

17 year old child of detainee ZZ

Read out to audience at the "Behind Closed Doors: Ten Years of Secret Evidence and Hidden Suffering" public meeting held by Campaign Against Secret Evidence and the Cordoba Foundation at the London Muslim Centre, Whitechapel on 19 December 2011.

Having my father ripped out my life has changed me as a person, seeing him once every couple of months is never enough. Not having him around has made me miss out on so many things and I'm worried it is too late to accomplish things I wanted to do with him. I believe he has also missed out on numerous things that I've gone through in these crucial years of any boy's life, though he was there to see my first steps and my first bike ride, he wasn't able to be with me when I needed to talk to someone about what was on my mind, or there to hug me when things got a little too much for me. Hearing his voice over the phone just makes everything worse as it emphasises the distance between us. Before he was taken from us I spent every bit of spare time with my dad, whether it was fixing the washing machine or going out for a ride on his motorbike. My father and I were extremely close; there was no question about it. On the grounds of secret evidence, which I believe is complete nonsense, my father, the father of seven other children is being kept away from his family with absolutely no consideration to his human rights. Making the situation even more absurd is the fact that he is a European citizen, this is an utterly disgusting way to treat any human being and I believe it is a direct violation of my human rights: the right to live in a family environment. The environment that I live in today without my father is very far from a family environment, it's like getting into bed only to find your blanket isn't there, nothing feels right. And for me, my father was the blanket of our family and absolutely nothing feels right without him.