

# Coming 'home' to mum

By MICHAEL EVANS

**A WOMAN will soon be reunited with her three children after a heartbreaking six-year battle to prove she is their mother.**

Home Office minister Timothy Raison yesterday agreed that blood tests proved there was a 99.9 per cent certainty that British-born Anwar Ditta IS the real mother.

Anwar has been fighting since 1975 to bring her three children from Pakistan to live with her in Britain.

Last night after hearing of her victory she said at home in Crawford Street, Rochdale: "I'm happy and thrilled knowing I can now have my children back with me."

"The whole thing has been a real nightmare and the good news hasn't really sunk in yet."

Anwar's children, Kamran, 11, Imran, nine, and Saima, eight, had to stay in Pakistan when immigration officials were suspicious of the application to bring them to Britain.

The Home Office did not take blood tests . . . but Granada TV flew a doctor to Pakistan to collect samples from the children. These were

## Wife wins six-year battle for children

then tested with samples from Anwar and her husband Shuja Ud Din.

Mr Raison said in a letter to MP Joel Barnett, who took up the case: "I now believe there is substantial evidence to justify reversing the original decision."

"I regret it has taken so long to bring this case to a conclusion and hope that the children will have happy lives here."

Anwar, 27, was born in Britain but went to Pakistan when she was nine.

After marrying and having her children she returned to Britain to buy a house and get a job then applied to have her family brought over to join her.

Now the children are expected to fly to Britain in the next few days.



Anwar's three children Kamran, Imran and Saima



Anwar: Thrilled

# Woman wins fight to reunite her family

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent  
Privately arranged blood tests which confirmed that a Pakistani couple were related to their children have persuaded the Home Office to let them be reunited in Britain. The case has raised serious doubts about the fairness of procedures being used to screen would-be entrants to Britain.

It coincides with an outcry about Filipinos being expelled from Britain because they failed to mention they had children at home when they applied for work permits. Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour spokesman on home affairs, is to head a deputation of trade union leaders to ask Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, to stop the expulsions.

The blood test was given to Mrs Anwar Ditta and her husband, who live in Rochdale, and her three children in Pakistan. She has been trying since 1973 to bring them to Britain.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, ended the ban after new evidence produced in the Granada television programme, *World in Action*. A doctor was taken to Pakistan to obtain blood samples from the children. Other documentary evidence was obtained and witnesses interviewed to substantiate Mrs Ditta's story.

Mrs Ditta was born in Britain and at the age of nine was sent back to Pakistan by her parents, where she married and had three children, Kamran, now aged 11, Imran, nine, and Saima, eight. She followed her husband back to Britain expecting that her children would be able to join her, but the Home Office refused to believe they were hers.

Last year the appeal tribunal rejected her plea.

Yesterday at her home, where she lives with her husband and daughter aged four, she said

she was very happy and she hoped to make arrangements for her children's arrival in the next few days.

Miss Sue Shutter, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said: "Anwar Ditta is one of many hundreds who are separated from their children. The Home Office should be trying to reunite families."

Two Filipino hotel workers, Mr and Mrs Arcadio Albesa, are being treated as illegal entrants because they failed to say they had a son when seeking to work in Britain eight years ago. Now aged 17, he lives in the Philippines and his parents applied for him to join them in Britain.

That led to a Home Office decision to expel them on Monday. Mr Philip Pearson, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who is responsible for its members in the hotel industry in central London, said attempts were being made to delay the Albesas' expulsion until the delegation had seen Mr Whitelaw on March 30.

The Home Office said last night that in 80 of 198 cases of domestic and hospital workers, mainly from the Philippines, people had been removed from Britain.

The decisions were based on individual circumstances, including the person's work record and whether he or she knew of the deception practised.

The deputation is expected to argue that because of the activities of agencies in the Philippines—the Albesas paid £400 to one—the entrants were deceived rather than being deceivers. Mr Pearson said last night that almost another 100 people were awaiting Home Office decisions. Case fails: Mrs Laura Fernandes, aged 52, a Kenyan Asian facing deportation to India, where she says she has no family or friends, failed



Mrs Anwar Ditta, jubilant yesterday at the Home Office ruling that her children in Pakistan (from left), Kamran, Saima and Imran, can join her in Britain.

yesterday in the House of Lords to have her expulsion delayed pending consideration of her case by the European Commission of Human Rights (the Press Association reports).

Lord Scarman said it was extremely worrying that a woman of Mrs Fernandes's age should be going somewhere where she had no relatives or roots, but that was not some-

thing that the Law Lords could take into account.

"But I sincerely hope the Home Secretary will", he added.

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# ANWAR UNITES FAMILY THEN FIGHTS FOR OTHERS



**VICTORY!** The looks on their faces say it all as Anwar Ditta's children, Imran, Kamran and Saima arrive at Manchester airport this week, where they met their little sister, British-born Samara (right), for the first time. Their father Shuja Uddin brought them home, and waiting for them at the airport were (left to right) Nasira Begum, their mother Anwar Ditta, and Jaswinder Kaur

THREE Asian women, heartened by Anwar Ditta's victory over the immigration laws, are joining forces to resist the threat of deportation.

Anwar's children came to Britain last week after a six-year battle against the Home Office, who refused them entry.

Jaswinder Kaur of Leeds, Nasira Begum of Manchester and Nasreen Akhtar of Rochdale, are all in a similar plight — faced with expulsion from Britain after splitting up with their husbands.

Jaswinder left her husband after he

assaulted her and her three-year-old son. Now she faces being sent back to India and being separated from the child, who is a British citizen.

Nasira Begum is a victim of even more blatant harassment by the Home Office. She thought she had won her battle to stay in Britain when a Home Office adjudicator ruled in her favour — only for the Home Office itself to object to the decision.

Nasreen Akhtar, who has three children, is now waiting to hear the result of a similar appeal.

A spokesman for the 'Friends of Jaswinder Kaur' told News Line yesterday that efforts were being concentrated on a lobby of parliament on Tuesday May 5.

'We have written to 80 or 90 MPs, asking them to meet us on that day,' she explained. 'And meanwhile we are waiting for Jaswinder's barrister to decide whether or not to put in an appeal against the decision of the immigration tribunal.'

'Anwar had a tremendous victory and that has been an encouragement to all those fighting the immigration laws.'

Jaswinder, who works as a machinist, has the support of both management and the local branch of the National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers to which she belongs.

Local Labour Party ward meetings have discussed her case and given support to the campaign, and on May 16 there will be a national demonstration in Leeds in her defence.

'We have made links with the other campaigns because we see this as one fight against the immigration laws', said the spokeswoman.