

11 November 2004

Hon Damien O'Connor
Assoc Minister of Immigration
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Damien

Re: Hossein Yadegary: Client Number 15054596

Mr Hossein (Thomas) Yadegary has requested that I place his case before you to seek an exception to policy allowing him to obtain Permanent Residence.

I am aware that Mr Yadegary has recently been detained in custody and that a letter from Mr Yadegary's local MP, Hon Phil Goff, requesting reconsideration has been received by your office.

I write on the basis of support for that letter and respectfully request your urgent consideration on three grounds:

- The presence of conflicting decisions in findings of Refugee Status Appeals despite strong similarity between appellant cases.
- The belief Mr Yadegary holds that he will be subject to persecution
- The potential impact on community relations should the case become salient
- The general character of Mr Yadegary as perceived by the community

Mr Yadegary arrived in New Zealand in 1993 from Tehran and applied immediately for Refugee Status. In 1997 he was baptised Thomas in the Catholic Church of St Benedict's, Mt Roskill. He attended religious meetings regularly and visited a number of churches of different denominations. He was baptised in Auckland in August 1997. Numerous credible referees attest to his role as a devout member of the Catholic Church.

Hon David Cunliffe — MP for New Lynn

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