

## **Phone cards and Art.8 Family visits and - reunion: how to provide proof of regular contact**

UKBA or the AIT courts often refuse visa entry clearance, or family reunion, on the basis that there is no proof of ongoing longterm contact between the person in the UK and the family member(s) in country of origin.

Such contact is often maintained by phone, calling the country of origin from the UK, using phone credit cards at £5 - or £10 - each, available from many shops and kiosks. Until now you could not show to whom calls were made using such cards. Now there is a way of using these phone cards to show that you regularly talk to your family

Here is a way of obtaining lists of numbers which have been dialled using that card, so you can prove who you have regularly spoken to. Getting such a list from the card issuing company can prove that you have had regular contact over a prolonged period with your relative(s), wife, children, parents etc.

Here is what you do:

- The cards have names like Africatel, Cobra, Happytel etc. Many of them have been issued by the same company, eg. Lycatel, Unitel. You can find the name on the back of the card in small print, with a contact number.
- Ring the issuing company and get their address.
- Make photocopies of all the cards you have used (using the reverse with the numbers, not the picture side).
- Send them, or get your solicitor to send them, to the company, asking them to send you a print-out of all the numbers which have been dialled using each card.
- Keep the original cards, , so you don't lose them and can produce them in court when appealing a visa or entry refusal.

It is quite expensive to obtain such a card calls list: it costs around £2.50 per card. One client had to pay £177.- for getting all his call lists. Often a refugee or asylum seeker doesn't have such a sum.

We suggest you could try the following:

Keep ALL your call cards, using only the ones supplied by a company which will provide call lists.

Mark each phone card with the date you used it, and do so with indelible ink  
If you ring your family often, and can't afford to have ALL the cards listed, you could, and choose one from each months' supply....keeping the others to show that wasn't the only time you rang...

The lists will provide evidence which your solicitor or you can use in court to support your appeal against entry refusal, as proof of you having regular , sustained contact with your relative. This would make it difficult for the he Home Office or courts to again refuse their entry on the basis of doubting the existence or strength of the relationship.

**Puck de Raadt, Churches' Refugee and Racial Justice Network.**