**Statement from Manchester Branch of the NUJ**

James’s friends and colleagues in the Manchester Branch of the National Union of Journalists are delighted that he feels able to come off the hunger strike he has maintained for 19 days. This drastic action was taken by James because the UKBA refused to engage with his case, his solicitor or his MP. The fact that the UKBA has now agreed to look at the case is the direct result of James' hunger strike.

James’s campaign, however, is far from over, and the Manchester Branch of the NUJ will continue to stand with him as he seeks a righteous conclusion. We are dismayed that James was driven to go on hunger strike due to the serial mishandling of his case and trust that going forward the UKBA will treat him with the fairness and dignity to which he is entitled.

Chris Rea

Chair of Manchester Branch of the NUJ 19/08/11