“How we treat asylum seekers is, however, a measure of how we treat foreigners in general, and, in particular, how seriously we take our obligations to defend victims from persecution wherever it may take place. A society that loses its sensitivity to the suffering of foreigners, simply because they are foreigners, has lost something very precious indeed.”

Report by Alvaro Gil-Robles, Commissioner for Human Rights, on his visit to the United Kingdom, 4th - 12th November 2004

BID believes that asylum-seekers and migrants in the UK have a right to liberty and should be protected from arbitrary and prolonged detention by effective and accessible legal safeguards.

Our mission >>>

BID is an independent charity that exists to:
• Improve access to bail for all immigration detainees
• Lobby for detention to be subject to regular independent, automatic judicial review
• Work towards an end to arbitrary detention in the UK
• End the detention of families with children

Our activities >>>

• Providing free information and support to detainees to help them exercise their right to liberty and make their own bail applications in court.
• Preparing and presenting free applications for release on bail or temporary admission for detainees.
• Carrying out research and using evidence gathered to campaign to end arbitrary detention.
• Documenting and publicising injustices we see.

I am driven to conclude that the claimants' detention was deliberately planned with a view to what was in my judgement a collateral and improper purpose – the spiriting away of the claimants before there was likely to be time for them to obtain and act upon legal advice or apply to the court. That purpose was improper. It was unlawful. In my judgement it renders the decision itself unlawful”.

Mr Justice Mumby’s decision in the case of Karas and Milandinovic, April 2006
Chair’s report

The bail applications we prepared and presented were on behalf of people who most desperately needed our help and could not represent themselves, or whose detention had wider policy implications.

It has been a year of change at BID. Tim Baster, BID’s founder, decided it was time for him to move on. It was his vision that inspired the creation of BID and for his persistence and commitment we owe him a huge debt of thanks. On a personal level, Tim was hugely inspirational and always left me feeling that, but for people like Tim there would be little ground for optimism that the world can be a better place. From a small group of volunteers, BID has become, under Tim’s leadership, an organisation with nine paid staff, 24 volunteers and three offices. In the wake of his departure, we established a management structure consisting of a Director, Celia Clarke, and two Assistant Directors, (Legal and Policy). Sarah Cutler was appointed Assistant Director Policy, while Natalie Poynter, our Oxford Manager, was appointed interim Assistant Director Legal. This year, we have a new Assistant Director Legal – Zoe Stevens - with the departure of Natalie on maternity leave.

There has been a significant increase in the number of people in immigration detention supported by BID this past year – almost 1,500 as compared with just over 1,100 last year. In line with our strategy to extend the advice and information we deliver to as many people in detention as we can through our Right to Liberty project, many more detainees (over 600) attended our bail workshops in detention centres.

This meant that BID represented fewer detainees in bail applications this year. The bail applications we prepared and presented were on behalf of people who most desperately needed our help and could not represent themselves, or whose detention had wider policy implications. BID took on some cases to conduct strategic litigation where the result in the courts would have an impact on the lives of other detainees. Such challenges included particular nationality groups detained in the fast track who were not removable, foreign national prisoners detained unlawfully, those facing removal to third countries whose removal was challengeable in the High Court and families detained with their children.

BID remains extremely concerned about the lack of legal advice and representation available to detainees. BID welcomed the establishment in December 2005 of the Detention Duty Advice (DDA) scheme by the Legal Services Commission, in response to concerted lobbying by BID and others. BID’s experience is that these 30 minute free advice sessions have not had a significant impact on the need for help with bail. BID is continuing to encourage the LSC to develop these DDA sessions so that they provide meaningful help to detainees. The contract specification says that bail should be considered in all cases and where it is decided not to make a bail application a note needs to be made on the file so it can be peer reviewed.

Another key concern for BID this year has been the use of detained fast track processes. The fast track is the scheme the government uses for processing ‘straightforward’ asylum claims speedily. Asylum seekers are detained during this process. BID’s concern was confirmed with the research carried out for our report into the operation of the fast track at Harmondsworth, as well as through our presence in court. As a result of our court monitoring and reports from detainees who represent themselves, BID is concerned about fairness and correct procedure where detainees are litigants-in-person in the bail courts. BID has raised these issues with the AIT in relation to problems with listings and a focus of next year’s work will be to ensure that those detainees who have to represent themselves are not procedurally disadvantaged simply because they do not have a lawyer in court with them.
BID increased its income over the last year, and was therefore able to put in place its new management structure. We ended the year with a small deficit on the unrestricted fund, but already this year our fundraising is going well, thanks particularly to Celia Clarke. We are hopeful that we will continue to attract financial support for our work and are grateful to those funders who continue to provide essential funding to BID.

I will stand down as Chair this year and hand over to Rajeev Thacker who has been on the Board of Trustees for some time. My time as Chair has been extremely rewarding. I have admired all the staff and volunteers at BID for their hard work, perseverance and humanity. Their jobs are extremely difficult and at times frustrating, but they do not give up and the welfare of detainees remains at the core of everyone’s work. I am very grateful to Celia Clarke who has come from outside the “immigration world” and taken up the task of Director with enormous enthusiasm and skill. I am also grateful to the Board of Trustees which has been extremely supportive of BID and has made my task as Chair considerably easier.

Nicola Rogers
Chair
Director’s report

BID exists to fight for those who mostly have no-one fighting for them and attempts to change the system to make it fairer.

As I watched the young woman quietly and firmly asserting her case to be freed on bail (she was not going to abscond, and her removal from the UK was not imminent), I felt a mixture of pride, admiration and shame. Pride that she had attended a BID workshop, as a result of which she had the knowledge and confidence to represent herself in a bail hearing in court; admiration for her for having the courage to do so; and shame that I belong to a society that locks up foreigners for the administrative convenience of the state, that allows a situation where the onus is on the person detained to challenge that detention, that so many do so without any legal representation and that the odds are stacked against them if they do try.

It has been a steep learning curve for me since my arrival in January and I have found many things deeply distressing: the state of the people I have met in detention - confused, traumatised and far from friends and family, bewildered and angry at finding themselves deprived of their freedom; court hearings I have attended that appear to pay scant regard to the law and continue to incarcerate people with little or no evidence to justify that incarceration and no external scrutiny of that decision; the hostile media coverage towards asylum-seekers, which bears little relation to reality. So, it is of some comfort to me not only that an organisation like BID exists to fight for those who mostly have no-one fighting for them, but which also attempts to change the system to make it fairer. I am proud to be the Director of such an organisation and I am humbled by the many people who go out of their way to support BID and its work: our trustees, our staff (both paid and unpaid) who work tirelessly in the face of overwhelming odds, our funders who steadfastly support us in spite of the unpopularity of BID’s cause, the lawyers who represent our clients in court for free, the activists in other organisations who support our aims, the visitors who proffer the hand of friendship and solidarity to detainees. All these people make BID’s work possible and indeed more effective, as together we are more powerful than BID would ever be on its own. Thank you all.

But BID would never have existed without the vision, determination and commitment of Tim Baster, BID’s founder, who left the organisation this year. I want to pay tribute to him for what he has created, and for the number of people whose freedom he has secured over the last eight years. We owe him a great debt, and I hope that all of us who are associated with BID in whatever capacity will continue the work he started in the same spirit, holding on to a vision of a fair and humane system for asylum-seekers and migrants.

Celia Clarke
Director
Bail Casework

Overall, BID submitted 173 bail applications, of which over 70 were successful.

1494 people held in immigration detention received support from BID in the last year, a substantial increase on last year’s total. The support took the form of telephone advice and information, postal support and provision of information, attendance at workshops, or representation in court. All detainees who called any of BID’s offices received telephone advice and information, and were directed to the Notebook on Bail and to our Legal Bulletins.

BID’s three offices presented bail applications for a number of detainees who were suicidal or had self-harmed, were mentally or physically ill, elderly or infirm, held under the detained fast track or detained with their children. In addition to applying for bail, BID’s three offices made a number of successful applications for release on temporary admission (TA). Overall, BID submitted 173 bail applications, of which over seventy were successful.

BID has referred many detainees to solicitors with a view to mounting legal challenges against removal, deportation or unlawful detention. This element of BID’s work is becoming more and more challenging with the cuts in legal aid.

A woman who had been detained in Yarl’s Wood IRC was in the advanced stages of a hunger strike when her case was referred to BID. With the help of the Bail Circle, who found sureties for this woman, she was released to be cared for intensively in hospital on the first occasion that BID represented her in court. She had been sectioned under the Mental Health Acts and attempted suicide whilst in detention, but her detention had been maintained. The details of her case were given to a statutory body involved with reporting on prison and detention centre conditions. BID referred her to specialist lawyers to assess a potential claim for unlawful detention.
Legal Bulletins

Legal/country information for detainees to represent themselves in their own bail applications

Five legal bulletins were written and published this year, to provide information on the following specialised issues:

- Mauritanian nationals without travel documentation
- The LSC-funded Detention Duty Advice service for detainees
- Section 4 - NASS accommodation for failed asylum seekers
- The Fast Track procedure in Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood
- The deportation of foreign nationals and bail.

These bulletins were sent out to all Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) and to individual detainees, as well as being available on the BID website, and helped to increase the success of bail applications by providing detailed legal points and evidence on specific issues. BID's foreign national bulletin was an important response to the detention of foreign national prisoners; it gave legal advice to those who had completed a prison sentence and, in some cases, been deemed suitable for early release, but were transferred post-sentence from prison to immigration detention where they can be held indefinitely without any right to an independent and automatic review of their detention. BID received support from Garden Court Chambers in the production of this bulletin.
Right to Liberty Project

During the past year there has been a huge increase in the number of people attending Right to Liberty workshops. Workshops have taken place in Haslar, Harmondsworth, Colnbrook, Dover, Yarl's Wood and Campsfield House.

Of the 675 detainees who attended workshops, we were able to track outcomes for 228. Detainees are moved around the detention estate with great frequency, and some are removed to their country of origin. It is difficult to track what happens to our workshop attendees, though we do ask detainees to let us know if they apply for bail and, if they do, what the outcome is. Of the 228 we succeeded in making contact with, 148 applied for bail, 57 were granted bail, 41 were granted temporary admission, and 50 were refused. 80 were removed to their country of origin.

Detainees attending workshops benefited from follow-up advice delivered by casework volunteers. The Notebook on Bail, which is the self-help book sent out to detainees which tells them about their right to bail, and how to apply for bail, was amended in October 2005 to reflect changes in legislation. We also expanded the impact of the work by providing training on bail to visitors' groups and other NGOs, so that they in turn could support detainees to apply for bail themselves.

This year saw BID access Yarl's Wood for the first time. As a result we were able to identify a number of unlawful detentions and serious breaches of the Detention Centre Rules. We referred these cases to solicitors for civil actions against the Home Office. Being in the centre regularly and working with women's campaign groups, meant that we were able to identify a number of seriously ill and otherwise very vulnerable women who needed BID's help with bail.

“I then saw an advert for the BID workshop in the library. I got the notebook on bail and read it. When I read the notebook it still looked too good to be true that I could get bail but I decided to find out more and go to the workshop. When I was at the workshop I started to think I could get bail. I thought BID would not waste their time and come to the detention centre if it were not possible to get bail. They helped me to understand the way to get bail and the reasons I should give to the Immigration Judge. The workshop also made me understand that I could apply for bail many times.”

Ben was detained for three months at Dover Immigration Removal Centre. He was granted bail at his third attempt.
In early March a community group in Portsmouth rang us to say their prospective chairwoman and her 2 year old daughter were taken early in the morning, to be detained in Tinsley House, near Gatwick Airport. Her partner suffers from brain seizures and lymphoma. He was reliant on his partner for physical and emotional care.

In this case, a refusal decision was given to their solicitor, after she had been detained. As a result of determined perseverance by the members of the community group, supported by BID South and the Refugee Legal Centre, the woman and her young child were restored to freedom in a couple of weeks.

A snapshot of detainees in contact with BID South, taken at the end of July 2006, showed that 51 had no legal representation; that is, they had no legal representation for their substantive asylum or immigration matter and no legal representation in the matter of exercising their right to challenge their detention. Given the frequency of faulty initial decision making, legal representation is the only effective means by which scrutiny of decisions can be exercised.

**He’s been here for 28 years, he’s got six children and two grandchildren. He’s very sick, he’s got problems with his eyes and they’re telling me he can’t stay here. He doesn’t know anyone in Jamaica and I’m so worried he’s got nowhere to stay. He hasn’t even got any clothes as they took him away too quick and he didn’t get any clothes together. I’m his mother and I’m British and the MP has said there’s nothing more that he can do for him. I had to pay for a solicitor who only went to see him before they took him away. Now I can’t even afford to go and see him.”**

’S’Phone call from the mother of a detainee in Colnbrook who had been in the UK for twenty eight years.

**Those without legal representation included the following:**

- A forty-seven year-old man who came to the UK in 1978 who has six children, two grandchildren in the UK and whose mother is a British citizen. He has no family in his country of origin.
- A man showing signs of previous torture, who has a British partner.
- A man detained for five months who has never had access to legal representation.
- A man who is pursuing an application to the High Court as the Home Office have never substantiated allegations against him.
- An Iraqi Kurdish man detained on arrival.
- A man with two children, one of 12 years and one of 18 months; both born in the UK.
- A man detained for four months who is pursuing his own Judicial Review, again on the basis of unsubstantiated evidence against him.
- A man detained for nine months who has co-operated with requests for information about his identity.
One of the key changes to BID Oxford’s work has been the introduction of bail workshops at Campsfield House IRC.

During the year BID Oxford supported 373 detainees. 29 bail applications were listed, ten were successful. Seven successful applications for temporary admission were also made.

A woman from the DR Congo had been detained in Yarl’s Wood for seven months. Although diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, the immigration authorities strongly opposed her release. The Immigration Service tried to remove her without success on eight occasions, sending her to countries like Ethiopia and Congo (Brazzaville). She represented herself in two bail applications, which failed. BID then intervened and secured her release on bail. Last week she was re-detained.

One of the key changes to BID Oxford’s work has been the introduction of bail workshops at Campsfield House IRC. This has been in line with BID’s strategy to try to provide a service to as many detainees as possible by providing training and information on bail and how to apply for bail without a solicitor. Although this support can never be a substitute for legal representation, it is an effective use of BID’s limited resources. Workshops and follow-up legal visits are held once a month.

A failed Iranian asylum-seeker spent 23 months in various immigration removal centres. The Immigration Service disputed his nationality and he was also the subject of a Deportation Order. The immigration authorities were unable to remove him due to difficulties related to obtaining a travel document. After almost two years in detention, he was released on bail on a restriction order. Three months after being released on bail the client was re-detained while reporting to an immigration enforcement unit. BID referred the client to a firm of solicitors who issued a claim for judicial review challenging the legality of detention. At the same time BID lodged a bail application and secured the release of the client.

A woman from the DR Congo had been detained in Yarl’s Wood for seven months. Although diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, the immigration authorities strongly opposed her release. The Immigration Service tried to remove her without success on eight occasions, sending her to countries like Ethiopia and Congo (Brazzaville). She represented herself in two bail applications, which failed. BID then intervened and secured her release on bail. Last week she was re-detained.
Research and Policy

Our three campaign priorities are: fast track, families and access to legal advice.

Over the past year, BID has continued to use the evidence from our casework to push for policy change on detention. We have attended quarterly meetings with Detention Services at the Home Office to make detailed representations. BID is an active member of the Refugee Children’s Consortium, the Asylum Rights Campaign, Medical Justice, the Immigration Law Practitioners Association and the Refugee Legal Group.

In addition to reacting to issues such as delays in bail listings and IND consultations, BID has focused on three campaign priorities: fast track, families and access to legal advice.

Fast Track
In the first few months of 2006, BID worked with a team of volunteers and two volunteer postgraduate researchers to carry out research on the fast track system for processing asylum claims at Harmondsworth IRC.

‘Working against the clock – inadequacy and injustice in the fast track system’, published on 1 August 2006, is the first piece of research to present a focused analysis of the system. It shows that asylum seekers detained for their claims to be fast tracked are being set up to fail because the system is too fast to give them a fair chance (99% are refused), and more than half are left without legal representation at their appeals.

Families
BID jointly ran a public campaign against the detention of children, with the Refugee Council, the Scottish Refugee Council and Save the Children (www.noplaceforachild.org.uk). It was backed by more than 13,500 members of the public, and 153 MPs signed a motion calling for alternatives to the use of immigration detention for children. On 12 July, BID and coalition partners met the Immigration Minister, Liam Byrne MP, and the All Party Group on Children and Refugees launched ‘Alternatives to immigration detention of families and children - a discussion paper’ by John Bercow MP, Lord Dubs and Evan Harris MP for the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Children and Refugees. A key-note speaker at the launch was an asylum-seeking woman detained with her children for nearly five months in Yarl’s Wood, and assisted by BID. BID had a key role in helping draft the paper, which successfully pulled together evidence of the impact of detention on families and presented international good practice in developing alternatives. BID’s Director, Tim Baster, was interviewed on Radio 5 Live news and LBC Breakfast. Articles about the campaign also appeared in print: Guardian online, Society Guardian, This is London, BBC Online, Mail Online, The Independent, The Scotsman, and The Herald.
Access to advice and representation
BID lobbied for better access to advice and representation for detainees. Working with Amnesty International, BID led attempts to make an amendment to the 2005 Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill. We presented written evidence to a number of parliamentary inquiries and made oral submissions to a House of Lords select committee on returning asylum seekers. In October 2005, BID and Asylum Aid secured a meeting with the Immigration Minister and the Minister responsible for legal aid to raise access to justice issues. In December 2005, the Legal Services Commission announced a Detention Duty Advice pilot to try to tackle the need for advice in detention, citing pressure from BID and other NGOs. In July, BID contributed our casework evidence to the LSC’s evaluation of the pilot.

Deaths and self-harm in detention
BID held a public meeting in St James Piccadilly on 19 October focusing on the increase in deaths and the related issue of violent, forced removals to countries such as Iraq and Zimbabwe. A BID briefing on deaths was used by Lord Dholakia in a Lords debate on safer custody.

Awareness-raising
BID staff presented at various events and conferences including a national Refugee Council conference, a Community Care event, a Centre for Crime and Justice conference for prison staff, the MA Migration Studies programme at the University of Sussex, UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group public meeting, Behind the Headlines at Roehampton University, and a number of grassroots meetings about asylum from rape, and removals to Iraq.

Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre
Detained families project

We continued to provide vital support to families in detention, and worked with 72 families, most of whom we were unable to offer more than telephone support because they had already been served with removal directions. The cases we did take on (32 families, and a total of 53 children) were complex and many families had serious outstanding issues in their cases and were unwilling to return home on the grounds of the risks they would be likely to face. Much time was spent trying to make referrals to good legal representatives. This involved collecting data about the case, reviewing the case to consider what legal strategies remained open, and attempting to convince overworked solicitors to take the case on.

We applied for bail for eleven families, sometimes more than once, and seven families (with a total of 19 children), were released. We used our casework evidence to lobby the Home Office, and enabled detained families to take part in the campaign against the detention of children - *No Place for a Child* (see policy and research report). Several families chose to speak out about their detention and were featured in the Times, Guardian, and Independent. We also made a number of civil action referrals, provided information to support a judicial review of family detention policy (now being taken by a solicitor on a case referred by BID), and developed a project for independent paediatricians to assess the health of detained families. The findings will be published next year, with the goal of pushing for an end to the detention of children.

A fax from a detained 13 year old who had lived in the UK for 5 years. Received at BID office on 23 December 2005

BID was contacted by a 13 year old girl who was being held with her mother and sister at Yarl’s Wood. The family had inadequate legal representation despite paying privately. After several failed bail applications by the lawyer, BID talked over the background of the case with the daughter (because her mother did not speak English). We found out that there was a history of domestic violence and that the daughter had resisted removal because she did not want to be reunited with her father who had already been removed. We successfully referred the case to a good immigration lawyer who, after a protracted battle, obtained the family’s release from detention and submitted a fresh claim for asylum. The mother and daughters have now won the right to stay in the UK.

“...please release us so I can celebrate my holidays. My mum gives me tense as well. Because she doesn’t eat the food the people gives. Because of that she had weakness whenever she walk. She feel dizzy sometimes at prayer time she fell but I hold her give her water then she pray. My mum had 4 big operation. Because of the operation she can’t sit for long. I can’t see my mum all the time upset on the bed. I want my mum to get rid of this tense but she always reply I wanted to get released. My sister gives tense to my mum as well...”
Financial Information

The following information has been extracted from the audited financial statements of Bail for Immigration Detainees for the year ended 31 July 2006 on which the auditors, Ramon Lee & Co issued an unqualified audit opinion.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 July 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restricted Funds</th>
<th>Unrestricted Funds</th>
<th>2006 Total</th>
<th>2005 Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incoming resources</td>
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<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incoming resource from generated funds:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary Income</td>
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<td>11,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td>Incoming resources from charitable activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total incoming resources</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources expended:</th>
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<td>Costs of generating voluntary income</td>
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<td>Charitable activities:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right to Liberty</td>
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<td>Bail Casework</td>
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<td>Detained families</td>
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<td>Research &amp; Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total resources expended</td>
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<td>355,017</td>
<td>204,294</td>
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Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources | (51,431) | (65,874) | 5,796 |

Reconciliation of funds:

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<tr>
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<td>128,821</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Funds at 31st July 2005</td>
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<td>134,617</td>
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Balance Sheet at 31st July 2006

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<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Tangible Fixed Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Debtors</td>
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<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
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<td><strong>Creditors</strong></td>
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<td>Amounts falling due within one year</td>
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<td>Net current assets</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Funds</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Funds - Total Unrestricted Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted Funds</td>
<td>16,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68,743</td>
<td>134,617</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Full audited financial statements are available from Bail for Immigration Detainees, 28 Commercial Street, London E1 6LS.
Thank You!

Thanks to our funders without whom none of this would be possible

Our thanks to our funders

Sir Halley Stewart Trust
Lloyds TSB Foundation
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
City Parochial Foundation
J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust
Lankelly Foundation
Amnesty International UK Charitable Trust
The Sigrid Rausing Trust
Doughty Street Chambers
Helen Tetlow Memorial Fund
Ward Blenkinsop Trust
Jill Franklin Trust
Matrix Causes Fund
AW.60 Charitable Trust
Polden Puckham Foundation
Cole Charitable Fund
2 Garden Court Chambers
The Funding Network
The Allen Lane Foundation
The Law Society Charity
St James Church
St Martin in the Field

And the many individuals who have donated money to BID

The staff, trustees and volunteers

Trustees
Nicola Rogers (Chair), Katie Ghose, Dheepa Balasundaram, Navita Atreya, Randip Basra, (appointed 15/11/2005), William Bingham, Ionel Dumitrascu (resigned 13/09/2006), Ruth Moulton, Paul Julien (appointed 01/10/2005), Rajeev Thacker (appointed 19/01/2006), Richard Oppong (resigned 19/01/2006)

Staff
Tim Baster (resigned May 2006), Celia Clarke (appointed January 2006), Thirukeswary Sreeganeshan, Zoe Stevens, Anna Morvern (appointed November 2005), Neena Acharya (locum Legal Manager), Emily Burnham, Sarah Cutler, Rosy Bremer, Natalie Poynter, Mary Hampel, Frances Pilling (appointed December 2006), Ionel Dumitrascu (appointed November 2006)

Volunteers
BID South
John Bingham, Patricia Bingham, Mary George, Philippe Cave, Jeanne Christie, Michael Heaps, Jane Smith, Debbie South, Penny Lehmann, Michael Brown, Sarah Hammond
BID Oxford
Gill Baden, Catherine, Ionel Dumitrascu, Michael Hall, Penny Williams, Mehwish Chaudhry, Ruth Munene, Vida Anorson, Hugh Logue, Clare Savory, Alies Patrascu, Trisha

BID London

The Barristers who have volunteered to go to court
(the majority through the Free Representation Units in London and the Western Circuit)
Paramjit Ahluwalia, Charlie Banner, Michael Bartlett, Fiona Beach, Tim Buley, Melissa Canavan, Mick Chatwin, S Chelvan, John Crossfil, Graham Denholm, Laura Dubinsky, Julia Gasparro, Marie Ghose, Hannah Godfrey, Alex Goodman, Saima Hanif, Michael Hall, Shivani Jegarajah, Damian Krushner, Alasdair Mackenzie, Dinail Nanayakara, Ed O’Bree, Natasha Peter, Margaret Phelan, Aron Rollins, Sadat Sayeed, Emily Shaw, Alexis Slatter, Abigail Smith, Mark Symes, Felicity Williams, Dan Wilsher
The people and organisations that we have worked with over the year


A man who had survived torture in Africa and had been receiving specialist trauma counselling outside detention, was referred to BID by a detention centre visitor group. He had a British wife and small children and had served a sentence in the UK for the crime of working illegally to support his family. Although his sentence had finished some time ago, he had successfully completed his period on probation, he was re-detained whilst babysitting his children at home, shortly after the media furore over non-removal of foreign national prisoners. He was represented by BID and was released at his first appearance before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT). His wife stood surety in the sum of £10. The court accepted that this sum was sufficient given her means, despite protestations by the Home Office. Upon his release, BID was able to help the client to find a good legal representative who could appeal against his deportation and assert his right to a family life in the UK. BID corresponded with Liberty about this case, so that they had the opportunity to use the case study in their civil liberties’ campaign about the detention of foreign nationals.
Support us!

I would like to support BID’s work in defending the rights of immigration detainees

Name: 
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I want to make a donation of £

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If you are a UK taxpayer, BID can claim back 28p for every £1 you donate, making your donation worth a third more at no extra cost to you. As long as the amount of tax you pay in a year is equal to or greater than the tax that BID claims back, you will qualify.

Yes, I am a UK taxpayer and I want my donations to BID to be Gift Aid donations until I notify otherwise. This applies to all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 and I make from now on.

We are committed to spending your money wisely.

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“I don’t even have enough words of thanking you people! It’s only God who will thank you for helping me and my family!! Once again thank you!!”

Comment on a feedback form
Paintings from a collaborative exhibition ‘In the absence of justice...’ between Ricky Romain, Toooks Chambers, Amnesty International and BID. The exhibition runs from 7 December 2006 to 28 February 2007 at Toooks Chambers.

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