

Council
31st October 2011

Campaign to help former ICU member
Proposed by Salman Butt, Seconded by Yasser Mahmoud (Isoc President)

Summary of history

1. Babar Ahmad was an imperial college alumnus and staff member working in ICT
2. He is a London-born British citizen
3. He was arrested in 2004 under the controversial, no-evidence-required Extradition Act 2003
4. This was after Scotland Yard had arrested and released him earlier without charge, a case which has received significant attention following the Metropolitan Police's admission in March 2009 that Babar Ahmad was indeed subject to an Islamophobic and brutal assault in 2003, for which £60,000 was received in compensation.
5. The Imperial College Union shortly after his arrest passed a motion to officially be involved in the Free Babar Ahmad campaign.
6. Babar Ahmad denies any involvement in terrorism
7. He has now been in prison for over seven years in the UK without being charged for a crime
8. He has lodged a final appeal against extradition at the European Court of Human Rights which is due to decide on it shortly. If extradited he faces the rest of his natural life in solitary confinement in a maximum security US 'Supermax' prison
9. Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights has called for the US-UK treaty to be renegotiated so that Babar Ahmad should be put on trial in the UK. This requires 100,000 signatures on the petition website (below) in order to make this eligible for debate in Parliament.
<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/885>
10. This petition has become one of the top ten petitions to get something debated in parliament.
11. It is worth noting that this petition does not call for any discrimination, positive or negative, for the case of Babar Ahmad, rather it calls for him to receive a trial for any crime that he is accused of in the UK.
12. There are several other people in a similar situation to Babar Ahmad, from different backgrounds, who will also receive a trial in the UK if this is passed in parliament.

Believes

1. The right to a trial in front of one's peers is a basic right of justice for anyone accused of a crime
2. It is a violation of this member of Imperial College Union's human rights that he has been in prison without charge nor trial in the UK
3. This is not a matter of race, religion or culture; rather it is an issue of basic Justice that most human beings would agree to in principle.

Resolves

1. To encourage all students and staff members to sign this petition in particular
2. To put pressure on the UCU to take this on as a national campaign since Babar Ahmad was a staff member at Imperial College London.
3. To ask ICT to put a message on the login screen of all public computers in College to give people information about this case and how they can help
4. To allow public spaces to be booked in order for volunteers to have laptops where people can sign the petitions
5. To encourage other Students Unions to publicise this as well
6. To send out emails with a link to the petition and information about Babar Ahmad to every student