

# Anwar Ditta Defence Committee

127 Crawford St., Rochdale

Telephone 39832

Dear Brothers/Sisters,

This is to inform you that Joel Barnett MP submitted further information to Timothy Raison at the Home Office on December 16th. Timothy Raison's reply is shown overleaf.

The Defence Committee lawyer has been to Pakistan to collect further information and has recently returned. The Defence Committee is now seriously running into financial difficulties. We appeal to all progressive and democratic organisations to contribute generously and individuals to make a minimum contribution of £2. Accounts of how the money is being spent will now appear regularly in the Defence Committee Bulletin, published fortnightly.

All cheques payable to:

Anwar Ditta Defence Committee

or

Anwar Ditta Legal Fund

Thanking you

Yours in anticipation,

Anwar Ditta Defence Committee

p.p Anwar Sultana Ditta.

For further details and ways of helping to bring Anwar's children home contact :-  
Anwar Ditta Defence Committee, c/o 127 Crawford Street, Rochdale.


Excerpts from Timothy Raison's letter showing his response to the new evidence :

Having looked at the further material in some detail, I am impressed by the family correspondence, which was not before the adjudicator. I have noted also the medical report and the fact that the account of Anwar's marriage in Pakistan in 1968 and the subsequent birth of three children has been consistent since at least early in 1976. The remittance slips too are relevant in showing a connection between Shuja's and Anwar's families from 1974. We are still examining the identity cards issued in Pakistan which may prove to be significant evidence that Anwar was indeed there, but as I indicated at the meeting our doubts that she lived there are not the main obstacle to our acceptance of her account. It would nevertheless reduce the series of doubts which have to be resolved if there were firm evidence that by whatever means Anwar had in fact travelled to Pakistan as a child and remained there for the years in question. I am afraid that I cannot give great weight to apparent facial resemblances in the family photograph album.

Overall, therefore, while there does seem to be some new evidence, I am not persuaded that our earlier view of the case should be abandoned. I shall want to reconsider in the light of whatever we discover about the identity cards. I think it would also be very helpful, as I mentioned at the meeting, if the family were to have the blood tests which they have suggested so that we might have some further evidence to consider. To be of value the tests would obviously have to be taken under properly controlled conditions. I could not say that the results would be conclusive, because as I understand it they may very well leave considerable room for doubt, but as I assured you at the meeting they would represent a piece of concrete evidence in a very difficult case based largely on an assessment of probabilities and I should consider them very carefully.

In the meantime I have kept the material which you left with me but will arrange for its return if you wish.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Cyril Smith.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by 'T-'. The 'S' is formed by a single continuous stroke that loops around the 'T'.

TIMOTHY RAISON