SUMMONS ITEM NO: 11(b)

Full Council 25th June 2007

Motion selected for debate by Councillor Paul Lorber, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Let Jamil El Banna Return Home

This Council welcomes the news that Brent resident Jamil el Banna has been cleared by the Annual Review Board for release from Guantanamo Bay after four years of detention without trial. However this Council is shocked at the prospect of Jamil being released to Jordan where he faces possible torture or death.

Brent Council deplores the long incarceration of any individual without trial, and the denial of basic human rights under any circumstances. We call on the Government to back up its words on this issue with action on the international stage, and live up to the promise by the late Robin Cook MP of an "ethical foreign policy."

Council notes that Mr el Banna was granted refugee status because it was accepted that he had been tortured in Jordan, and condemn the Government for failing to allow British residents back home from Guantanamo Bay when they have been cleared for release by the US.

Council fully supports the campaign run by the Willesden and Brent Times, with the backing of Mr El-Banna's MP Sarah Teather, to ensure Jamil's safe return home to his five children in Brent.

Council resolves to ask the Leader to write to the Prime Minister to call for everything possible to be done to bring Jamil home, and to call on all Brent MPs to publicly pressurise the Government to do so.