

Department General Manager  
GSL PO Box 2477  
Port Austusta SA 5700

Cc Amanda Vanstone

Dear Sir/Madam

Further to the comments on the "Visitor's Concern Form" which was submitted to the Baxter GSL Detention Centre on 30/12/04, I wish to comment further on these and other issues relating to our visits to the Bakhtiyari family on 29/12/04 and Baxter Detention Centre on 30/12/04.

Firstly, I wish to strongly voice my concern, and also my outrage and disbelief, at the lack of compassionate and humane treatment accorded to the Bakhtiyari family.

- 1) Authorities and guards apparently had no regard for the Bakhtiyari family's cultural and religious sensitivities regarding Muslim women. For example, why are male guards permitted to enter Muslim women's presence without announcing their entry. And why can't women guards check on the family, particularly at night-time. Because male guards have been allowed to enter at any time, Roquia and Nagen were forced to wear their head-scarves, even in bed. This policy has greatly contributed to the women's emotional and spiritual trauma whilst in custody.
- 2) After removal of the family from Dulwich Adelaide at 7.00 on Saturday 18/12/04, why were they given no food until about 3.00 pm that day. It is my understanding that they were not even allowed to eat breakfast before departing. If an operation like this can be mounted with such precision, surely sandwiches for the journey could be organised!!
- 3) Surely the family could have been permitted to toilet, dress and prepare for their transportation in a more humane manner. For example, I understand that Roqia was not allowed to change her clothes, change the baby's nappy, or many other basic toilet requirements.
- 4) On arrival at Baxter, why was Roquia Bakhtiyari denied access to a doctor for 2 days, when she was unwell and requesting the services of a doctor?
- 5) Did the authorities, guards, or anyone else in command, suspect or (worse) know, that Roquia was pregnant when she was requesting treatment from a doctor?
- 6) It is my understanding that Roquia's pregnancy was confirmed by a doctor on 29/12/04. If this is the case, then Roquia and her baby's lives were put at risk, in and through the traumatic deportation procedure. I protest strongly that this was allowed to happen?

Secondly, when an official visit to the family had been approved by Baxter for 9.00 am on 30/12/04, why wasn't I (or any of the other visitors that morning) informed before we traveled to Baxter, that they had been deported earlier that same morning and would not be present for our visit. GSL had our phone numbers and records showing that we were coming that morning.

Finally, on a more complimentary note, I wish to commend Chris Jackson and Alan Davis who were on duty in the Visitor's Centre. Their compassionate rapport was appreciated.

I await your response.

With thanks

Yours faithfully

Rosalie Lackie