

Free Babar Ahmad

Proposed: Kareem Osman (Ordinary member of council)

Seconded: Colin Smith (ICU Campaigns and Welfare Officer), Kian Sing Low (Ordinary Member of Council), Farrukh Rashid EEE PG, Tom Tibbits Physics PG, Ataul Munem Rashed Physics year 4 UG, Shah M A Baten Chemistry PG, Meryem Kaya Medicine year 3 UG, Safa Gulam Attar Medicine year 3, Daniel Macias Castillo Maths year 2 UG, Joseph William Bull Physics year 3 UG, Benjamin Harris Physics year 2, Marwa El-Damanawi Chemistry year 3 UG, Suma Bhattacharya (Faculty of Physical Sciences Welfare Officer), Vikas Kaura Biochemistry year 4 UG, Kabir Merali Computing year 3 UG, Ammar Ahmed Waraich Medicine year 1 UG, Keith Buffard Mechanical Engineering year 5 PG, Petros Wallden Physics year 2 PG, Haydar Al Nageim Medicine year 5 UG, Farreah Ali Medicine year 3 UG, Hassan Bin Sabirin Earth & Science Engineering year 1 UG, Sajid Akhtar Aeronautics year 3 UG, Ng Kee Chou Maths year 1, Sagir Hassam Computing year 2 UG, Stratis Pantelides Mechanical Engineering year 4 UG, Samah Elsayed Physics year 3 UG,

This union notes:

- That Imperial College is a leading university with a high level of research in the information technology sector.
- That Imperial College (IC) has an ethnically, internationally and politically diverse makeup of students.
- That due to the high level of sensitive research and technical capabilities of undergraduates and postgraduates, IC students may be at risk from the governments "Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security act 2001" because of their political beliefs or affiliations and this is exemplified in the Babar Ahmad case.
- That Babar Ahmad, a Muslim and an ex-student of Imperial College was arrested under the "Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security act 2001" at Imperial on 2 December 2003, whilst working as a member of IT staff in the Mechanical Engineering department. He was released without charge after a week of interrogation, due to lack of evidence
- That there is medical evidence Babar Ahmed was beaten in connection with his arrest, (source – the Guardian http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,1302018,00.html), and that he has been rearrested facing extradition on the same evidence that apparently would not stand up in a British Court.
- That photos taken whilst he was in custody (and available at www.freebabarahmad.co.uk) show that he sustained a number of serious injuries during or after his arrest
- That Babar was rearrested on 5 August 2004, under the new Extradition Act
- That there is still no evidence to try Babar in the UK, which is why he is facing extradition to the United States. Under the above act people can be extradited to the US purely on the basis of allegations without any

evidence and without the right to challenge the allegations brought against them.

- The strength of feeling amongst Imperial students, in support of Babar's cause, that was shown last week on Thursday 2 December, when 160+ people attended a meeting to launch the Imperial College 'Free Babar Ahmad' campaign, that had been publicised for less than a week beforehand. Amongst others, Babar's father and campaigning journalist Yvonne Ridley spoke at this meeting, and Babar's family were particularly pleased with the event and turnout at their son's former workplace

This union believes:

- That there is the possibility that another student at Imperial experiences the same kind of victimisation as Babar Ahmad did. The sooner, and more effectively, we handle with Babar's case, the better the union will be able to deal with any such future attacks on its employees or students
- Students are at an risk of victimisation due to the attack on civil liberties (including measures such as the proposed introduction of ID cards and other things mentioned by the President in his "State of the Union" article in the 2 December 2004 edition of *Felix*).
- These attacks on civil liberties affect us all, although the issue is obviously particularly relevant for us at Imperial, and if Babar is extradited it will not only mean he suffers more unjust punishment, but it will also set a very dangerous precedent for future employees and students of IC (Babar is the first person to face extradition under the new act)
- That support from his old college would mean a lot to Babar (he has recently expressed his gratitude at all letters he has received from his many supporters)

This union resolves:

- To actively support the 'Free Babar Ahmad' campaign, both inside and outside the college to stop his extradition. Thus stopping a dangerous precedent being set that may affect any IC student. Such support will include, but not be limited to, letter writing, demonstrating, etc. which will be coordinated as soon as possible through channels such as the student media and the union's weekly email
- To ensure that Islamophobia, and any other form of discrimination experienced by Imperial College students, both on and off campus, is dealt with thoroughly
- To campaign for a full investigation into the alleged assault on Babar by the police officers who arrested him.
- To campaign for his human rights to be respected in court proceedings and that he should be given a fair trial here in the UK
- To mandate the President to co-ordinate and implement the policy through the Executive.