

Embassy terrorists allowed to stay in UK

PA

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The only surviving terrorist from the Iranian embassy siege can remain in Britain for at least six months, sources confirmed today.

Fowzi Badavi Nejad served 28 years in prison for his involvement in the 1980 attack, and was granted parole on Tuesday.

He cannot be deported because he would face execution in Iran, sources said, and has been given permission to remain in the UK for six months.

Nejad will then be granted Special Immigration Status, which is used for foreign criminals.

A Home Office spokesman refused to comment on individual cases but said: "We do not give refugee status to convicted terrorists. Our aim is to deport people as quickly as possible but the law requires us to first obtain assurances that the person being returned will not face certain death.

"In the meantime, a person would be put on extremely tight reporting restrictions."

Nejad was among six terrorists who stormed the Iranian embassy in central London in April 1980, taking 26 people hostage.

The siege lasted six days, and two of the hostages were murdered.

Nejad will be given Government support while he remains in Britain, but this has been played down by the Home Office.

The spokesman said: "Any support given to those with Special Immigration Status will be provided only if they would otherwise be destitute, and will be set at a level to meet essential living needs."

Trevor Lock, a policeman among the hostages caught up in the siege, has written to the Home Office protesting against Nejad's release.

He told The Sun: "This guy was as bad as the rest of them. He was the only one of them I didn't connect with at all.

"Once he even shot over the head of the charge d'affaires for amusement.

"He commits a major crime, goes to prison, comes out and is allowed to stay in the country where he committed it - madness.