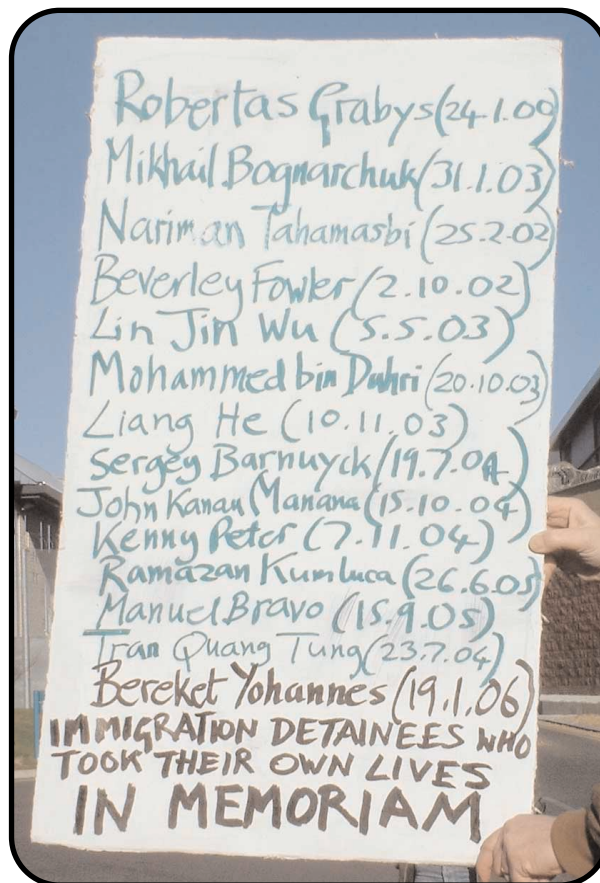


Driven to desperate measures



Introduction

No section of our society is more vulnerable than asylum seekers and undocumented migrants. Forced by circumstances beyond their control to seek a life outside their home countries, prevented by our laws from entering legally and from working, denied a fair hearing by the asylum system, excluded from health and safety protection at work, kept from social care and welfare, unhoused and destitute, vilified by the media and therefore dehumanised in the popular imagination, their hopes of another life are finally extinguished. The IRR has catalogued a roll call of death of the 221 asylum seekers and migrants who have died either in the UK or attempting to reach the UK in the past seventeen years.*

■ 97 died taking dangerous and highly risky methods to enter the country. With legal barriers in place to prevent them securing visas or work permits to enter legally and sanctions applying to above-board carriers, the desperate stow away on planes and lorries or attempt to cross the channel in makeshift boats or cling to trains. The number recorded here is probably only a fraction of those who have died in this way. Our figures rely on news reports and by virtue of the subject matter these deaths are not news.

● 70 died as an indirect consequence of the iniquities of the immigration/asylum system - either by taking their own lives when claims were not allowed, or by meeting accidental deaths evading deportation, or during the deportation itself, or by being prevented medical care, through becoming destitute in the UK.

Of these:

- 57 died at their own hand, preferring this to being returned to the country they fled, when asylum claims were turned down. And compounding the process is the fact that some of those in detention and known to be traumatised and particularly vulnerable appear not to have been provided with the medical

(especially psychiatric) support they needed.

- 4 died accidentally as, in terror at what they presumed to be the arrival of deportation officials, they took evasive action.

- 1 person died during the deportation process itself, when she was asphyxiated as officers used 13 feet of tape to subdue and quieten her.

- 2 people died after being deported back to a country where they feared for their safety. The actual number is certainly far higher.

- 5 people died because of being denied healthcare for preventable medical problems.

- 1 person died destitute and unable to access services.

◆ 4 died in prison, police or psychiatric custody, where racist stereotypes appeared to induce the use of reckless control and restraint methods or where there appeared to be medical neglect.

▲ 32 died in the course of carrying out work, which, by virtue of its being part of the 'black economy' carried particular

dangers and few protective rights. (The numbers listed here are probably a gross underestimate, as work-related deaths of people who are 'illegal' will often go unreported in the media.)

► 18 died on the streets of our cities at the hands of racists or as a consequence of altercations with a racial dimension. Often the victims had been moved, via the government's dispersal system, to areas where they were particularly isolated and vulnerable to attack.

Suicides

Since 1989, there have been 71 suicides of asylum seekers and foreign nationals. 36 suicides of asylum seekers took place in the community and 22 suicides of asylum seekers and foreign nationals in prisons, removal centres and psychiatric custody.

Suicides are now of particular concern. In the last five years alone there have been 41 suicides - 15 in detention and 26 in the community. In 2004, 12 people died at their own hand. In the last year there have been 5 suicides in the community.

Removal centres

6 asylum seekers have died since 1989 at one removal centre alone - Harmondsworth.

5/10/89 Siho Iyugiven, (27), died after burning to death after barricading himself in his cell

15/6/90 Kimpua Nsimba, (24), was found hanged

24/1/00 Robertas Grabys, (49), was found hanged

7/5/03 Olga Blaskevica, (29), was murdered by her mentally ill partner while awaiting deportation

19/7/04 Sergey Barnuyck, (31), was found hanged

19/1/06 Bereket Yohannes, (26), was found hanged

Also, Tran Quang Tung, (35), who was found hanged in Dungavel removal centre on 23/7/04 had been transferred days earlier from Harmondsworth following the disturbance after the death of Sergey Barnuyck.

Dispersal

In the last five years there have been a number of deaths (suicides and racially motivated murders) in main dispersal areas such as Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Bristol.

Racism

In the last five years, 8 asylum seekers/migrant workers have died as a result of a racially motivated attack:

29/8/02 Peiman Bahmani, (28), Hendon, Sunderland

10/02 Mustafa Ally Abdillahi, (31), Luton

9/2/03 Mohammed Isa Hasan Ali, (22), Southampton

6/5/04 Bapishankar Kathirgamathan, (24), Ashford, Kent

6/9/04 Kalan Kawa Karim, (29), Swansea

9/05 Rushi Kamdar, (23), Coventry

27/4/06 Khizar Hayat, (40), Kennington, south London

3/5/06 Hamidi Hamidullah, (31), Kennington, south London

Nationality and gender

Of the 221 people on this list, 24 were female, 187 male and the gender of 10 was unknown.

The countries of origin of those who died are, on the whole, locations where political /economic upheaval has been experienced.

China (84)

Iran (10)
Afghanistan (6)
Iraq (6)
Kurdish origin (country unknown) (6)
Zimbabwe (6)
Africa (country unknown) (5)
Romania (5)
Somalia (5)
Asia (country unknown) (4)
Democratic Republic of Congo (4)
Eritrea (4)

Stowaways

In the last five years, 21 people have died as result of using dangerous and risky methods to enter the country. 4 have died after injuring themselves while jumping onto trains travelling through the Channel Tunnel in France and another 4 have died in the channel itself. 4 have died while stowing away in planes and being killed by the extreme temperatures. And another 7 people have died after being run over or injured after stowing away in vehicles.

* These deaths do not include those 'settled' black people, those with leave to remain who have met their death in the custody of the police, prison and psychiatric hospitals and in racial violence attacks. Nor does it include deaths in custody of asylum seekers arrested on suspicion of committing criminal offences.

Roll call of deaths

■ Igor Litvinenko, (21), 6/89

A Russian man was found dead in the undercarriage of a plane arriving from Moscow at Gatwick airport. A postmortem found that he died from a lack of oxygen at high altitude.

● ◆ Siho Iyugiven, (27), 5/10/89

A Kurdish refugee died from burns at Harmondsworth detention centre. He had been detained pending his removal after political asylum was refused. He and his cell mate went on hungerstrike, barricaded themselves in and set bedding alight as a protest. Smoke detectors were not working, few fire extinguishers worked and there were no sprinklers. An inquest recorded a misadventure verdict.

● Kimpua Nsimba, (24), 15/6/90

A Zairean asylum seeker was found hanged in Harmondsworth detention centre in west London; where no one had spoken to him in over four days. An inquest recorded a suicide verdict.



◆ Omasase Lumumba, (32), 8/10/91

The nephew of Patrice Lumumba, he was a Zairean asylum seeker who had undergone

torture. Arrested in strange circumstances, detained under the Immigration Act and held for five days in a police station, he was then transferred to Pentonville prison while awaiting a decision on his asylum claim. He died of a heart attack after being restrained by six prison officers in Pentonville prison. An inquest found that he was 'unlawfully killed using improper methods and excessive force in the process of control and restraint'.

▶ Panchadcharam Sahitharan, (28), 3/1/92

A Tamil refugee died in a gang attack in Newham, east London. Andrew Noble and Gary Hoskin were charged with murder and affray. The charges were later dropped against Noble and Hoskin was acquitted. The gang were thought to be responsible for attacks with baseball bats on seven Asians on one day.

▶ Ruhullah Aramesh, (24), 7/92

An Afghan refugee was attacked by a gang in Thornton Heath, south London. Barry Hannon, Paul Hannon and Joseph Curtain were given life sentences for murder. One other was convicted of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility and three others were acquitted. Curtain was freed on appeal after serving three years.

◆ James Segawa, (28), 28/8/92

An HIV positive Ugandan asylum seeker died of meningitis and tuberculosis at Mayday hospital, Croydon, after belated transfer from Belmarsh prison where officials had refused to believe he was ill.

● Turan Pekoz, (43), 16/3/93

A Turkish asylum seeker died after setting himself on fire at Quest House Immigration Office, Croydon. An inquest recorded a misadventure verdict.

▶ Saied Ahmed, (68), 14/4/93

A Somali refugee died from burns after an arson attack on his home in Oxford. Eleven other family members escaped.



▶ Ali Ibrahim, (21), 7/11/93

A Sudanese refugee was stabbed to death while he and two friends

walked along Little Preston Street in Brighton. A man drinking a can of lager approached the group, then shouted racial abuse and stabbed Ali in the heart. Ian Leanay was sentenced to life for murder. A second man was acquitted after the jury failed to reach a verdict.



◆ Joy Gardner, (40),
1/8/93

A Jamaican mother of one died after being arrested by 'specialist' officers from the

Extradition Unit of the Met who used 13 feet of tape to gag her. The inquest was adjourned till the trial of the officers involved. They have been acquitted but no inquest has yet been held.

● Lejla Ibrahimovic, 1994

A Bosnian asylum seeker took an overdose of sleeping pills after a year-long struggle for her husband to be granted a visa to join her. The Home Office granted her husband a compassionate visa after her death to look after the couple's two children.

■ Four Romanian stowaways, 1/94

Four stowaways suffocated to death in a container in Felixstowe.

● Kwanele Siziba, (27), 27/4/94

A Zimbabwean woman fell 150 feet to her death, attempting to flee visiting officials she believed were immigration officers. In fact, it was bailiffs who called at the flat and were heard threatening to kick the door down. The inquest recorded a misadventure verdict.

● Joseph Nnalue, (31), 23/10/94

A Nigerian died after falling from a balcony in a flat in Stockwell - police and immigration officials were calling at his flat at the time, acting on a tip-off.

An inquest ruled that the death was accidental.

● Zinaida Mitzofanova, (63) and Valentina Featherstone, (39), 2/95

A Latvian mother and daughter were found hanged in County Durham before they were due to appeal against a deportation order.

● Muttavel Vasanthan, (25), 25/8/95

A Sri Lankan immigration detainee was found hanged in a cell in Norwich prison. An inquest verdict recorded a suicide verdict.

● Bayeh Arefayne, (19), 22/10/95

A young Ethiopian man due to be deported, set fire to himself in a west London petrol station. He suffered 70 per cent burns to his body and died six days later.

● Djemal Flissa, (29), 28/10/95

An Algerian asylum seeker was deported by air ambulance, after spending 44 days on hunger strike. He was flown, allegedly tied to a stretcher, back to Algeria where he reportedly died.

■ Unidentified person, 8/11/95

Died falling from a ferry in Harwich after asylum was refused.

● Noorjahan Begum, (35), 15/3/96

A Bangladeshi woman died after falling 30 feet from the balcony of the flat where she was living; two immigration officials were calling at the flat at the time. The inquest recorded an accidental death verdict.

● Mohammed Yaqoob, (49), 8/96

A Pakistani man, wishing to travel to the UK for medical treatment, was denied a visa for seven months, despite his family raising the necessary funds for a private

operation. He died less than 48 hours after being granted a visa on compassionate grounds.



■ **Vijay Saini, (19), 10/96**

An Indian died after freezing to death stowing away with his brother in a plane. Vijay fell from the wheel

housing of the British Airways plane flying from Delhi into London Heathrow. His brother Pardeep, 23, miraculously survived the same journey and was found by baggage-handlers at Heathrow airport suffering from hypothermia. His application for political asylum was turned down on the basis of an interview held less than 24 hours after he arrived at Heathrow. He was later given compassionate leave to remain in the UK.

■ **Unidentified African boy, (12), 23/3/97**

Crushed to death after stowing away in the wheel arch of a Boeing 747 travelling from Kenya to London. His body was found at Gatwick airport.

■ **Unidentified man, 8/2/98**

Died after freezing to death in the undercarriage of a British Airways plane flying from Baku (Azerbaijan) to Gatwick airport.

● ◆ **Sofonias Alemseged, (22), 7/98**

An Eritrean asylum seeker with psychological problems was found hanged in a Brixton prison cell; he had made previous attempt to take his own life. He died a few weeks before his appeal on his asylum claim was due to be held. An inquest recorded a misadventure verdict.

■ **Unidentified person, 8/98**

A couple drinking in a pub in Richmond

reported seeing a body tumble from a plane flying overhead (also near to where Mohammed Ayaz was found in June 2001). Police searched the local area but no body was found although police thought it possible the body fell in a reservoir.

● **Mehretab Kidane, (28), 10/98**

An Eritrean asylum seeker was so afraid of losing his asylum appeal that he hanged himself at his flat in Brixton on the final day of his appeal hearing in London. An inquest was told that he had arrived in the UK in 1995 and was granted temporary admission but was later refused refugee status. The coroner found that he took his own life.



▶ **Farhan M. Mire, (32), 12/98**

A Somali asylum seeker was kicked to death in the street by a white man after an argument

with a woman who then shouted for help in Harrow, north London. A man was charged with murder in March 1999, but later released after the CPS decided that there was not enough evidence to prosecute. The CPS had questioned whether there was racial motivation in the case.

● ◆ **Lin Yan-Guang, (35), 12/98**

A Chinese asylum seeker committed suicide in Warley hospital, Brentwood, Essex. He had been suffering from depression and was admitted to the hospital in September 1998 for assessment. At the time of his death he was under special observation. He had told a friend he was worried about the money his family in China had borrowed to send him to the UK.

■ **Unidentified man, 1/99**

An Iraqi Kurdish man died attempting to smuggle himself to Dover clinging to the underside of a lorry. As it passed over ramps, he lost his grip and was crushed under its wheels.

■ **Unidentified man, 12/10/99**

A stowaway died after being electrocuted trying to exit a freight train in a goods yard in Wembley. The man in his twenties is thought to have sewn himself into a canvas sided wagon in Milan which then travelled to the UK.

► **Zardasht Draey, (19), 12/99**

A Kurdish man, who fled Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war, was attacked in the early hours of the morning and found with serious injuries at a bus-stop in Fulham, west London. He died in hospital two days later as a result of serious head injuries. In June 2000, Christopher Peterkin was convicted of his murder.

●◆ **Robertas Grabys, (49), 24/1/00**

A Lithuanian asylum seeker was found hanged in Harmondsworth detention centre on the day he was due to be deported. A report into his death criticised the private company that was in charge of Harmondsworth at the time (Burns International). In April 2003, an internal Home Office inquiry found that the company running the centre did not have a formal policy to prevent suicides and that there was insufficient care. (His body was not found for over one hour as guards did not check the room. But he was known to suffer from a depressive illness.) An inquest recorded an open verdict.

■ **Unidentified woman, 9/4/00**

An unidentified woman died after falling under the wheels of a lorry in St Leonard's, Essex and later died in hospital. Four other stowaways on the

lorry were arrested.

● **Glynnis Cowley, (40), 4/00**

A South African mother of three committed suicide in Liverpool after her asylum claim was refused. She had been arrested at Heathrow in June 1999 after being found in possession of cannabis and sentenced to eight months. She alleged that she had been kidnapped, raped and tortured in South Africa and then forced to act as a drugs courier. While in Holloway prison, her asylum claim was refused and, after her release, she launched an appeal but took her life before a decision was reached.

■ **58 people including 54 Chinese men – Yang Jiao Hua, Li Yong, Lin Zhao Hang, Lin Chen Xing, Sun Dao Xian, Cheng Kam Kwon, Lin Li Guang, Kuo Chien Ming, Xue You Jie, Cai Fang Quing, Ni Yan Hua, Lin Yi Hua, Gao Jun Wei, Zheng Bo Ying, Lin Guo Liang, Cao Xiang Ping, Chen Xing Zhong, He Chang Ming, Xue Di Di, Cao Xian Xin, Jiang Jan Ming, Ling Ming Gui, Jiang Bin, Lin De Bin, Chen Yi Hua, Li Zheng Guang, Ling Ming Kun, He Yu Yuan, Lin Tong Hui, Lin Tong Yong, Ke Yong Min, Ye Qi Ban, Dong Ti Di, Li Xaio Xiang, Lin Bin, Weng Rui Ping, Lin Fa Ming, Lin Bing, Lin Ming Hui, Lin Bin Jian, He Hua Shun, Yang Xin Xiaun, Lin Feng Di, Yao Zhong Ai, He Ming Qiang, Lin Xian Long, Chen Jin Tian, Lin Xin Chai, Shi Wen Jie, Ding Xiang You, You Long Zhong, Lin Xue Luan, Li Zhen Quan, Guo Ting Xing and 4 Chinese women – Lin Rul Zhen, Gao Yue Ru, Lin Guang, Ke Mei Zhu, 18/6/00**

58 Chinese stowaways (from the Fujian province) were found dead in the back of a refrigerated lorry in Dover. Two survivors of the journey, who were found unconscious, were taken to hospital suffering from shock and dehydration. The stowaways died after the air vents on the lorry were closed as it was loaded onto a Dover bound ferry at Zeebrugge.

In March 2001, the trial began of the Dutch lorry driver, 32-year-old Perry Wacker, who was accused of 58 counts of manslaughter and people smuggling; 29-year-old Ying Guo was also accused of conspiracy to smuggle people. Perry Wacker was found guilty and jailed for 14 years. Ying Guo was also found guilty and sentenced to six years. In May 2001, seven men in Holland were convicted of charges in relation to the deaths of the 58; two other men were acquitted. On 31 July 2002, Perry Wacker lost his appeal against the manslaughter convictions.



▶ **Abdi Dorre, (31), 8/00**

A Somali refugee died in hospital after being found with serious head injuries at the bottom of stairs at the Lounge

night-club, Northampton. Hospital staff alerted the local police, but they did not bother to investigate thoroughly, assuming that Abdi's death was an accident. It was only after the family pressured the police that arrests were made but, even then, the suspects were later released without charge. At the inquest in May 2001, without a jury, the coroner recorded an open verdict. The family launched a campaign to seek a proper investigation of the death and, in August 2002, two men were charged with his manslaughter. The CPS originally claimed there was insufficient evidence to bring charges against anyone.

■ **Unidentified man, (20s), 17/11/00**

A man's body was found at Eastern docks in Dover; it was thought that he had been run over by the lorry he was hiding in.

● **Saeed Alaei, (26), 21/12/00**

An Iranian asylum seeker, dispersed to

Nelson, Lancashire, was found hanged after his asylum claim was rejected.

▶ **Gian Singh Nagra, (37), 7/1/01**

An asylum seeker was found with serious head injuries after a suspected racial attack at Elm Park tube station and later died in Old Church hospital, east London. The trial of his assailant in August 2001 heard that, on 7 January, a 14-year-old girl phoned 20-year-old Matthew Dorrian alleging that 'an evil looking Asian' had been behaving strangely and leering at her and her friends at Elm Park tube station. Despite there being no evidence of any indecency, Dorrian went down to the station, armed with a golf club and hit Gian with it across the face. Gian was found with massive head injuries and later died from blood loss. The Old Bailey jury were unable to reach a verdict on the charge of murder, but Dorrian admitted manslaughter.



● **Shokrolah 'Ramin' Khaleghi, (27), 18/1/01**

An Iranian asylum seeker, dispersed to Leicester, was found dead in the International

Hotel, a hostel for asylum seekers, after his asylum claim was rejected. He had been a political prisoner in Iran, jailed for six years and tortured for refusing to serve in the Iranian army and affronting fundamentalist beliefs by shaving his facial hair. He took a drugs overdose one week after learning that his asylum claim had been rejected.

■ **Unidentified Iraqi man, (30s), 1/2/01**

A man died attempting to jump 20 feet from a bridge on to a moving train heading for the UK through the Channel Tunnel. Another man survived the same jump but broke both legs; both men missed the train but were then hit by it.

■ **Tommy Klen Mayola, (19), 20/2/01**

An asylum seeker from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), who had waited over two years for a decision, was found dead in the undercarriage of a US Airways plane in San Francisco. Police at Gatwick had arrested him earlier the same day as he attempted to gain access to another plane. He had been photographed, fingerprinted and then released on bail.

▲ **Ionut Simionica, (22), 27/2/01**

A Romanian migrant worker died when part of St Mary's church, Marylebone, on which he was working, crushed him. The HSE investigated the incident and prosecuted two firms and an engineer under health and safety legislation. In February 2005, Southwark Crown Court heard that a structural engineer failed to address underpinning problems after rotten wood in foundations of the church was discovered. They were found guilty and fined £95,000 and £60,000 costs.



► **Fetah Marku, (24), 24/3/01**

A Kosovan asylum seeker was beaten and stabbed to death by a gang of men in Edgware, London.

Fetah had been visiting from Hull and was celebrating his birthday with friends at the Oscar Wilde pub. A post mortem gave the cause of death as multiple injuries that included 29 stab wounds, a punctured lung, a fractured skull and internal bleeding. In June 2002, an Old Bailey jury found 33-year-old Richard Ellis guilty of Fetah's murder. Ellis, who worked as a music promoter at the pub, claimed not to have known anyone else who took part in the attack on Fetah but the jury found that Ellis had 'provided encouragement' to the mob. After the conviction, the judge commented that it

was unlikely that Ellis (a black man) was 'solely responsible'.

■ **Mohammed Ayaz, (21), 14/6/01**

A Pakistani man was found in a Richmond car park after dropping from the wheel arch of a British Airways plane flying from Bahrain to Heathrow. Two passengers on the flight saw Mohammed running across the runway and under the plane just before it took off and told crew but the flight takeoff could not be aborted. Mohammed was originally from Pakistan but was working in Bahrain as a labourer. An inquest recorded a misadventure verdict.



► **Firsat Dag, (22), 5/8/01**

A Kurdish asylum seeker, dispersed to the notorious Sighthill estate in Glasgow, was stabbed to death in a racist

attack. Scott Burrell, 26, was charged with Firsat's murder and accused of attempting to murder a German tourist on the same day. In December 2001, Burrell was sentenced to serve a minimum of 14 years for a 'shameful, cowardly and unprovoked attack'. In August 2003, the compensation awarded to Firsat's family was halved because Firsat allegedly used a false name on his asylum application.

■ **Unidentified Kosovan man, (20s), 20/8/01**

A Kosovan died after jumping into the sea while being deported. He had been found with another man on a ferry travelling from Ostend to Dover. After telling crew they intended to claim asylum once they reached the UK, they were detained on board and not allowed to leave the ferry. They were to be taken to Calais to be disembarked when one broke free from security guards and

jumped into the sea, two miles from Dover. He was found after 20 minutes and attempts were made to resuscitate him but, on arrival at hospital, he was pronounced dead.



● **Nasser Ahmed, (35),
21/8/01**

An Eritrean asylum seeker was found hanged at his flat in Nelson, Lancashire, shortly after

his asylum claim was rejected. A worker who helped Mr Ahmed at a drop-in centre for asylum seekers said, 'We do know that he had received a letter from the Home Office... there are hints that that was what pushed him over the edge.'

▲ **Zhang Guo Hua, 10/01**

A Chinese migrant worker died after working all weekend at a factory in Hartlepool. He worked at stamping the 'Samsung' logo on microwaves for 72 hours a week at a factory with up to 80 other Chinese men. The men often worked 100-hour weeks and for over 24 hours at a time. A post mortem found that he died from a subarachnoid haemorrhage.



■ **Omid Jamil Ali, (21),
18/10/01**

An Iraqi, hoping to enter the UK through the Channel Tunnel, leapt onto a moving train from

a bridge in France. In the fall he injured himself severely. But the train reportedly did not stop till it arrived in England. Only then was Omid retrieved and taken to hospital, where he was pronounced dead. His body remained in a morgue till September 2004, when campaigners raised the £3,100 needed to send Omid's body back to Iraq to be buried by his family.

● **Joseph Crentsil, (39), 25/11/01**

A Ghanaian asylum seeker died after falling from a third floor window of a flat in Streatham when two immigration and two police officers were questioning five other men at the flat. An inquest recorded an accidental death verdict.



● **Chijioke Ekengwu (aka
John Paul), (9), 20/12/01**

A Nigerian boy, suffering from Hodgkin's lymphoma, died the day before he was due to fly

to the UK for treatment. Celine Ekengwu, the young boy's aunt, had saved £13,000 to pay for it. She won an appeal on 23 October 2001 against a decision refusing John Paul a visa to travel to the UK for treatment. The Foreign Office began an investigation into why it had taken the High Commission in Lagos, Nigeria, two months, after the decision, to issue a visa.

■ **Unidentified man, 1/02**

Died after being electrocuted on top of a train in the Channel Tunnel heading for the UK.

● **Souleyman Diallo, (28), 1/1/02**

A Guinean asylum seeker committed suicide by jumping 100 feet off Redheugh Bridge, Tyneside, a few weeks after being told he was to be deported back to Guinea. Souleyman, who spoke little English, was dispersed to Gateshead soon after he arrived in July 2000 and was not provided with any translation services. He felt that the interpreter at his appeal hearing had misinterpreted him. His solicitor commented that his 'inability to access competent legal advice, difficulties in communicating his case and tight deadlines for submission of statements

have contributed to his case not being properly heard'. She made a complaint to the Immigration Commissioners about his death. The coroner recorded an open verdict.

● **Abdul Hashi Mohamed, (30), 15/2/02**

A Somali asylum seeker was found dead at his flat in the Kensington area of Liverpool. His landlord found him in his bedroom with his feet near a bucket of water and his hand next to exposed wires. Vodka and paracetamol were also found in his system. Abdul had moved to Liverpool from Northampton just two months prior to his death. An inquest in April 2002 found that he had died from electrocution and recorded an open verdict.

■ **Unidentified man, 18/2/02**

Died after falling from a train in the Channel Tunnel heading for the UK. Maintenance workers discovered his body 14 miles into the tunnel.

■ **Unidentified person, 20/2/02**

Five stowaways attempted to board a freight train as it entered the Channel Tunnel. One was hit by a hydraulic ram and crushed to death.

● ♦ **Nariman Tahamasbi, (27), 25/2/02**

An Iranian asylum seeker was found hanged in Lewes prison. He had been refused asylum in the UK and fearful of being deported back to Iran, he attempted to flee to Canada using the same forged travel documents that had brought him to the UK. He was arrested at Gatwick airport, charged over false documents and sentenced to six months imprisonment. Less than a week after arriving in the prison, he hanged himself from the bars of his cell with a bed-sheet and died in hospital five days later without regaining consciousness. A jury

returned a verdict of death by misadventure following a three-day inquest into the death in May 2005.



● **Mohsen Amri, (27), 12/3/02**

An Iranian asylum seeker committed suicide at his home in Handsworth, Birmingham, after having a work permit refused and asylum application rejected. He had been in the UK for two years and made repeated requests for work permits (he did not want to work illegally). His asylum application had been refused on a technicality.

■ **Unidentified man, 14/4/02**

Believed to be African, he was found dead in the undercarriage of a freight plane at Heathrow airport. The plane had flown from Uganda via Cairo and Ostend in Belgium to Heathrow.

● **Shiraz Pir, (25), 7/5/02**

A Pakistani asylum seeker died five days after being found hanged in his Bristol home after his asylum claim was rejected. Facing deportation, he could not understand why friends had been given refugee status and he had been denied. He left a note asking that his body be returned to his parents. An inquest recorded a verdict of suicide whilst the balance of his mind was temporarily disturbed. The coroner criticised the Home Office for the delay with his asylum application.

● **Forsina Makoni, (79), 11/5/02**

An elderly Zimbabwean woman died after setting herself alight in Gillingham after her claim for political asylum was refused. She had been a vocal opponent of Robert Mugabe's regime and became depressed in the weeks before her death

after her claim was refused.

■ **Unidentified man, (30s), 16/5/02**

Believed to be west African, he was found dead in the wheelarch of a British Airways flight from Ghana.

■ **Unidentified Russian man, 12/6/02**

Trying to cross the Channel from France, he went missing after his canoe capsized. Another man clung to the canoe for over five hours before being rescued and taken to hospital in Calais suffering from hypothermia.

▲ **Esther Nagy, (20), 17/7/02**

A Hungarian migrant worker died from injuries sustained after a forklift truck overturned at Bury Farm in Melbourn Cambridgeshire. In September 2004, E.W. Pepper Ltd was fined £20,000 for its failure to use trained staff to drive forklift trucks.



► **Peiman Bahmani, (28), 29/8/02**

An Iranian asylum seeker died after being stabbed in a racist attack in Hendon, Sunderland.

Peiman shared a home with four other Iranians and police alleged there was a confrontation outside the house with a group of white people. Peiman, whose asylum claim had not yet been decided, worked as the manager at Leonardo's Italian restaurant in Sunderland, owned by his girlfriend, Sonia Voza. In February 2003, 18-year-old Steven Roberts was jailed for life for his murder.

► **Mustafa Ally Abdillahi, (31), 10/02**

A Somali refugee was found with serious head injuries in a hostel for the homeless in Luton. In May 2003, 36-year-old Neal Bond, who also lived in the hostel, was convicted of his murder.

Bond, who denied the charges, was sentenced to life imprisonment. Mustafa was beaten to death with a fire extinguisher and Bond's footprints were found on his sweatshirt. The motivation behind the attack was not revealed in court. Bond claimed not to remember what happened, despite being found in his room, his hands, clothing and duvet all covered with Mustafa's blood.

● ♦ **Beverley Fowler, (32), 2/10/02**

A Jamaican woman was found hanged two days before the end of her sentence, in Durham prison. She was a mother of three who was due to be deported back to Jamaica after serving a sentence for drug smuggling. In September 2003, an inquest recorded an open verdict. The inquest was told she feared for her safety in Kingston because the man who forced her into drug smuggling had murdered her partner.

▲ **Adam Borowik, (27) and Sebastian Skorupski, (21), 19/10/02**

Polish migrant workers died after becoming entangled in a motorised rope-reeling machine. An inquest, in July 2003, recorded a verdict of accidental death; the HSE investigated and a HSE safety inspector described the accident as the worst he had seen in thirty years.

■ **Immanuel Duah and another young boy, 30/11/02**

Aged about 12-14 years-old, the boys were found dead in the wheel compartment of a Ghana Airways flight from Accra to Heathrow airport. A ground engineer found them huddled together.

● **Christelle Nyamugabo, (13), 12/12/02**

An asylum seeker from the DRC was found at home in south London having taken an overdose. She had travelled to

the UK with her family who were still waiting the outcome of their asylum claim when Christelle died. In February 2003, a coroner recorded an open verdict after hearing that it was neither possible to find where she had obtained the prescription drug she took nor any evidence of third party involvement.

● **Sirous Khajeh, (29), 24/12/02**

An Iranian asylum seeker was found hanged at his home in Huddersfield. He was a torture victim who had been told that his asylum claim had been rejected and he faced eviction from his home and deportation. However, this information was incorrect and Sirous had in fact been granted asylum. A Yorkshire coroner recorded a verdict of suicide and was critical of the Home Office's handling of his application.

● ◆ **Mikhail Bognarchuk, (42), 31/1/03**

An Ukrainian asylum seeker was found hanged at Haslar removal centre. An inquest recorded a suicide verdict.



▶ **Mohammed Isa Hasan Ali, (22), 9/2/03**

An Afghan asylum seeker died two days after being attacked by a man in Southampton. His 17-stone assailant shoved him in the chest because he seemed to be laughing at him and he fell to the ground 'like a ton of bricks'. Because he had his hands in his pockets he was unable to break his fall. He lay unconscious on the ground for a while and was assisted by passing nurses. Police were called to the scene and after speaking to both men let them leave. Mohammed suffering from a fractured skull and bleeding went home where he told his housemates that he had been attacked and then went to bed with a headache, not realising the

extent of his injuries. He was later taken to Southampton General hospital where he died. A post mortem found that he died from a fractured skull. Alexander Briant, 21, was convicted of manslaughter.

● **Nadim Hussaini, (18), 2/5/03**

An asylum seeker from Afghanistan died two days after suffering serious injuries after falling from a bridge over the M60 motorway at Stockport. (He survived for two days in hospital after suffering serious head injuries.) The Manchester Evening News reported that just days before his death his asylum application had been refused.

● ◆ **Liu Jin Wu, (35), 5/5/03**

A Chinese asylum seeker took his own life while on remand at HMP Barlinnie in Scotland. It emerged during a fatal accident inquiry (FAI) that he was a Mandarin speaker who only had access to an interpreter three times during his ten weeks in the prison. He was on remand for two counts of attempted murder and during police interviews had told them that he was hearing voices; a provisional diagnosis of paranoid psychosis was made. He had been told he faced deportation regardless of what happened during the criminal proceedings as his asylum claim had been refused. The Inquiry was also told that he did not receive appropriate food as staff were unable to understand what he wanted. Staff also failed to check on him hourly as was required when he was found to be suicidal. But the FAI concluded that his suicide was due to mental health problems rather than any failure by the prison authorities.

◆ **Olga Blaskevica, (29), 7/5/03**

A Latvian woman was murdered by her partner, Olegs Pavlos, 35, in the family

holding area at Harmondsworth just hours before the pair were due to be deported from Britain. They had been working picking fruit and flowers in the UK for about a year and came to the attention of the immigration service after they were arrested when they went to a Lincolnshire police station to complain that they had been robbed. In June 2004, Pavlos denied murder but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He was found to be suffering from paranoid schizophrenia.

■ **Unidentified man, (25), 18/6/03**

A man from the Ivory Coast was found dead in the sea around Beachy Head near Eastbourne. The man had allegedly hidden on a ship - the Patricia Delmas - that was travelling from Belgium to Le Havre when he was arrested as a stowaway. He was being held in the ship's jail when he managed to escape and jump overboard. It was thought that the man had mistakenly thought the ship was bound for the UK.

■ **Two unidentified people, 7/03**

Two people thought to be seeking to enter Britain were found dead in the water by a life-boat crew in the Channel.

● **Faizullah Ahmedi, (19), 6/7/03**

An asylum seeker from Afghanistan was found hanged at his home in Blackburn. He had arrived in the UK at Dover on 18 April 2002 and, according to his friends, he was unhappy that he had not yet received a decision on his asylum claim.

▲ **Satish Kumar, (28), Islam Uddin Ahmed, (46) and Soran Karim, (23), 7/7/03**

Three agricultural workers died when the minibus they were in collided with a Great Western train in Worcestershire.

The men were from India, Bangladesh and Iraq. Soran Karim was an asylum seeker from Iraq who lost his parents and a brother in the chemical attack on Halabja and was probably working illegally. In May 2004, Adnan Kadir Karim, 25, an Iraqi, who had admitted not being able to read English signs, was sentenced to five years in prison after being convicted of manslaughter by criminal negligence; he was also banned from driving for two years.



◆ ● **Elmas Ozmico, (40), 12/7/03**

A Kurdish asylum seeker died three days after being admitted to hospital suffering from septicaemia/ necrotising fasciitis. She had arrived at Dover on 8 July 2003 after travelling clandestinely from Turkey; it was during the journey she developed an abscess on her thigh. On arrival in the UK, she claimed asylum and her nephew (with whom she had travelled) requested a doctor and an interpreter. He says this request was ignored, as were subsequent ones. The family spent the night in detention in Dover detention centre and the following day Elmas requested a doctor, but it was not until she collapsed that workers at Migrant Helpline realised that she was very ill and that she needed an ambulance to take her to hospital. An inquest found that she died of natural causes. In June 2006, at the High Court, Elmas' husband was denied a new inquest into her death after claiming that the first coroner failed to direct the inquest jury properly.

■ **Hekmat Karmin Salih, (29), 17/8/03**

An Iraqi Kurd was found dead in a lorry entering Britain after being crushed by metal containers. The lorry was stopped by police in Poole, Dorset, and three

men were found - the body of Hekmat and two others, who were arrested.

● **Vasiliy Todchuk, (24), 9/03**

A Russian national who had deserted from the Russian army in Chechnya, was found hanged on a building site in Govan, Glasgow. He had been detained in Polmont YOI on criminal charges in early 2003 and attempted suicide on the day before his release. Several weeks before his death he had been advised that he would be deported.



● **Israfil Shiri, (30), 3/9/03**

A destitute Iranian asylum seeker died six days after pouring petrol over his body and setting

himself alight in the offices of Refugee Action in Manchester. His asylum application had been rejected and he was homeless and penniless. Israfil suffered from a painful bowel complaint but, after his asylum claim was refused, he was unable to get medical treatment and was in constant pain.

● ♦ **Tema Kombe (aka Emmanuel Silva/ Gladwell Moseki Keenao), (32), 4/9/03**

A Ugandan asylum seeker was found hanged in a toilet in the psychiatric ward at Heatherwood hospital, Ascot, after being detained under the Mental Health Act. The inquest returned a verdict of misadventure after hearing that he had made three previous attempts on his life.

● **Mohammed bin Duhri, (20), 20/10/03**

A Palestinian asylum seeker was found hanged at Belmarsh maximum-security prison. He had been held at Dover Immigration Removal Centre but, after he allegedly assaulted a guard, he was moved to Belmarsh. Three prison officers

were suspended after filing reports saying, after the death, that he was still alive. An inquest recorded a suicide verdict.

● **Unnamed man, 2004**

An Iraqi asylum seeker set himself alight in London. He had a history of mental health problems and was scared he would be returned to Iraq.

■ **Two unidentified men, 2/04**

Two men were found dead in the hold of a ship, the Cecdelta, which docked at Alexandra dock in Hull. The ship was carrying nuts and had travelled from Ghana. Another man was found alive.

▲ **23 Chinese workers: 18 men – Yu Hui, (34), Chen Mu Yu, (30), Guo Nian Zhu, (39), Lin Zhi Fang, (19), Xu Yu Hua, (37), Wu Jia Zhen, (36), Wu Hong Kang, (34), Xie Xiao Wen, (41), Lin Guo Hua, (37), Guo Bing Long, (28), Zhou Xun Cao, (38), Lin Guo Guang, (36), Cao Chao Kun, (35), Guo Chang Mou, (18), Yang Tian Long, (33), Lin Li Shui, (33), Wang Min Lin, (37), Lin You Xing, (38). 3 women – Chen Ai Qin, (39), Zhang Xiu Hua, (45) and Wang Xiu Yu, (27), 5/2/04**

Twenty-three migrant workers, mostly from the Fujian province in China, died after they were caught in the dark on the mudflats by a rising tide at Morecambe Bay, Lancashire. They were all thought to be asylum seekers awaiting decisions on their claims. Fourteen survivors were taken into custody. Originally seven were arrested on suspicion of manslaughter, but were later released on police bail. Two of the arrested survivors, Gua Lin, 30, and Lin Mu Lung, 29, both asylum seekers, were taken into the custody of the Immigration Service. Later, in March, a 33-year-old Chinese man was arrested in Liverpool on suspicion of manslaughter

and questioned in a Lancashire police station. Many of the victims, it was reported, had been forced to work by a gangmaster who withheld their wages. In April, Detective Constable Neil Thompson was given a formal written warning and removed from the inquiry after he used offensive racist language (the word 'chink') in police interviews. Police officers also travelled to China to obtain DNA samples in order to identify those who died. In June, an inquest heard that the victims had died from drowning and all 23 had been identified although only 21 bodies had been recovered. In July 2004, Lin Liang Ren, 27, was charged with manslaughter, conspiracy to commit facilitation and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Zhao Qing Xiao, 19, was charged with conspiracy to commit facilitation and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Lin Mu Yong, 29, was charged with conspiracy to commit facilitation. In March 2006, Lin Liang Ren, was found guilty of the manslaughter of twenty-one people. His girlfriend Zhao Xiao Qing was found guilty of breaching immigration laws and perverting the course of justice and sentenced to two years and nine months. Lin Mu Yong, 31, was jailed for four years on immigration charges.

● ◆ **Kingsley Williamson 14/3/04**

In February 2004, after serving a three-year sentence for possession of drugs Kingsley was told he would be deported to Jamaica. He had been detained in Hollesley Bay an open prison in Suffolk and had been working in an Ipswich school as part of a resettlement programme. A few days before the end of his sentence he was moved to Norwich prison and was told he would remain there until his deportation papers came through. On 14 March two weeks after he was meant to be released, he was

found hanged in his cell. The *Guardian* reported that he was depressed at the prospect of a long wait for deportation.



▶ **Bapishankar Kathirgamamathan, (24), 6/5/04**

A Sri Lankan-born restaurant worker died two weeks after being racially attacked in Ashford, Kent. Bapishankar suffered serious head injuries after he and a friend were racially abused and then attacked on a footbridge in Victoria Road on 22 April 2004. Two men, James Rossiter, 22, and Tony Pile, 18, were charged with murder and remanded into custody. At the trial, the men denied the charges but were found guilty. The jury was told that Bapishankar's head was kicked 'like a football' by the two men who had drunk ten pints each in the 'vicious unprovoked attack'. In October 2005, the two men had their sentences reduced from 25 to 21 years.



● **Zekria Mohammed, (27), 18/05/04**

A trainee dentist from Afghanistan was found hanged from a makeshift noose behind the door of his flat in the Dennistoun area of Glasgow. Zekria had been living in Scotland for four years and he was destitute after his asylum claim had been rejected and weekly £38 benefits had been stopped. Friends commented that he was 'ashamed and broken' and had been 'too proud to beg and scavenge for food in the bins. But he was starving'. It has been alleged that NASS should have provided him with food tokens, but did not even visit him.

● **Hussein Nasser, (26), 25/6/04**

An Iranian asylum seeker found with a gunshot wound two weeks after his asylum claim was refused. Hussein, who was homosexual, fled Iran in March 2000 after being imprisoned for three months for his sexuality. He feared being executed if he was returned to Iran - where homosexuality is a 'crime' punishable by death. In June 2004, he received a letter telling him that his asylum claim had been refused, for a second time. The inquest recorded a verdict of suicide.

● ◆ **Sergey Barnuyck, (31), 19/7/04**

A Ukrainian asylum seeker was found hanged in Harmondsworth detention centre. His death sparked a night of disturbances at the centre and led to all the detainees being transferred to prisons and other detention centres. According to a Prison Service report into the disturbance, it found that UKDS staff began looking for Sergey at 1.45pm because he had a legal visit, he was not found until 7.50 in the evening in a shower room. The inquest into his death is due to be held in October 2006.

● ◆ **Tran Quang Tung, (35), 23/7/04**

A Vietnamese asylum seeker was found hanged in Dungavel removal centre in Scotland days after being transferred from Harmondsworth removal centre after the disturbance in July 2004 that erupted after the death of Sergey Barnuyck. A fatal accident inquiry in May 2005 was told that Tran had been sent to Harmondsworth on 19 July after being arrested for breaching bail conditions. The inquiry was told how he arrived in the UK in April 2004 and claimed asylum though he had already tried to claim asylum in Germany). A nurse who saw him at Harmondsworth did not know what language he spoke nor did she use an interpreter. She thought that he was

complaining of a headache and gave him some medicine. On 21 July he was transferred to Dungavel by bus with 59 others after the disturbance. Medical staff at Dungavel who examined him were again unable to communicate with him. When an immigration officer served him with his removal notice, for 27 July, she did not have an interpreter with her. A solicitor saw him on the day he was found hanged and was unable have to any 'meaningful' discussions as Tran spoke such little English. In the days before his death he had phone conversations with his sister and fiancée and had told them he was 'sorrowful' about his impending deportation to Germany. The fatal accident inquiry recommended that detained people, who did not speak good English, should have access to interpreters during interviews and that documents should also be translated.



● **Ako Mahmood Ahmed, (25), 8/04**

A Kurdish asylum seeker died after jumping from a bridge at a Coventry shopping centre. He arrived in the UK in May 2004 and was 'dispersed' to Coventry in June. His asylum claim was rejected and he lodged an appeal. However, because of legal aid limits, Ako was unable to find a solicitor to act for him. As a result, he was faced with destitution on the streets of Britain and the prospect of deportation to Iraq. In January 2005, the inquest into his death was told how, just days after arriving in the UK, he had attended a hospital suffering from superficial self-inflicted stab wounds. An asylum seeker at the same hostel told the inquest that Ako only went out alone despite attempts to encourage him to socialise. In a written statement a man who saw

Ako repeatedly climb up and off the handrail (of the bridge) told the inquest 'He looked depressed and I knew what his intentions were ... he covered his face and jumped'. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.



▶ **Kalan Kawa Karim, (29), 6/9/04**

An Iraqi asylum seeker died after being attacked by a white man outside a pub in

Swansea. Kalan was disabled - he had lost a leg below the knee after being tortured in Iraq. He came to the UK to seek asylum in 2002 and had been living in Swansea. Kalan was walking home with a friend when three men attacked them; Kalan was punched in the back of the head and taken to Morrision hospital, where he later died. Police treated the attack as racially motivated. 26-year-old Lee Mordecai was charged with Kalan's murder. In January 2005, Mordecai admitted manslaughter (the charges were reduced after discussion with Kalan's family) and was sentenced to five years imprisonment. The judge commented 'I have no doubt that this incident was motivated by race. You picked on Mr Karim because he was of a different racial background from yours.'

● **Seife Habte Yimene, (24), 26/9/04**

An Ethiopian asylum seeker left a hospital where he had been seeking help and hanged himself. Seife was living in emergency accommodation in Newcastle while his asylum claim was being processed. He became very depressed in the weeks leading up to his death. On the day of his death, his friends were so concerned about his health that they took him to the Accident and Emergency department of Newcastle General Infirmary. The inquest in May 2006 was

told that at the hospital Seife was seen by a doctor on four occasions but Seife refused to speak about what was wrong with him. Seife was not referred to a psychiatrist but told him he 'could come back at any point when ready to talk'. It also emerged that at some point while Seife was in the hospital he was asked to leave, and two police officers escorted him from the premises. He was found hanged some hours later. The coroner called on a policeman to give information on Seife's immigration status, but failed to call on a local refugee organisation or the assigned asylum caseworker who had not only been assisting with his asylum claim but also providing housing and other support. This caseworker did indeed know more details about Seife's situation than did the police. And the details were crucial to understanding his distress and desperation. The coroner recorded an open verdict saying that there was insufficient evidence to be sure that what he did was a deliberate act.

● **Majid Rafieei, (32), 14/10/04**

An Iranian asylum seeker was found hanged from a tree in Langley Park, Sheffield. He had tied a noose around his neck before stepping off a high branch. An inquest recorded a verdict of suicide and witness statements from Majid's GP, mental health worker and two friends said that Majid had told them that he would kill himself if his asylum claim were refused. He said that he had been repeatedly imprisoned and tortured in Iran and would rather die than return there.

● ♦ **John Kanau Manana, (24), 15/10/04**

A Kenyan was found hanged from a ligature in his cell at Leicester prison. Paramedics were called and attempted resuscitation and he was taken to

hospital, where he was pronounced dead. He was on remand for the possession of false documents. An inquest recorded an open verdict.

● ◆ **Kenny Peter, 7/11/04**

A Nigerian asylum seeker died in Charing Cross hospital, nearly three weeks after sustaining injuries during an apparent self-harm attempt at Colnbrook immigration removal centre. It is believed that on 19 October, Kenny jumped from a landing and sustained serious injuries, from which he later died.

● **Hemen Mahmood Faqia, (40), 27/11/04**

An Iraqi asylum seeker was found in the River Tyne, near Redheugh bridge, an hour after leaving his flat in Elswick. Hemen was Kurdish and sought asylum in the UK after fleeing persecution but he had agreed to voluntary repatriation. He was said to be worried about his wife and three children in Iraq and had been unhappy and depressed in the days before his death. A post mortem found that Hemen had died from drowning. In March 2005, the coroner recorded an open verdict saying, 'I don't feel I can arrive at a reliable conclusion because we have no evidence as to why he came to be in the water. There is nothing to tell us what happened to him between when he left his flat and was found in the water.'

● **Razgar Rassool Hamad, (24), 20/12/04**

An Iraqi asylum seeker was found dead in a disused factory on Middlemore Road, West Bromwich. Razgar, who had no fixed address, arrived in the UK in 2003 from the Sangatte refugee camp in Calais. The coroner recorded a verdict of death by misadventure after finding that, on the balance of probabilities, he died from hypothermia as he had been

wearing very thin clothes during a very cold night. No family members could be traced.

● ◆ **Vincent Shem, (32), 14/2/05**

A Ghanaian man was found hanged by a bed sheet in Wandsworth prison. The inquest in October 2005 was told he was facing deportation after serving a six-month sentence. He reportedly spent long hours locked in his cell with nothing to occupy him, and due to staff shortages and overcrowding there was little interaction between prison officers and prisoners. None of the prison officers who gave evidence at the inquest could even recall having spoken to him during the three weeks he was in prison. The inquest rejected a suicide verdict, as the jury were not sure beyond reasonable doubt that Vincent meant to take his own life.



● **Limbaya Ndinga, (32), 9/4/05**

An asylum seeker from the DRC was found hanged at the house he was sharing with his cousin in Woodvale near Rochdale. Didier Sengambo told the inquest in December 2005 how his cousin had left the DRC in 2002 and sought asylum in the UK. He had come to live with him in 2003 while waiting a decision on the asylum claim, and when it was refused Limbaya became depressed. The coroner found that 'he was suffering from illness and took his own life while depressed'.

■ **Unidentified man, 21/4/05**

A man, believed to have been an asylum seeker, was knocked down and killed by a car on the M40, near Warwick. He is reported to have leapt from a van that had stopped at services and run towards the central reservation when a car hit

him - he died instantly.

● ◆ **Ramazan Kumluca, (18), 27/6/05**

A Kurdish asylum seeker from Turkey was found hanged in the privately run Campsfield House removal centre in Oxford. He had been detained for over four months and was said to be depressed after bail was rejected. In July 2006, an inquest found that he had taken his own life. Police read out a statement from fellow detainees who spoke of his fears for the future as he faced deportation to Italy.

● **Nusrat Raza, (22), 2/7/05**

A Pakistani asylum seeker died four days after setting herself alight in Bradford. She suffered from depression and had been told her claim for asylum had been refused, and had been appealing. Days before her death, she received a letter from the Home Office requesting further information. In February 2006, the coroner was told how Nusrat had been at home with her boyfriend and had gone into the kitchen to cook a meal. She was then heard shouting his name before being found alight in the street. At hospital where she was found to have 90 per cent burns to her body, she told a doctor that a cigarette had ignited her clothes on which she had spilt something earlier. The coroner found that 'on the balance of probabilities I would take the view that she did deliberately pour fluid over herself and lit it with the lighter.' A narrative verdict was recorded that 'she died on July 2 in Whiston Hospital, Merseyside, of extensive burns caused when white spirit on her clothing was ignited by a naked flame by a cigarette lighter in the living room of her home on the morning of June 28'.



● **Babak Ahadi, (34), 5/7/05**

An Iranian asylum seeker set himself alight at his NASS accommodation in Bristol. He died the following day in Frenchay hospital after suffering 95 per cent burns to his body. According to his friends, Babak was depressed after being told his asylum claim had been refused. The inquest in February 2005 heard from Majid Faragi, a flatmate, who said that Babak had stopped him from putting out the flames with an extinguisher. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide and commented, 'I have no doubt in my mind that the failed asylum application had dire results and was the prime cause of Mr Ahadi's death.'



▶ **Rushi Kamdar, (23), 9/05**

A migrant worker from India, who came to work in the UK in 2004, was kicked and stamped to death in a Coventry street in September 2005, after popping out to the shops. Luke Mozid, 18, was found guilty of his murder. The prosecution alleged that the attack was motivated by robbery and racism although Luke Mozid's family dispute this.



● **Edmore Ngwenya, (26), 14/9/05**

A Zimbabwean asylum seeker died after jumping into a canal in Manchester. The police said they were called to Exchange Quay, 'following reports that a man was standing on chains at the quayside. When they arrived, officers found the man, balancing on the chains that hold the buffer tyres at the side of the canal. Officers encouraged him to come away

from the canal. He was then seen to step from the chains and into the canal, going under the water. Two officers jumped in after him, while other officers called instructions from the quayside. The man re-surfaced a number of times before disappearing under water.’ The *Manchester Evening News* reported that witnesses felt officers hesitated in responding to the situation: ‘Everyone in our office was shouting at the police to jump in to save him. These officers looked like they were just not trained to deal with it’, said a witness. The Independent Police Complaints Commission is conducting a ‘supervised’ investigation into the death. He was also facing deportation.



● ◆ **Manuel Bravo, (35), 15/9/05**

An Angolan, who was detained in Yarl’s Wood removal centre in Bedford with his 13-year-old son, was found hanged in a stairwell on the morning of his 35th birthday and the day he was due to be deported. His young son was transferred to the care of members of his father’s church in Leeds. Campaigners and members of Manuel’s church have called for a public inquiry into the death and the ‘illegal detention’ of Manuel who claimed he had not even received a decision on his asylum appeal and therefore could not understand why he had been served with a deportation order.

● **Anderson da Silva, (25), 5/10/05**

A Brazilian migrant jumped to his death from a building in the centre of Leeds. An inquest was told that he had not renewed his six-month visitor visa which preyed on his mind. Cannabis was also found in his body, which the coroner commented, caused drug-induced

psychosis that probably affected his mental state. The coroner found that he took his own life because of personal problems.



■ **Do Van Ky, (37), 5/10/05**

An undocumented Vietnamese man died after jumping or falling from a lorry at a service station at Haddon, near Peterborough. After the accident, police arrested two men, two women and a 17-year-old boy, all believed to be Vietnamese. Police eventually established his identity (wrongly) as Ky Anh Duong, 42 - the name an assumed one. In March 2006, an inquest recorded a misadventure verdict.

● **Lizwane Ndlovu, (29), 10/11/05**

A Zimbabwean asylum seeker died in Birmingham City hospital, probably from TB, though she did not know she had the disease. She took part in a hunger strike at Yarl’s Wood where she was detained, lapsing into a coma just weeks after being released from detention. Questions have been asked as to whether the removal centre had diagnosed her condition.



● **Delroy Edwards, (43), 12/11/05**

A Jamaican man died after being shot dead in Kingston, nine days after being deported from the UK. His asylum claim had been refused. Delroy had been in hiding at the time of his death and had initially fled after being shot. His claims, that he had been targeted by gangsters associated with PNP party, has been rejected by immigration adjudicators.

▲ **Unnamed man, (42), 24/11/05**

A migrant worker died the day after the minibus in which he was travelling in Peterborough overturned and hit a tree, fourteen others were treated for minor injuries.

● **Star Engwenya, late 2005**

A destitute Zimbabwean asylum seeker died in Hull hospital. She was apparently suffering from mental health problems and was, according to a friend, 'living from place to place, depending on friends who could not provide her daily needs'. She had also suffered from a stroke and was unable to access any treatment.

● ◆ **Bereket Yohannes, (26), 19/1/06**

An Eritrean asylum seeker was found hanged in a shower block at Harmondsworth removal centre. According to the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns (NCADC), which received reports that Bereket had arrived in the UK from Italy in October 2005, he was detained on arrival in the UK, taken to Dover immigration removal centre and then to Harmondsworth in December. NCADC was told that Bereket had 'removal directions' for February but that the deportation had been deferred pending a judicial review. Detainees at Harmondsworth also told NCADC that the deportation was neither to Eritrea nor back to Italy, but to Sudan. According to other detainees at the centre, he was fearful of deportation and found conditions at the centre 'unbearable'. He also spoke of his intention to take his life.

● **Naser Al Shdaida, (36), 9/3/06**

A Syrian asylum seeker died after jumping in front of a train in Streatham. An inquest was told that he suffered from post-traumatic stress and was scared of being deported after he was

told his asylum claim had failed.



■ **Unidentified man, 23/4/06**

A man died after apparently trying to cut himself loose from under a truck after slipping under the wheels and being dragged a mile along the A14 in Cambridgeshire. Police believed he was a stowaway. The German driver of the lorry was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and driving with excess alcohol. The victim was described as Asian, aged 24 to 45, slim, 5ft 8in tall, with short hair, moustache, goatee beard and sideburns.

▶ **Khizar Hayat, (40), 27/4/06**

A Kashmiri born migrant worker died following an arson attack on the shop where he worked in Kennington, south London.

▶ **Hamidi Hamidullah, (31), 3/5/06**

A migrant worker from Afghanistan died following an arson attack on the shop where he was working. 32-year-old Robert Torto was charged with the murders of Khizar Hayat (see above) and Hamidullah Hamidi and also charged with three counts of arson with intent to endanger life, relating to attacks on other buildings. He was remanded in custody.

■ **Unidentified man, (20s) 11/5/06**

The body of a man was found on the A3 near Clanfield, Hampshire. A post mortem found he died of multiple injuries and was thought to have been a stowaway who hid under a vehicle. The man was described as being in his late 20s with black hair and wearing a brown jacket, cream trousers and grey trainers.

● **Ese Elizabeth Alabi, (29), 15/5/06**

A Nigerian woman died in hospital having been denied a heart transplant. Ese visited the UK regularly to see her fiancé and had never overstayed her tourist visas. However, in September 2005, she fell ill (while pregnant) and was told she could not fly home. She gave birth to twin boys in February, but steadily became sicker. She was diagnosed with a serious heart condition needing an immediate transplant. But as a foreign national her need was decided to be of a lower priority than UK citizens'. Her lawyer went to court for judicial review of this decision and because of the length of the legal fight she overstayed her visa and her medical case was adjourned until an application was heard for exceptional leave to remain. Her health deteriorated and she died before any case was heard.



■ **Asian man, 12/6/06**

An Asian man was found dead by a roadside near Witham, Essex, two other men were also found nearby and taken

to hospital, one man was severely dehydrated and in a critical condition. The men were thought to be Pakistanis who were smuggled into the UK.



■ **Asian man, 22/6/06**

An Asian man died in hospital, ten days after being found severely dehydrated with another two men, one of whom

was already dead (see above).



● **Abiy Fissiha, (35), 5/7/06**

An Ethiopian asylum seeker was found hanged in Greenbank

accommodation centre in Liverpool, after being told his asylum claim had been refused. His claim had been classified as a 'late and opportunistic' one and was being handled under the fast-track New Asylum Model under which decisions on asylum claims are given in eleven days. The conditions under which Abiy was housed and receiving support (of £35 per week) meant that he had to 'report' on a daily basis to Reliance House - some miles away.

● **Pierre Palmaba Kabamba, (61), 12/8/06**

An asylum seeker from Congo died after falling from a fifth floor window at the Nayland Rock hotel in Margate. The death is being treated as suicide. Pierre was staying with his wife at the hotel that is run by Migrant Helpline as an induction centre for up to 200 new arrivals - mainly Africans.

If you have any information on the deaths of asylum seekers or undocumented workers in the UK please email: mit@irr.org.uk.

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Organisations

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Harmondsworth removal centre following
the death of Bereket Yohannes on 19
January 2006. (IRR News)

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