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Hacker extradition 'must go ahead'

THE Home Secretary yesterday rejected a last-ditch appeal for him to block the extradition of Gary McKinnon, who has Asperger's syndrome, to the US on computer hacking charges.

Alan Johnson said he had considered demands for him to intervene in the case, but had decided that the extradition would not breach Mr McKinnon's human rights.

"I have no general discretion," he said in a statement.

Mr McKinnon's mother, Janis Sharp, said Mr Johnson and the Government "should hang their heads in shame".

"To force a peaceful, vulnerable, misguided UFO fanatic like Gary thousands of miles away from his much-needed support network is barbaric," she said. "This is a cruel and miserable decision."