

## **Iranian teenager who walked to Europe disappears**

**Farhad is a teenager from Iran.** His family lived close to the Iraqi border where he worked as a shepherd for his family, but because of his knowledge of the surrounding hills he was asked to act as a lookout and guide for smugglers taking goods from Iran into Iraq.

He was stopped and questioned on several occasions by the local police, but one day he received a message from his mother saying that it was too dangerous for him to come home. He walked across the border into Iraq but again ended up helping smugglers to take cigarettes and mobile phones from Iraq back into Iran.

Inevitably, the Iraqi police heard about it and came looking for him, so he decided to undertake the arduous walk to Europe. When he got to Greece, he spent three years there working for £10 per week. From this money he hid away £2 a week for three years, so he could pay smugglers to help him get to the UK. The Home Office rejected his claim for asylum and his current whereabouts are unknown.

-ends-