

found dead	number	name	country of origin	cause of death	source
22/9/98	1	Semira Adamu (20 woman)	Nigeria	suffocated to death by pillow, being forcibly deported from Belgium	VK/CCE/AFP/MNS/IRR/AIMN/Ke



When the State Kills

Semira Adamu, from Nigeria, died following her ill-treatment at the hands of the Belgian police entrusted with the task of deporting her. She was shackled hand and foot when she was escorted onto a Sabena Airline plane and the police escort used a cushion to muffle her screams after other passengers began boarding. Witnesses said the cushion was held over Adamu's mouth for 15 minutes. She was aged 20 and had asked for political asylum in Belgium, after fleeing from Nigeria, to escape a forced marriage arranged by her parents, to a 68-year-old man.

Semira arrived at Brussels' Zaventem Airport in March and was immediately interned in a detention centre just outside the airport. From the time she arrived in Belgium to the time she died this detention centre was to be her only experience of Belgium. The Belgian administration tried to deport Semira six times. She died on Tuesday 22 September. A young woman of 20 years old has been harassed, and terrorised by the Belgian state until she died.