for good, traveling twice to the UK for medical treatment before eventually fleeing to safety towards the end of 1989.

As a child I was taught that Britain was the home of great defenders of human rights, such as William Wilberforce and Florence Nightingale. As a British citizen, born before Ugandan independence, I expected to be treated with dignity and compassion but my asylum application was handled inhumanely.

The British establishment did not share the views of its High Commissioner who fought for

my release and advised me to flee. He also provided refuge for the BBC's Kampala correspondent who fled into the night after a cabinet minister, implicated in the coup plot, was shot dead by suspected government agents at his house. He then drove my colleague in a flag-bearing car right up to the aircraft that would take him to London. In the UK my colleague was declared a 'bogus' asylum-seeker. The BBC did not even offer him a cleaner's job.

Being in exile is a taxing experience. Journalists enjoy an advantage over others, since the job requires routine adjustment to hostile situations. Like bereavement, asylum offers challenges that can shape one's outlook, sometimes for the better. In Africa orphaned children acquire maturity sooner than those protected by their parents. The journalist and African in me enabled me to adapt to the institutionally harsh British environment.

At first the plenitude of adverts made job prospects look deceptively easy. Those who say we can't get work because we don't apply for jobs, don't speak adequate English, and don't know how to write a CV or make present-able job applications, never explain how an unqualified native teenager is better equipped than a highly qualified experienced non-native.

Having taught at a UK university I know that many native students cannot even spell simple English words.

To foreign journalists the mainstream media appears to be a fortified institution linked to preservation of the *status quo*. Editors are hesitant to employ a

refugee to report objectively on refugee matters.

Exiled journalists must contemplate career changes, or self-employment. They can take advantage of training, but in the UK training is a growth industry concerned more with the capacity of the provider than the needs of the trainee.

I have thrived in education, where discrimination is minimal. Perhaps, like Asian restaurant-owners, refugees have more to offer the employment market by creating jobs than looking for them. Getting together to found media production businesses might be one avenue.

*Jesse Mashate holds an MA in Communications Policy from City University and a PhD in Politics from the University of Westminster. His journalistic career includes being proprietor and editor-in-chief of *The Weekend Digest*, a producer and broadcaster on Ugandan TV and radio and freelancer and lecturer in the UK. He currently runs his own media consultancy, Nile File, from Stanmore, Middlesex.*

This is one of 43 contributions to the RAM Project *DIRECTORY OF EXILED JOURNALISTS* now on its way to print and broadcast Editors throughout the UK.

An on-line version can be accessed at [www.ramproject.org/directory](http://www.ramproject.org/directory) where there is plenty of room for new entries.

**Exiled journalists wishing to join the RAM Network please contact Nick Medic on [ram@presswise.org.uk](mailto:ram@presswise.org.uk) or go to <http://www.ramproject.org.uk/join.htm>**

## Cut-out-and-keep COMMUNICATOR

A PressWise guide for those wishing to improve  
media coverage. Back issues can be found  
at [www.ramproject.org.uk](http://www.ramproject.org.uk)

### MEDIA MONITORING

#### 1) Tolling the knell of xenophobia

*Guest editor Gordon Doh Fondo meets **Edward Murphy**, Chair of the Merseyside Refugee Support Network and Director of the Liverpool Network for Change, a man who vows never to rest until the UK media changes its stance on asylum –seekers and refugees*

Refugee Week was started in 1998 in response to increasingly negative public opinion. Its aims are to encourage a positive debate around immigration and asylum issues, provide support to refugees and asylum seekers, and change the way the public perceives them.

Edward Murphy plugged into that spirit and used this year's Refugee Week to highlight and condemn negative coverage of asylum in the UK media.

Talking to the RAM Bulletin he castigated "those elements of the press who belong to the gutter but who have excelled themselves on the issue of asylum".

Analysing the phobia against refugees and asylum-seekers: he told me "Asylum-seekers are treated abominably by the UK media. I am sorry to say that the press is driven by a deep-seated hatred for asylum-seekers and refugees. Suspicion in the English press leads to stereotyping but we have to keep reminding these idle journalists that each asylum-seeker has a personal story."

Edward believes that policy-makers are at times responsible for attacks on asylum-seekers in the press. "It is the government that stokes up anti-asylum tendencies by insinuating that asylum-seekers are terrorists, that they bring disease, that they are alien and are swamping our culture. These are the things government Ministers are saying and it is that tone that is picked up by elements of the press who might not otherwise be racist, xenophobic or frightened of the other"

Edward's team at the Merseyside Refugee Support Network is leading part of a wider campaign to change the views expressed in the UK media about asylum-seekers.

Working in conjunction with the Liverpool Network For Change, which he directs and the Mersey Volunteer Bureau coordinated by Lynn Wallace, the strategy of the organization has been to involve local journalists in all activities involving refugees.

One of the projects within the network, Basic Skills, seeks to counter press misgivings by actually taking asylum-seekers and refugees into schools,

introducing them to children and showing them that asylum-seekers and refugees are not monsters but good, ordinary people fleeing persecution.

Another main thrust of their activities is to challenge the anti-asylum views held by some journalists and expressed in some of the tabloids. Edward Murphy says: "we have to keep reminding journalists not to stereotype. Investigating into the specific story of asylum-seekers is hard work. But since journalists are lazy, they use stereotyping as an easy way to render a story. We have to keep inviting them to events like this to show them that whatever their instincts may be, there are much more complex, subtle stories to be written about the incomers to our city".

The result, according to Edward, is that "you will not see racist xenophobia on display in the local press on Merseyside. Some of the most positive images that go out from the city, go out from the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo".

Edward strongly believes that the manner in which young people perceive asylum-seekers and refugees is due largely to media misrepresentation. He says the minds of the British toward asylum-seekers have been poisoned and recalls a shocking incident in a classroom where a 14-year-old girl was asked what she thought of asylum-seekers. She said: "they are people who wear hooks and climb over fences in Sangatte." Edward finds this "despicable".

As to what practical solution he can propose to help mitigate the tone of the tabloids, he simply says: "If anyone gave me enough money, I would buy all the racist papers and close them down". And then seeing the surprise on my face he adds: "or don't you think that is practical enough?"

Edward's team has set out a strategy that could be emulated by other organizations. The impact they are having on the Liverpool public in particular and on the UK at large cannot be overstated.

It is not sufficient to sit back and lament the treatment meted out to asylum-seekers by sections of the UK media. Action must be taken at all levels and each negative story must be countered by a positive story.

Refugee Week provides an opportunity to deliver positive educational messages that counter fear, ignorance and the negative stereotyping of refugees, and an opportunity to tell people about the enormous economic and cultural contribution of refugees to British society.

Edward's stance and the position of his organization tie in with that objective. If refugee organizations, refugees and all men and women of goodwill can rise up and challenge racist tendencies in the press, it would not be too long before the knell is tolled for xenophobia. And Britain will be all the better for it.

The Merseyside Refugee Support Network:  
0151 702 6300

## 'PEG' BOARD

*The media always like to 'hang' stories on a 'peg'-so keep your eyes and ears open for national or local events which can provide you and the media with a reason for running a positive story about refugees or asylum-seekers.*

*\* Use the events listed below to attract good coverage, instead of having to react to negative stories.*

*\* Remind media contacts if it is happening near you.*

*\* Let them know if any of the speakers has a local connection, or if any one is going from your area.*

*\* Suggest they arrange an interview or send a film crew.*

*Friday 11 July 9.00am - 3.00pm*

### **PROTECT THE REFUGEE CHILD**

Birmingham Refugee Children & Youth New Hope Partnership (NHP) present this conference on refugee children and refugee integration policy. Professionals working in the field of refugees will address the conference and there will also be workshops on the key service areas affecting refugee children and youths - including one by Terry Williams, RAM Project Co-ordinator. Venue: South Aston Community Association Centre, 2 Tower Road, Aston, Birmingham B6 5BN

*For more info, or to book, Roy Bartholomew on [newhope@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:newhope@tiscali.co.uk) or 0121 244 7365*

*Friday 11 July 3.00 - 5.00pm*

### **ASYLUM VOICES 1933 - 2003**

Sponsored by the Runnymede Trust, the Stone Ashdown Trust with

with the Imams and Mosques Council (UK), the Jewish Council for Racial Equality and the Churches' Commission for Racial Justice. This event includes a presentation by actor Nicholas Bailey (Eastenders) to Dr Elizabeth Olayokun to celebrate her requalification as a doctor in the UK.

Hosted by Oona King MP and Baroness Uddin.

Venue: Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, London E1

*For more info, contact Stone Ashdown on 020 7472 6060*

### *Sunday 13 July* **BRITISH 10K OPEN ROAD RACE**

The Refugee Council are looking for volunteers to run the road race and raise funds through sponsorship. The course runs through Piccadilly Circus and past famous London landmarks as Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye and St Paul's Cathedral.

*For more info, contact [abby.rudland@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:abby.rudland@refugeecouncil.org.uk) or 020 7820 3135*

### *Monday 14 July 9.30am* **DEFEND YARL'S WOOD DETAINEES**

On 14 February 2002 Group4 forcibly detained a 55 year old female detainee, a large scale incident ensued and a fire started. There are many criticisms of the way the trial has been handled - many witnesses have already been deported, one defendant was acquitted of all charges but then immediately re-arrested and deported. Meanwhile the fire itself raises questions about safety - the wooden framed building had no sprinkler system and no fire drill.

Venue: Harrow Crown Court, Hailsham Drive, Harrow. Nearest station Harrow and Wealdstone.

*For more info, contact [sady\\_campaign@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sady_campaign@yahoo.co.uk) or 07786 517 379.*

*Monday 14 July 4.00 - 8.30pm*

### **MIGRANT WORKER'S RIGHTS**

From the beginning of July, the Migrant Workers Charter will become a legal instrument for the UN states who have signed up to its proposals. To mark this occasion, JCWI and the Trades Union Congress are organising a meeting to discuss Migrants Workers' Rights, and to ask whether the UK government is doing enough to ensure that these are adequately protected.

Speakers include Beverley Hughes MP (Home Office Minister tbc), Patrick Taran (International Labour Office), Frances O'Grady (TUC Deputy General Secretary) and others.

Venue: Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS

*For more info, contact [Angela Westwood on awestwood@tuc.org.uk](mailto:Angela.Westwood@tuc.org.uk) or 020 7467 1357*

*Wednesday 16 July 7.00pm*

### **RESPECT NOT RACISM**

Ten years on from the murder of Stephen Lawrence: Have the lessons been learnt? A panel discussion as part of Respect Week, this is an opportunity to question key representatives on the key issues of the Lawrence Report, institutional Racism and racist attacks in London. Organised by the London Assembly Against Racism and the Black Londoners Forum, with the support of The 1990 Trust and Operation Black Vote. Panel includes Jennette Arnold AM (Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust), Sir Ian Blair (Metropolitan Police), Harry Cohen MP (All Party Race Relations Committee) and others.

Venue: City Hall, The Queen's Walk. Nearest tube Tower Hill or London Bridge

*For more info, contact 020 7247 9907 or 07790 022 472*

*Saturday 19 July 12 noon - 8.30pm*

### **RESPECT FESTIVAL**

London's biggest and free anti-racist multicultural festival. Music, dance and comedy stages, sports activities, food and bars, a children's area and a wide variety of stalls, stands, displays and campaigning information.

Respect is organised by the Mayor of London in association with the London Borough of Greenwich, the National Assembly Against Racism and the trade unions. This year's festival is dedicated to the memory of Stephen Lawrence on the 10th anniversary of his tragic death.

Venue: The Millenium Dome, North Greenwich, London SE10.

*For more info, contact 020 7983 6554, 020 7983 4706,*

*[info@respectfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@respectfestival.org.uk) or visit <http://www.respectfestival.org.uk>*

*Wednesday 23 July*  
**BDASC CINEMA NIGHT**

Bristol Defend Asylum Seekers Campaign (BDASC) presents a night of films featuring Lizzie White's recent HTV documentary 'Desperately Seeking', introduced by Lizzie and some of the refugees she featured in the film. Also showing, two short powerful films from the anti-detention campaigns at Woomera in Australia and Campsfield near Oxford.

Venue: The Cube Cinema, Kings Square, Bristol

*For more info, contact Bob Hughes on [hughesbob@compuserve.com](mailto:hughesbob@compuserve.com) or 0117 973 3869*

### USEFUL WEBSITES

Alertnet News  
<http://www.alertnet.org/>

Bristol Evening Post  
[www.beppp.co.uk](http://www.beppp.co.uk)  
[www.thisisbristol.com](http://www.thisisbristol.com)

Directory of Exiled Journalists  
[www.project.org.uk/directory](http://www.project.org.uk/directory)

HAFAN  
<http://www.hafan.org/>