

Here, the myth of excessive British generosity needs confronting. Earlier this year, Britain had taken in only 143 Syrian refugees: since the civil war began, Germany has taken in around 100,000. Britain had 31,745 applications for asylum in 2014; but in Sweden – whose population is nearly seven times smaller than ours – there were 81,180 such applications. France had more than twice as many, and Germany – with 202,245 applications – had more than six times the British rate. And Britain accepts substantially fewer than other countries: just 10,050 positive decisions last year, compared to 30,650 in Sweden, 12,550 in the Netherlands (with a population nearly four times smaller than Britain's), 14,815 in France, 40,560 in Germany, 20,580 in crisis-ridden Italy and 15,410 in tiny Switzerland.

Those Calais migrants desperately trying to enter the British mainland are being attracted by an excessively generous British state, so the story goes. They are poor wherever they are, and unless they have children, refugees are better off in France; there are similar restrictions on work in both France and Britain; rents are substantially cheaper in Paris compared to London; and asylum seekers in both France and Britain are provided with healthcare and education for children. Those heading for Britain are a minuscule proportion of the world's refugee population. Disproportionately, they tend to be educated; with a grasp of English that they believe will make it easier to settle down and get in work than in a country where they don't speak the native tongue; often a cultural link with Britain, because it used to be a former colonial power; or they have friends, family, or a settled community in the UK. There are those who, in effect, believe the entire world's refugee population should be settled in substantially poor countries which are already overwhelmed. There is a debate to be had about how to solve a growing global refugee crisis, sure. But to do it properly, we need to at least have the facts right – and stop indulging the myth that Britain is the global magnet of refugees – it isn't.

Four Prisoners Injured in Swinfen Hall YOI - Returns to Normal After 'Lockdown'!

Thursday 6th August, The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) said specially trained officers were sent in to deal with "an incident of indiscipline" at YOI Swinfen Hall near Lichfield in Staffordshire. The disturbance involved a single wing of the jail. During the fracas four prisoners received minor injuries but no prison officers were hurt. A small fire on the wing was dealt with by fire-fighters. Ambulance and fire crews were called to the young offenders' institution at 7.37 pm. According to the MoJ website, the jail has an operational capacity of 624 and holds male long-term young adults sentenced from four years to life. Prison watchdogs have raised concerns in August last year, over staffing levels and budget problems at a jail for young offenders. The Independent Monitoring Board for Swinfen Hall, near Lichfield, warned a "reduced workforce" faced an "increasingly difficult" role in maintaining safety for prisoners and staff.

Hostages: Anis Sardar, Jamie Green, Dan Payne, Zoran Dresic, Scott Birtwistle, Jon Beere, Chedwyn Evans, Darren Waterhouse, David Norris, Brendan McConville, John Paul Wooton, John Keelan, Mohammed Niaz Khan, Abid Ashiq Hussain, Sharaz Yaqub, David Ferguson, Anthony Parsons, James Cullinane, Stephen Marsh, Graham Coutts, Royston Moore, Duane King, Leon Chapman, Tony Marshall, Anthony Jackson, David Kent, Norman Grant, Ricardo Morrison, Alex Silva, Terry Smith, Hyrone Hart, Glen Cameron, Warren Slaney, Melvyn 'Adie' McLellan, Lyndon Coles, Robert Bradley, John Twomey, Thomas G. Bourke, David E. Ferguson, Lee Mockble, George Coleman, Neil Hurley, Jaslyn Ricardo Smith, James Dowsett, Kevan Thakrar, Jordan Towers, Patrick Docherty, Brendan Dixon, Paul Bush, Alex Black, Nicholas Rose, Kevin Nunn, Peter Carine, Paul Higginson, Thomas Petch, Vincent and Sean Bradish, John Allen, Jeremy Bamber, Kevin Lane, Michael Brown, Robert Knapp, William Kenealy, Glyn Razzell, Willie Gage, Kate Keaveney, Michael Stone, Michael Attwooll, John Roden, Nick Tucker, Karl Watson, Terry Allen, Richard Southern, Jamil Chowdhary, Jake Mawhinney, Peter Hannigan, Ihsan Ulhaque, Richard Allan, Carl Kenute Gowe, Eddie Hampton, Tony Hyland, Ray Gilbert, Ishtiaq Ahmed.

Miscarriages of JusticeUK (MOJUK)

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MOJUK: Newsletter 'Inside Out' No 542 (13/08/2015) - Cost £1

Justice for Anis Sardar

On 21 May 2015, 38-year-old Anis Sardar from Wembley, north London, was convicted of the murder of a US soldier in Iraq in 2007 and sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum of 38 years. He was the first person to be sentenced in a British court for participating in the violent turmoil which followed the US and British invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003. His friends and family in London say that Anis has been wrongly convicted and have set up the Justice4Anis campaign. Anis was born and grew up in London. In 1997, having developed an interest in Arabic, he went to Syria, then a peaceful country and a popular destination for learning the language. He found the study difficult but after several trips began a degree at Fatih Al Islami University, and was there in 2003, when the US and British forces invaded Iraq.

Images of destruction and carnage were constantly in the news and the second siege of Fallujah resulted in a massive influx of Iraqi refugees into Syria. Anis saw society around him rapidly change and heard distressing stories from people escaping the war. In 2005, Ibrahim Al Jaffari, a Shi'a propagandist, was elected as Iraqi Prime Minister. He appointed Bayan Jabr, who was the Commander of the Badr Brigade Shi'a militia, as Minister of Interior, and Jabr went on to run secret prisons where Sunnis were imprisoned and tortured.

Anis met Abu Muhammad, who had fled Iraq with his wife and children, and they became friends. Abu Muhammad decided to return to Iraq and help his parents to escape the country. When Anis learnt of this, he insisted on helping him, and they left for Iraq in 2005 with medical supplies. Anis stayed in Iraq for less than six months, serving as a night watchman, warning locals of approaching militia. One afternoon Anis accompanied Abu Muhammad to visit a friend in Shula, where he saw villagers working on some objects he couldn't recognise. They explained that as they had no finances, manpower, or weapons to defend themselves against the militia, building bombs and placing them around their village was their only means of protecting themselves from the constant attacks. Anis was asked to help tape two devices, which he did as he couldn't see anything wrong with helping the villagers to defend their families from militia who were constantly massacring them simply because they were Sunni.

Eventually, the brutality of the conflict became too much for Anis and he returned to Syria; however he had been affected too deeply by his experiences, so abandoned his studies and went home to London. On his return he qualified and worked as a black cab driver, married and started a family. He was arrested seven years later in relation to a bomb which had killed a US soldier. This bomb did not have Anis' fingerprints on it but the case against him was that those which he had touched and this one were all from the same batch. There was no evidence that this was the case but he was found guilty on the basis of an assumption.

Anis has been open about his experiences and has hidden nothing. However, the judge opened up the trial by refusing to give the jury the context of the Iraq war. Stripped of context, stripped of motives, Anis was sufficiently dehumanised. When you dehumanise someone, it doesn't matter so much what you do to the person.

The trial was clearly one sided, and throughout Anis was treated as guilty until proven innocent. From the start it was clear what direction the case was going to go in, as immunity

was granted to prosecution witnesses but denied to the Iraqi witnesses speaking in Anis' defence. Then, Anis was labelled as an 'extremist' for opposing the Iraq war. The word 'extremist' is too often levelled at Muslims, and the way the judge used it would put hundreds and thousands, if not millions, of Muslims and non-Muslims alike into this category.

We are now fighting for equality and a fair trial. For more information go to <http://justice4anis.com/> or Facebook Justice4Anis. Please write to:

Anis Sardar (A1582DH), HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, London SE28 0EB

There's Money in Honey - Bee Rustling on the Rise

The crisis in bee numbers may be a threat to the world's food supply, but it is also leading to a different kind of problem for apiarists – the return of the old-fashioned crime of rustling. Fewer bees means hives, and queens, are worth more. North Wales Police are currently investigating the theft of 30,000 bees and three queens from a honey farm in Anglesey – a crime which follows a spate of similar thefts in the nearby Conwy Valley. “A hive full of bees is worth up to £500,” says Huw Evans, 46, managing director of Arnia, which monitors hives remotely. “That’s the same price as a laptop, and you wouldn’t leave one of them in a field – let alone lined up one next to the other. “In the past five years the cost of bees has rocketed. It’s a simple matter of supply and demand: the fewer bees there are, the more they cost. The more valuable, the more likely they are to be stolen.”

Jingle Fucking Jangle, Always the Jingling, Fucking Jangling of Keys!

Remanded to "help me focus my mind" said the judge, as he gave me three days for being late for court; after 25 years unjust incarceration & suffering severe & enduring post traumatic stress disorder some more unjustified incarceration should do the trick! Was due in court (domestic matter) Friday 24/07/15, never made it torrential rains & 250 miles away from the court! Handed myself on 27th to police, taken to court and then to HMP Lewes.

Day to Day, Well Three of Them Anyway - Ph*I D*y was ere! (19 79 early 1980). The scribbled graffiti said on the cell wall of my first day in jail. An amiable, likable lad who liked to steal fast cars but not to keep & valeted before being returned. S*m D*y woz ere 29/1/15. The scribbled graffiti said on my first (28/07/15) day in HMP Lewes! I never made it there as a lifer ?

First night, morning came very slowly, every 15 minutes the old guy on nights came along to check if I was still alive! Hear the jingle fucking jangle, screws keys going in the lock of my cell. I crouched in the corner next to the loo, the smallest defensible space, loo brush in hand (head snapped off and shaft sharpened to a point). Booted footsteps & shouts, the jingle/jangling of keys (always the fucking jingling.jangling of fucking keys).

The door opens & every fibre of my body is tensed ready for that one moment, The Highland Charge! Whatever the consequences, & the outcome is inevitable, you will lose!, but they will know forever that they can not attack me with impunity! I teeter on tip toe on the very edge of the high diving board, don't jump, have I already?, no I'm here but the walls change colour in each memory that races through my head, noises, screams, faces, dark places! Then the smell hits me, prison food, prison smells & i have to swallow the urge to vomit! I feel my eyes prickle & I turn my mind off, feel nothing, show no emotions, no weakness, no fear! I remember the coldness of humanity & turn myself to stone! I push the door too but refuse to lock it, always did, & sit on the bed. "Get your dinner" he says, already passed by & speaking over his shoulder as he strives to get 40 cons unlocked & fed all at the same time while dealing with jokers & moaners & hangers on alike!

They'd asked me how I was, Ha Ha Ha! I didn't know? They'd said they would take my

The report – released to coincide with the one-year countdown to the Olympics – has been fiercely criticised by Rio authorities. The state security secretary, José Mariano Beltrame, said the Amnesty report was “reckless and misleading” because it failed to recognise that crime levels are down and killings by police have fallen by 85% in favelas where they have installed police pacification units, a programme aimed at reclaiming territories from drug dealers. He said the study also neglected to mention that police have already adopted many of the recommendations mentioned in the report and now use fewer rifles and less ammunition. Police unions say the wider context has been missed. More people are murdered in Brazil than in any country. Police face considerable risks in what many describe as a war on drug traffickers. More than 100 officers were killed in Rio last year.

Prosecutors have also contradicted Amnesty's claims that police benefit from impunity, saying 587 officers have been brought to justice in the past five years. The office of the Rio public prosecutor condemned Amnesty's report as “empty, generic, and contributing nothing to a solution of the problems.” It denied that police enjoy immunity, saying prosecutors have done a “lonely and Herculean task” bringing officers to justice in 247 cases in the past five years.

While most figures suggest improvements in crime levels and greater efforts to ensure police discipline over the past 10 years, few doubt that Rio is still home to alarming levels of killings by police. There is increasing pressure on officers to change. The proliferation of mobile phone cameras and internet access has made it harder for police to put a lid on killings, beatings and “accidental deaths” such as the shooting of 10-year-old Eduardo Ferreira in April as he tried to take a phone out of his pocket, or 15-year-old Lucas Lima who was gunned down on his way home from a football game. Civil society is also better mobilised than in the past, particularly in favela communities, where the vast majority of the predominantly poor, black or mixed race male youths are killed. Protests ensured an investigation into Amarildo de Souza, a resident of the Rocinha favela who was initially classified only as “missing”, but was later revealed to have been tortured and killed by police.

Don't Believe the Press – Britain is Far From a Refugee Magnet *Owen Jones, Guardian*

There is little sympathy for the refugees languishing in inhumane conditions in Calais, either from the mainstream press or much of British public opinion. “Migrant Runs 30 Miles Through Channel,” booms the Express, referring to a Sudanese refugee who almost made it through the entire Channel tunnel. “We kept out Hitler,” offers the ever level-headed Daily Mail. “Why can't our feeble leaders stop a few thousand exhausted migrants?”

Even among progressive-minded people, there are reservations about those who have fled horrifying circumstances in Syria, Eritrea, Darfur, Afghanistan and other countries terrorised by war or dictatorship. Why don't they simply seek refuge in countries neighbouring their own? What compels them to travel thousands of miles, across multiple borders, in order to make a new life on British soil? François Hollande's France is hardly a war-torn dystopia, so why not stay there?

The first point is that the vast majority of refugees don't come anywhere near western Europe. Indeed, as the UNHCR points out, 86% of all refugees are in developing countries. That's a dramatic surge from 70% just a decade ago. About one in four refugees are from Syria: 95 out of every 100 of them are in a neighbouring country. Turkey – whose GDP per capita is about four times less than that of Britain – hosts nearly 1.6 million refugees, more than any other country. Lebanon, which has a population of less than 4.5 million, has up to 1.5 million Syrian refugees. Countries with far fewer resources than Britain are taking in many more refugees.

That may well be the case, but why can't the rest of western Europe pull their weight?

mum?’ I heard my mum saying: ‘I can’t move my legs, I can’t breathe, I think I’m going to die.’ At that moment everything in my life changed for ever.” Before the shooting, Lawrence said that he dreamed of becoming a police officer when he grew up, inspired by shows such as *The Professionals* and *Starsky & Hutch*. “I wanted to get the bad guys,” he said. Lawrence, 40 – who runs a disabled taxi service and a charity called the Cherry Groce Foundation to support individuals and their families disabled through illness, accident or tragedy – said: “My mum suffered for 26 years. I don’t want her death to be in vain.”

The family is suing the Met for trespass, a catalogue of 22 incidents of negligence, misfeasance in public office and human rights breaches. Lawrence said: “No sum can compensate us for the trauma, suffering and loss that our family has had to endure over the last 29 years. What the police did to our mum has caused us a lot of psychological damage and it’s important that they recognise that. We won’t allow them to continue to fail us.” The family says the Met had initially indicated that it was willing to settle the action quickly but now appears less so. “We are disappointed but not surprised about that,” said Lawrence. “We have been let down once again. The commissioner has talked the talk. Now he needs to walk the walk.”

The family’s solicitor Clare Richardson, of Bhatt Murphy, said: “It appears that what we have here is a Met commissioner who does not have the courage of his convictions: having acknowledged publicly the ‘years of suffering’ and ‘irreparable damage’ caused to the Groce family by the actions and omissions of the Met, and having assured the family in person and in writing of his good faith and his endeavours ‘to achieve a satisfactory resolution’ in respect of that damage, he has felt able to go back on his word without any meaning.”

A Met spokeswoman said: “The shooting of Cherry Groce in 1985, and her subsequent death from the injuries she sustained, was, and remains to this day, a tragedy. The Metropolitan police service accepted its failings and paid substantial compensation to Mrs Groce in 1993. Following the inquest, where the Met fully accepted the findings of the independent investigation known as the Domaille report and the jury’s verdict, the commissioner publicly apologised to the family for the service’s failings. The commissioner has since apologised in person to Mrs Groce’s children. A further civil claim has been brought against the Met by Mrs Groce’s children and we have been involved in ongoing correspondence and discussion with them regarding this claim. However, we regret it has not been possible to reach a satisfactory resolution and we will therefore be defending the action.”

Rio De Janeiro Police Killed 1,500 in Five Years

Jonathan Watts, Guardian

“Rio de Janeiro is a tale of two cities. On the one hand, the glitz and glamour designed to impress the world and on the other, a city marked by repressive police interventions that are decimating a significant part of a generation of young, black and poor men,” Atila Roque, AI

Military police in Rio de Janeiro have killed 1,519 residents in the past five years, according to a new report by Amnesty International, which says that extrajudicial executions are claiming a disproportionate number of lives in a generation of young, poor and mostly black men. In a study of official data and newspaper reports of the Olympic host city, the civil rights groups found that almost one in six homicides were carried out by on-duty police officers as part of a “strategy of fear” in favela communities. It said more than 75% of the victims from 2010 to 2013 were black men aged between 15 and 29. Most cases were filed as “resistance followed by death” which shields the perpetrators from civilian courts. Of 220 investigation, Amnesty found only one case that led to an officer being charged.

Innocence away. I didn't know what was left? I didn't know what I had built in the intervening 12 years of freedom, stumbling over the rubble of a bombed out life I'd been handed back in a property box, there wasn't much in there!

I didn't sleep, I remembered. I've travelled to lands I'd dreamed of, tasted my way around the world, been a foreigner, become a friend, walked a million memories all the way back to where I started! I guess their suicide prevention measures are about right & taken seriously & administered kindly but they're outnumbered, there's only one player in that game & it ain't them! Morning came as it does, Mother Earth has her own rhythm & gives me life anew every day! The door is left open, "Domestics" usually the chance to do everything from an application form for anything to everything, including Murder! A female officer walks by & jokes at two guys to "stand to attention" Jeez another day in Paradise!

Jingle Fucking Jangle, but it's Friday and this is the last time I hear the sound.

Out of Jail and back home. - Paul Blackburn <h50278@outlook.com>

Born 01/07/1963, Manchester, convicted aged of 15 of attempted murder, served a life sentence, and was later found to have been wrongly convicted. Served nearly 25 years in prison.

HMP Manchester Britain's Most Racist Prison

I am of Pakistani ethnicity, a practising Muslim and a Terrorism Act convict. The first two attributes are why the CPS charged me under the Terrorism Act, as opposed to the Communications Act (let alone respecting my purported human right to Freedom of Expression). I was born and raised in the UK; yet the sentencing remarks directed at me included: ‘You purport to be a British citizen but what you stand for is totally alien to what we stand for in our country.’ I was disassociated from the country of my birth due to my ethnicity and religion before being sentenced to 17 years’ imprisonment, for what was essentially a public order offence at most.

This alienation and marginalisation sets the backdrop to how Muslims are systematically subjugated and dehumanised in what is fundamentally an institutionally racist criminal ‘justice’ system. I have now spent time in ten prisons and the most racist by far is HMP Manchester. I spent two and a half years there, during which time prison officers and governors ‘radicalised’ me more than any cleric probably ever could.

Upon reception into Strangeways AKA HMP Manchester in November 2011 from HMP Belmarsh, I hadn’t even reached the wing before I was told by a senior officer in the prison’s counter-terrorism unit that Muslims are prohibited from wearing our religious cap (topi) outside of their cells. When I was located to a wing, they ensured I was isolated from anyone with a similar background to me. Officers would then disclose to local gangs of friends that I am a ‘terrorist’ as implicit incitement. On more than one occasion officers located confirmed EDL supporters in the neighbouring cell. For months officers separated my incoming mail from everyone else’s and kept it in the wing office for weeks at a time, refusing to issue it without a directive from ‘security’, which never seemed to come. They then imposed a blanket ban on my correspondence with any other Muslim prisoner or support network. This was intended to isolate me further.

On visits at Strangeways prisoners are prohibited from standing to greet their visitors. There is no reason for this, which is why the policy doesn’t exist in any other high security prison. If you stand to hug your family, you face a barrage of officers rushing over, barking at you and your visitors to sit down, followed by threats to terminate the visit. For over two and a half years I was prevented from standing to hug my mother, who had to make a round trip of over 140 miles to visit. Standard visiting time at Strangeways is only one hour (less time for entrance

procedures). Due to the distance and the fact my mother is diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, I routinely applied for an hour's extension (an 'extended visit'). The residential governor regularly rejected these applications or they went 'missing' and I had to cancel the visit.

On one occasion my sister was wearing a 'dupatta' (a cultural shawl that Asian women wear). The officers told her she would have to remove it or be refused entry. So they began to racially discriminate against my family members, none of whom have a criminal record. Another way they worked to disrupt my family ties was by repeatedly and arbitrarily suspending my family's phone numbers from the PIN phone system. On one occasion they suspended my family's landline for three months.

I protested with a hunger strike, which lasted for nine days. I recommenced eating after it became clear they were not going to reinstate my family's number; they would rather I starved to death. They considered my distress an achievement and I began to develop symptoms of Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome (apathy and disorientation, severe impairment of short-term memory, often with confabulation). Throughout this hunger strike the national lead psychologist on 'extremism strategy' (who is based in Strangeways) didn't once come to check my well-being. In her later risk assessment reports she didn't once highlight the reason I went on hunger strike.

Indeed, it was at the psychologist's behest that the counter-terrorism governor, flanked by a mob of screws, illegally confiscated my legal documentation and permanently deprived me from applying to the Criminal Cases Review Commission. I responded by formally disengaging from my sentence plan (eg psychology programmes) in October 2012; to this day I have maintained my disengagement.

In February 2013 I was given a wing job. I wore my topi on the landing. When I refused to remove it, I was sacked and my privilege level downgraded. The so-called 'equality team' colluded with this blatant discrimination, portraying me as 'disobeying an order' – never mind that it was discriminatory. In February 2014 I sent a judicial review pre-action protocol on the topi prohibition, which had been in effect since 2010. A few days later they finally rescinded it.

In March 2014 officers began inciting prisoners to challenge my wearing the topi. This led to a physical altercation instigated by at least three racists. I was assaulted on the landing, but the screws just stood around as if nothing happened. I then defended myself and only then did the alarm go off and the screws only restrained me. I was stripped of all privileges ('Basic level') for over a month; the assailant was only downgraded from 'Enhanced' to 'Standard level' (thus retaining some privileges). I was placed on an anti-bullying scheme for over two weeks; the assailant was on it for six days.

The incidents in this letter are just a fraction of the protracted experience of just one Muslim prisoner. The very many grievances that are now deeply seated within me will remain when I am released from prison on probation next year. By mistreating me, the criminal 'justice' system has failed me and ultimately failed the public.

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 details the purposes of sentencing, which include reduction of crime, reform and rehabilitation of offenders, and protection of the public. Strangeways prison has guaranteed these purposes will never be met. But the good work of people like the RCG proves to political prisoners like me that these public servants do not necessarily act on behalf of everyone, and therefore I pay homage to the RCG for its article 'Oppression of Muslim prisoners in British prisons' (June/July 2015) and personally to verify the content of it.

.Bilal Zaheer Ahmad A4773AY, HMP WAKEFIELD, 5 Love Lane, Wakefield WF2 9AG.

G4S and advising that company on their bid for a new contract, the integrity of that bid must be in doubt. The justice secretary [Michael Gove] must intervene immediately to freeze the bid process until G4S has explained why it appointed a member of its bid team to carry out an 'independent' report into its own conduct at Rainsbrook. Gove has either misled me, or been misled himself. I condemn the deplorable conduct of G4S, who seem more concerned with protecting their reputation than dealing with the record of abuse at Rainsbrook," he told the Guardian.

Watson had previously expressed grave concerns about Rainsbrook as a result of Ofsted's report and wrote to Gove in June about them. In his reply to Watson, Gove said the YJB had improved its monitoring process at Rainsbrook and that he intended visit the centre with Narey who, he said, had "conducted his own independent assessment of Rainsbrook". Watson also expressed concern about the re-appointment of John Parker as director at Rainsbrook following the Ofsted report. Parker was in charge at Rainsbrook in 2004 when 15-year-old Gareth Myatt died of asphyxiation after being restrained by three custody officers. Gove did not respond to Watson's concerns about Parker. G4S declined to comment on allegations that Narey's report was not independent. A spokesperson for the YJB said it considered the views Narey expressed in the report were his own, not those of any other party and it was common practice for consultants to be paid by those who commissioned them.

The Guardian asked the Ministry of Justice if the justice secretary had authorised Narey's visit to Rainsbrook. A spokesman said the MoJ was "aware and content" with his inspection of the STC. Ofsted told the Guardian: "We, the HM Inspectorate of Prisons and the Care Quality Commission fully stand by the findings and recommendations of our joint team of seven inspectors following the inspection of Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre over a 10-day period in February this year."

Cherry Groce Children to Sue Met for Damage Shooting Caused Them

Diane Taylor, Independent: Five children of Cherry Groce, whose shooting by a police officer led to the 1985 Brixton riots, are to sue the Metropolitan police for the damage caused to them after she was paralysed in the bungled raid almost 30 years ago. The shooting, in September 1985, occurred when police raided the family home searching for another of Groce's children, Michael, who did not live there and wasn't there at the time. He is not part of the legal action launched on Thursday.

The highly unusual claim against the Met is for damages for the psychiatric injuries the five say they sustained as a result of the shooting. Groce's children say they experienced profound trauma because of the incident; four of the five were in the house when the shooting occurred. They also had to witness the suffering of their previously active mother, caring for her for 26 years until she died. Four of the five were diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following the shooting, which happened when they were eight, 11, 14, 18 and 21 respectively. The five variously have anxiety, panic attacks and depression. An inquest into Groce's death held last year found that police failures in planning and implementing their raid contributed to the death. The jury identified eight failings on the part of the Met. Met commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe apologised to the family after the inquest, admitting that the police had caused "irreparable damage". He said: "Sadly, this means that the person who most deserved to hear the apology – those words 'we are sorry' – is no longer here."

Lee Lawrence, who was 11 at the time he saw his mother shot, said: "I was curled up in my mum's bed, for me the safest place in the world, when I heard a loud banging, which must have been the police breaking the door down. My mum went to see what was going on and that was when the police shot her. I remember screaming: 'What have you done to my

G4S Paid Martin Narey Ex Prison Chief £10,000 for 'Glowing Report'

A former prisons chief who wrote a glowing “independent” report about a controversial youth offender unit run by G4S had previously been paid thousands of pounds as a consultant for the private security firm, the Guardian has learned. Sir Martin Narey, former director general of the prison service, published a report in July on Rainsbrook secure training centre in which he wrote that “very challenging children” were treated “overwhelmingly well”. He concluded: “My test in visiting places of custody for over 30 years is to reflect about how I’d feel if my son or daughter were incarcerated there. In Rainsbrook’s case, I would consider him or she to be safe and to be generally well treated.” Narey’s verdict was delivered months after a joint report by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission and the chief inspector of prisons in May into the centre condemned it for a series of failings . It pointed to the dismissal of six members of staff after a series of incidents of gross misconduct, staff who were on drugs on duty, and others who had behaved “extremely inappropriately” with young people, causing distress and humiliation.

Ofsted inspectors, who visited Rainsbrook in February, also revealed that a child who suffered a fracture, possibly as a result of being restrained, did not receive treatment for 15 hours because senior staff overruled clear clinical advice that he needed treatment. The Ofsted report rated Rainsbrook “inadequate”— the lowest grading, prompting Frances Crook, the chief executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform, to call it the “the worst report on a prison I have ever seen” and the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers to demand that the Youth Justice Board (YJB) cease placing children there. Narey’s subsequent report, which appeared to show significant improvement at the unit, was referred to as an “independent report” on the YJB website despite Narey’s admission within the background notes that: “Since 2012, I have offered occasional advice to G4S on their care and custody of children.”

In fact, he has been a paid consultant for G4S for three years and in 2014 was paid more than £10,000 by the company. Narey was also paid to advise G4S on bidding for renewal of its contract to run Rainsbrook in 2016. When approached by the Guardian, Narey confirmed he had been employed by G4S as a consultant until the end of the last financial year and that he agreed to offer an independent view of Rainsbrook as a one-off piece of work. “My past financial relationship with G4S is made explicit in my report,” Narey said. “G4S will pay for that review although my report was written primarily for the YJB and the secretary of state.”

Asked if he had been part of the G4S bid team to run Rainsbrook for another seven years – a contract that is worth £92m –Narey said he advised the team on how their plans for Rainsbrook might be more child-friendly and how access to, and success in, education might be increased. “I realised I would be criticised for defending G4S, as people have suggested my reputation is damaged,” Narey told the Guardian. “Life would have been easier if I had not agreed to do this report,” he said, but, he added, he saw a centre that “was not all perfect, but very good, very caring in fact” and that if he had found Rainsbrook to be unsafe, he would have said so “very loudly”. He also criticised the earlier Ofsted report into Rainsbrook, saying: “Ofsted are independent but not omniscient and their conclusions are misconceived.”

Narey’s history with G4S has at times been discordant. In 2011 Narey firmly rejected G4S’s approach to operate Cedars, an immigration detention centre for families in Sussex, though his successor, Anne Marie Carrie, overturned that decision. When he ran the prison service from 1993 to 2008, Narey re-nationalised three prisons from the private sector including one, Buckley Hall, from G4S. But his impartiality has been called into question following his report on Rainsbrook. Labour MP Tom Watson told the Guardian: “If Narey is a paid consultant to

Officer who Challenged Racism In Police Cleared Of Sexual Assault Charges

Vikram Dodd, Guardian: A retired Asian officer who fought racism in the police has been cleared of sexually assaulting a prisoner almost 30 years ago after claiming the charges against him were part of a vendetta by Scotland Yard. A jury took 50 minutes on Friday to acquit former Det Sgt Gurpal Viridi of all charges over the incident which was alleged to have happened in 1986. The trial judge, His Honor Judge Andrew Goymer, said a conspiracy may have been behind the case against Viridi. Viridi alleged the case was brought to destroy his reputation and to punish him for speaking out. He told the Guardian a section of the Met had a “licence” to act as it wanted and had brought the case as part of a vendetta spanning 17 years.

Speaking from his home in west London, Viridi said: “The Met has not moved on, it’s going backwards.” He added: “It’s the same department, the directorate of professional standards, they’ve always been after me since 1998 and the employment tribunal. That department is a cancer of racism that needs to be cut out and nobody has the courage to do it.” Viridi said a particularly vicious element was the allegation he had sexually assaulted a minor: “It was done to keep me quiet and then to make me look bad in the community, and people did avoid me. It was meant to destroy me.” He said his case documents disappeared and that his experience was similar to that of PC Carol Howard who won an employment tribunal for race discrimination against the Met, during which it emerged that reports damaging to the Met had been deleted. Viridi said: “It’s still the ongoing campaign against me, as it has been, since 1998. It just shows that all the reports done into racism and fairness, are ignored. Senior officers provide lip service, recommendations are not implemented and some people have a licence to do what they want in the Met.”

Viridi has won two employment tribunal cases against the Metropolitan police, one after he claimed to have been framed by colleagues, and the other after claiming to have been victimised. The way the Met has treated him is one of the most high-profile cases against its record on race. Viridi believes he has been hounded for 17 years because he spoke out about racism within the force, which it claims to be committed to tackling. In the latest case he was charged with indecent assault of a prisoner and misconduct in public office after an incident nearly 30 years ago in south London when he detained a young person. Viridi was alleged to have racially abused the black prisoner and to have prodded him in the anus with a collapsible baton while in the back of a police van.

Originally Viridi was charged with attacking a minor only for the Met to realise the alleged victim was over 16 at the time of the incident. The collapsible baton Viridi was alleged to have had was not being used at the time by the Met police. During the trial at Southwark crown court, Viridi alleged that police tried to discredit him after he gave evidence to the 1998 Stephen Lawrence inquiry about racism within the force. He told jurors: “This is a typical reaction from a department that has hounded me since 1998, investigating me and following me around and bugging my phone. Doing all sorts of things.” His barrister, Henry Blaxland QC, told the jury: “It is hardly surprising if Gurpal Viridi believes that he is the victim of a conspiracy to frame him. It is hardly surprising if he sees some ulterior motive ...”

After the verdict, Viridi’s solicitor, Matt Foot, called for an inquiry into why the case had been brought on such flimsy evidence: “It’s absolutely disgraceful that he has had to go through this. I believe if it had been somebody else, other than Gurpal Viridi, they would not have been prosecuted. He feels he has been further hounded by the Met because he stood up to racism in the police force.”

Viridi’s treatment by the Met first came to public attention in 1998 after he was arrested, had his home searched and was suspended. The detective sergeant at a west London station was accused of sending racist hate mail to himself and other ethnic minority officers. In March 2000 a police discipline panel found against the Sikh officer and he was dismissed in disgrace, his

claims of racism passed off as spurious allegations from a discredited chancer. But in August 2000 an employment tribunal found the force had racially discriminated against Virdi, and in February 2002 he received an apology. He received £240,000 in compensation and returned to work.

In 2007 an employment tribunal found that the Met had victimised Virdi again by refusing him promotion in 2005 because he had previously won a race discrimination case against the force. The tribunal did not uphold a claim of racial discrimination. Speaking after that case, Virdi told the Guardian: "If you challenge the organisation you are a marked man." The jury heard Virdi's supervisor, Graham Markwick, in a character reference say: "He was the last person I would have expected to be violent. He was perfectly able to deal with other members of our diverse community. He took our work seriously and did things by the book. He was thorough and reliable." Blaxland also told the jury: "He [Virdi] has a history of confronting racist conduct at not inconsiderable personal cost. His report to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry specifically made the point that black people are more likely to be stopped and charged."

Virdi retired in 2012 and was due to stand as a local councillor for Labour but the party dropped him after he was charged. He was elected as an independent. Virdi told jurors how these latest criminal allegations were made last year, shortly before the council elections. "This is a couple of months before the local elections and I have been arrested again and accused of a horrendous crime."

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Fiona Taylor, of the directorate of professional standards at the Met, said: "Once allegations such as these were raised by the victim it was only right that we investigated them thoroughly and impartially. That investigation was entirely focused on securing what evidence was available, with respect to what were undeniably very serious allegations. It would not have been proper to proceed in any other way. We presented the evidence to the CPS [Crown Prosecution Service] who decided the allegations and evidence should be heard by a jury."

Second Annual International Wrongful Conviction Day

Friday 2nd October 2015 : Wrongful Conviction Day is an annual event that will highlight the need to prevent and remedy wrongful convictions around the world. In the United States alone there were 125 recorded exonerations in 2014. Since 1989 there have been 1577 recorded exonerations in the United States. Thus far in 2015 there have been in excess of 29 recorded exonerations in the United States! On 2nd October each year, Innocence Groups from around the world will undertake activities to raise awareness about wrongful convictions worldwide.

What: Wrongful Conviction Day is a specifically allocated annual day to focus attention on and discuss the problem of wrongful convictions around the world.

Why: The conviction of innocent people is an international human rights issue. Wrongful convictions are serious miscarriages of justice that call into question the legitimacy and integrity of our criminal justice systems. We believe that frank and open discussions about the causes of wrongful convictions will lead to positive change in our criminal justice systems and help reduce future wrongful convictions. **Who:** Innocence Groups head quartered around the world are committed to identifying, advocating for, and exonerating individuals who have been convicted of a serious crime, which they did not commit, and to preventing future wrongful convictions through awareness, education and justice system reform. **How:** Awareness can be raised in any number of ways, including through media releases, interviews, educational forums, church services, exoneree presentations and involvement, commemoration services, vigils, book signings, film festivals, blogs, Facebook, websites, Twitter, magazines.

For more information, please visit the [Wrongful Conviction Day Website](#)

cial review. But activists said this prevents many people from getting proper access to justice with "no real regard to the rights of the individuals involved". The mentality of 'deport now, appeal later' means the Home Office can pretend that individuals will have the chance to pursue legal avenues of return. In reality this is a farce," said Jasmine Sallis of the Unity Centre. These increasingly stringent rules result in families being split apart forever, children growing up without knowing their parents and individuals being torn unexpectedly from lives they have been living often for a very long time." Don Flynn, director of the Migrants Rights Network, said: "These are practices carried out by state authorities for reasons of minimising cost or administrative convenience."

The hitherto unknown practice of targeting national groups was revealed in a document written by the former managers of Britain's biggest immigration detention centre and released to the research group Corporate Watch under freedom of information laws. Officials working for the government's detainee escorting and population management unit, which manages the immigration estate, regularly charters flights based on its analysis of the countries to which there is the greatest need to deport people. The documents show that the unit works in tandem with the Home Office's immigration enforcement teams to select people to be placed on flights if they are liable to be deported to the countries to which they are going. Corporate Watch fought a 10-month battle to force the government to hand over the information, finally getting a favourable judgment in June.

Phil Miller, a researcher with the organisation, said: "It looks like the Home Office is rounding up groups of migrants from particular countries so it can fill a deportation flight, instead of removing people based on their individual immigration cases." The Home Office stressed that it did not remove anyone if it did not have the legal right to do so. "Those with no right to be in the UK should return home. We expect people to leave the country voluntarily but, where they do not, we will seek to enforce their departure," said a spokesman. He added: "Nobody is ever removed solely on the basis of their nationality. Every case is carefully considered on its individual merits and in full accordance with the law. "Charter flights are generally used to remove people with a history of non-compliance or who pose a risk to the public, for their safety and that of other passengers. We always consider the availability of scheduled aircraft routes, the cost of maintaining detention and the individual circumstances of each case." The documents released to Corporate Watch also revealed that government-appointed contractors employed on performance-related pay deals have been allowed to assess their own work without checks being made routinely by Whitehall.

Two firms running immigration detention centres were required to fill out monthly self-audit reports volunteering instances in which they did not meet the government's minimum standards. It is believed that the contractors faced a fine for each transgression. The government later said it decides whether or not to carry out further checks into the audits on a case-by-case basis. The approach was criticised by the campaign group Taxpayers' Alliance, which said it was "absolutely nonsensical to leave an organisation with a vested interest in a clean audit to conduct the audit itself – the potential consequences are blindingly obvious".

The group's campaign director, Andy Silvester, said: "Officials all too often seem to think that by outsourcing a project or a service, responsibility and accountability are outsourced too. Failures at immigration centres can have awful consequences and the Home Office must step up its monitoring of the performance of these firms." The Home Office said: "Self-audit reports are part of a range of measures, including regular independent inspections, to ensure our contractors continue to provide safe and secure accommodation for detainees. "The home secretary has commissioned Stephen Shaw to carry out a comprehensive review of our immigration detention estate to ensure the health and well-being of all detainees, some of whom may be vulnerable, is safeguarded at all times."

Police Targeted After Anti-Internment Parade in Belfast

BBC News 09/08/2015

Petrol bombs, stones and bottles have been thrown at police after they prevented an anti-internment parade from entering Belfast city centre. The march was stopped by police at Oldpark Road in the north of the city after it breached a determination by a parades ruling body over its timing. Organisers had asked supporters to leave peacefully when the parade ended. But police were forced to deploy water cannon about an hour later when a crowd threw missiles at them. The march was organised by the Anti-Internment League to mark the introduction of detention without trial during the height of the Troubles. The Parades Commission ruled the republican parade was to have passed Millfield junction by 13:30 BST, but it breached the ruling and did not start until about 14:00. The march was stopped by police, who said their intention in blocking the parade was to "uphold the Parades Commission's determination". During a short rally at the police line, a speaker told participants the parade had ended and asked those taking part to leave peacefully.

But a crowd remained in the area and later threw petrol bombs and other missiles at police officers. Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness tweeted that those who organised the "so-called anti-internment demonstration" bore "full responsibility" for the violence. Expense The Anti-Internment League said "all march participants behaved peacefully and with dignity" when the parade reached the police cordon, before taking "the responsible decision" to leave the area. But the DUP MLA William Humphrey accused the organisers of making a "deliberate decision" to breach the timing condition imposed on the march.

"The organisers of this parade of shame have succeeded only in increasing inter-community tensions, causing huge expense for a massive policing operation and disrupting our city centre trade," the North Belfast MLA said. Earlier, police made a direct appeal to the event's organisers to discuss the planned route and its timing with them. They said they had made attempts to talk to the group but had not been successful. Some roads in the city centre were closed from an earlier point in the day, including North Street, Royal Avenue and High Street. In previous years, the parade has proceeded through the city. At the same event two years ago, 56 officers were injured when loyalist protesters attacked the police.

Officials Deporting Migrants by Nationality 'To Fill Charter Flights'

Kevin Rawlinson, Guardian: Border officials have been criticised after it emerged they target specific nationalities for deportation in order to fill up flights they have chartered. Activists said the practice led the government to remove people who still have active legal claims. Documents seen by the Guardian show the Home Office team that manages the flights, and the team that picks up people suspected of living in the country illegally, work together to target people of a specific nationality if there is a flight due to go to their home country. They target people already in immigration removal centres, as well as those living at home if necessary, to fill as many seats as possible, it is understood. In doing so, the government has deported many people who have applied for judicial review of their cases. Volunteers with the Unity Centre, which works with those who are to be deported, said it had seen at least one case where a person claimed asylum the day before they were due to be removed. The person was subsequently deported without receiving any response to their claim, they said. And they cited other cases they had seen, in which people were removed while they tried to navigate the legal process via various means.

Changes to the rules, which allow the government to deport people then invite them to carry out their legal fight to return from outside the UK, mean the Home Office has the legal right to carry out deportations while some forms of appeal are ongoing, such as applications to bring judi-

End the Isolation of all Irish Republican Prisoners Now

British Government to extend its Isolation Policy: During a meeting with David Ford's Assessment Team today, 4/8/15, it was made clear to Republican Prisoners that the British Government, through its NIO permanent secretary Jonathan Stephens, intends to extend its criminalisation and isolation policy. Instead of resolving the isolation issue as requested by David Ford's Assessment Team as part of the Stocktake, Jonathan Stephens not only enhanced the isolation policy but has further extended its remit. As a consequence the NIO/M15 /Jail Security Department Nexus are consigning other Republican Prisoners to the same fate as Gavin Coyle who has presently endured over 1500 days in isolation in Maghaberry Jail's punishment block. In doing this, they are not only rejecting all the empirical evidence regarding the detrimental effects that isolation has on the individual and on relationships between Republican Prisoners and jail staff, but also the serious implications that all such policies have on all Republican Prisoners, our families and community outside. Isolation is a weapon to punish and degrade. Republican Prisoners and Republican communities will never accept it. NIO/M15 conflict fuelling policies will be resisted regardless of the cost.

Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare: Tuesday 4th August 2015 - Contact info@irpwa.com

The Best Form Of Defence

Irish Republican Political Prisoners

John O'Dowd's recent spiel regarding 'War Junkies' (Lurgan Mail 23rd July 2015), a label which he applied to MI5 and Republicans turned by them, is nothing new; it has been part and parcel of Sinn Féin's divisory rhetoric for some time. Only a fool would believe that an organisation such as MI5 would not seek to infiltrate all forms of militant and political opposition, just as they always have done. It is of course much easier to label and slander those opposed to you than to deal with the criticisms of Sinn Féin's current reformist, partitionist position.

It is striking that John O'Dowd has expressed concern over MI5's alleged involvement with Republicans thus failing to address the involvement and continuing role of MI5 within his own party. Over past decades and indeed centuries Republicanism has been subjected to infiltration by agents, spies and informers. Many such individuals acted with impunity to carry out executions of its own members and other armed actions, all facilitated by the British State. Even post GFA agents and informers have been exposed within the ranks of both the Sinn Féin leadership and the Provisional IRA. These included senior figures such as Freddie Scappaticci and Denis Donaldson, who held a key role during Sinn Féin's strategy formulation. A couple of community policemen were hardly directing the activities of Donaldson. Therefore, it would seem reasonable to assume that such people, including those who were not decommissioned, helped steer the Sinn Féin ship onto the rocks where it now comfortably rests.

Unless O'Dowd is naive enough to believe that these agents who thrived within the ranks of Sinn Féin for decades, at all levels, particularly at leadership where all caught or simply discontinued their role, then it must be presumed that these agents are still actively being directed by their masters. Of course the covert relationship between Sinn Féin and the British Intelligence apparatus is not the full extent of the Sinn Féin/MI5 relationship. Whilst John O'Dowd professes concern regarding MI5 it must be remembered that Sinn Féin was party to the St Andrews agreement which accorded responsibility for matters of National Security to the 'War Junkies' of MI5. Consequently, MI5's pervasive influence on policing, courts and the prisons, where the provocative isolation of Republican Political Prisoners continues apace, is thanks in no small part to O'Dowd and the rest of the Sinn Féin leadership. John O'Dowd needs to ask himself who is really facilitating the MI5 War Junkies.

The Verne IRC - Satisfactory, But Some Improvements Necessary

The Verne had undergone significant change and had made a reasonable start, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons. Today he published the report of an unannounced inspection of the Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) in Dorset. The Verne, formerly a prison, has been an Immigration Removal Centre since September 2014. This was its first inspection as an IRC. During the inspection, 575 adult men were held. Over half of those detained had previously been in prison following criminal convictions. Outcomes for detainees at this early stage were mixed.

Inspectors were concerned to find that: - levels of violence were too high, some of the violence was serious and strategies to tackle violence lacked sophistication; - arrangements to support those at risk of self-harm required improvement; - unusually for an IRC, there was clear evidence of the availability of new psychoactive substances and illicit alcohol; - some legitimate restrictions had temporarily been put in place to deal with these problems, but others were less justified; - The Verne remained too prison-like in character for an IRC, with too much inner fencing and razor wire and a high use of separation; - the quality of Rule 35 reports, which assess the fitness of possible victims of torture for detention, was variable; - many detainees struggled to obtain representation to fight their cases; and - the remoteness of The Verne made visits very difficult for many families, though visits facilities were good.

Nick Hardwick said: "Overall, The Verne was operating satisfactorily. However, despite considerable efforts to prepare the institution for its new role, the environment and staff culture reflected an institution that had not yet come to terms with its new function as an IRC.

Michael O'Brien Comments on 30th Anniversary of the Bamber Tragedies

I met Jeremy in Long Lartin prison between 1989 -1996 and it was so obvious that he did not fit in to prison life. He stood out for me, and he seemed lost just like I once was when I first went to prison. I knew something was not right with his case and believed in his Innocence from the start. It was a gut feeling I had about him and Jeremy was different to the other prisoners. The case was the most important thing to him, and proving his innocence was the main thing on his mind just like it was with me. They say you can spot an innocent man a mile off and they stick out like a sore thumb—Jeremy was certainly in that category.

Wrongful convictions have a habit of leaving the innocent suffering from Post-traumatic stress disorder and they may not even know they are suffering from it. I thought I was ok however experts soon found out that I was far from ok. Being in prison for a crime you didn't commit leaves many scars and it can only be described like a roller coaster ride. One minute you are angry and you feel you can fight whatever obstacles are placed in your way, and the next you are in total despair. Depression seeps into your mind overwhelming you. The only thing I had on my mind 24 hours a day was to fight the injustice and I lived and breathed the case just like Jeremy is doing now.

I do not know whether I would have had the strength that Jeremy has got if I had still been in prison for almost 30 years like he has. However, one thing I do know is that I would have fought as hard as I could to obtain justice in the same way as Jeremy has done, and he has to continue fighting until he has been proved innocent because that is exactly what he is.

When I found out I was going to be released, I had a lot of anxiety not knowing what to expect in the outside world and this was after eleven years. Looking at it from Jeremy's perspective it would be quite frightening with the way society and the outside world has changed in the 30 years he has been incarcerated. Fear of the unknown and not knowing how he will adjust back into society can also be a daunting thought. I felt this too, and also wondering what reception you are going to get from the

Police forces in large urban areas such as London, the West Midlands and Greater Manchester have received a myriad of complaints and protests over their dealings with black communities. It is in these areas that tensions and resistance have sparked, creating uneasy relationships between the police and the community, which go beyond stop and search to include issues such as deaths in custody and harassment. Urban police have, at times, been compared to an occupying force, overseeing black communities.

But in the latest figures, while black people are still two to three times more likely to be stopped by police in cities, it is in rural areas that the biggest disparities are found. In Dorset, black people were 17.5 times more likely to be stopped and searched, in Sussex 10.6 times and Norfolk 8.4 times. Given that the last response to stop and search figures by some forces was to attempt to stop collecting the data, some will suspect urban results might reflect forces being better able to massage the figures. But whatever the case, the rural numbers are illuminating.

The urban environment has long been at the centre of moral panics over the black community and crime. In 1978, in the classic book *Policing the Crisis: Mugging, the State and Law and Order*, the New Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies in Birmingham examined the role of the media, the police and the judiciary in creating the panic around "mugging". Mugging has never been a crime on the statute book; instead, it is a word used to define a violent offence committed by black people in the city. Areas like Handsworth, in Birmingham, became stigmatised as breeding grounds for "muggers" from their broken, immigrant homes. This idea of black criminality is central to understanding the over-policing of black communities, which leads to such realities as the stop and search figures.

The problem with conceiving the issue in this way, however, is that it can transform an issue of institutional racism into one of urban policing. A focus on urban conditions has worked to legitimise high rates of stop and search and other measures, as they can be explained as the police having to work in difficult, disadvantaged areas that require more policing. A perfect example of this is the Met's Operation Trident, which focused on black-on-black gun crime; its creation in 1998 openly proclaimed that there was more crime in black communities that needed to be policed than in other communities. As the latest figures show, however, over-policing is not down to the tensions and conditions in urban areas. It is not just forces like the Met that are institutionally racist and in need of reform. The entire system of policing in this country is infected with structural racism.

Over-policing of black communities in urban areas is important because it reinforces what Professor Elijah Anderson calls the "iconic ghetto" in the popular imagination. Anderson explains that "the ghetto is where 'the black people live', symbolising an impoverished, crime-prone, drug-infested, and violent area of the city." The importance of the ghetto taking on iconic status is that it comes to define black people even when they are far from the inner city. In the US, the young black man Trayvon Martin was seen as a threat when he visited a gated community in Florida because he represented, for some, the menace of the iconic ghetto. In the UK, the power of the symbol is just as important and frames how the police deal with black people even in areas where there are very few of us.

The disproportionate rates of stop and search for black communities continue to demonstrate institutional racism in British policing. These stops are just one part of a wider criminal justice system in which black people are more likely to be arrested, charged and to receive a custodial sentence. As the latest figures show, this is a national problem that cannot be dealt with by focusing on the problems of a few urban police forces. It requires wholesale reform of the entire criminal justice system.

dismissed. I understand another was demoted and others had written warnings. "I believe Ashley had spent some time in Forest Bank which is why the officers knew him."

An investigation was launched after Mr Gill was found dead in his cell at Walton prison. Paramedics were called to HMP Liverpool after Mr Gill was found "unresponsive". Due to be released just days later and a probe will be carried out by the IPPO, as well as the Coroner. In 2013, Gill was jailed for 20 months for burglary and theft. His grandmother Annette Hill said she feared he may have had his inhaler taken off him. Speaking to the Daily Post, she said: "Ashley suffered very badly with his asthma to the point where he would be using his inhaler every couple of minutes. "Every time he rang home, he would tell me that the guards had taken it off him. Ashley was in and out of hospital with his condition and was told he needed an operation to try and clear his airways." A Sodexo Justice Services spokesman said: "Two employees were dismissed after an investigation."

£450,000 Damages for Woman Left Alone In Police Cell

Daily Mirror

Police have been forced to make a £450,000 payout to a woman who was suffered brain damage after being left alone in a police cell. The woman suffered a hypoglycaemic attack and fell into a coma but no one checked her for nearly seven hours. The 36-year-old had been arrested on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly. She was arrested at around 3:00 pm on September 12 in 2010 and placed in the police cell. When officers went back into the cell at 10:45 pm that day she was in a coma, reports the Chronicle Live. The woman was confined to hospital for two months, and was discharged with permanent brain damage.

Following an investigation into the incident at Byker police station in Newcastle, a police constable received a written warning but a sergeant and an inspector retired before misconduct proceedings could take place." A spokeswoman said: "Northumbria Police can confirm compensation has been paid to a woman after her arrest in 2010 on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly. The force acknowledged at an early stage that it had fallen short of its duty to protect this woman while in custody. Northumbria Police has a high standard of care and wellbeing for all those who are brought into custody. There have been significant improvements made in recent years and the force continues to evaluate its practices to ensure the utmost safety of detainees and staff."

The IPCC received a referral from Northumbria Police on September 13 2010 and following assessment declared an independent investigation. An Independent Police Complaints Commission spokeswoman said: "The IPCC found a police constable and police sergeant had a case to answer for gross misconduct; a police inspector had a case to answer for misconduct; and a police sergeant and a detention officer had no case to answer for misconduct. The sergeant and inspector retired before misconduct proceedings could take place. The police constable attended a misconduct hearing on April 2012 and we were advised by Northumbria Police that the officer received a written warning.

Stop and Search is a Disgrace Across the UK – Not Just in Our Cities

Kehinde Andrews, Guardian: Figures published 07/08/2015 show black people are up to 17.5 times more likely than white people to be stopped and searched by the police in certain areas of the UK. This enormous disparity is no great surprise. The issue of stop and search has dogged the police service for decades, sparking riots in Brixton in 1981 and in various parts of the country in 1985. Despite Theresa May, the home secretary, pledging to tackle the issue, there has been little faith that much would change. What is surprising about these figures, however, is which police forces are the worst offenders.

general public. These are just some of the things, which will be going through Jeremys mind.

We must not lose sight of the fact due to the injustice that has been laid on Jeremy, he has suffered further by losing his family: Nevill, June, Sheila, Nicolas and Daniel. He has not been able to grieve for the loss of his family, as he should have been able to do. My thoughts are with Jeremy's family who lost their lives in tragic circumstances and also with Jeremy who not only lost his family but also his freedom, which has been stolen from him. I believe a miscarriage of Justice does not lay doormat, Jeremy's case is going to rise up and haunt all those who have taken part in this injustice and the truth will come out.

Michael O'Brien: Author and Motivational Speaker: Michael was imprisoned for eleven years for a crime he didn't commit—the Cardiff Newsagent Murder. In his book he revealed all about the police incompetence and scapegoating, which landed him, an innocent man in prison. It also tells of his tooth and nail fight through the highest courts, not only to get himself free, but to gain the highest compensation pay out of its kind. While in prison Michael lost not only his freedom but everything he'd ever had, including his wife, his child and even his health. It has taken him years to rebuild his life. But he did gain something from his time inside: a self-taught knowledge of Law, and a burning desire to help others fight for justice. On his release he joined forces with another victim of miscarried justice, Paddy Joe Hill, a member of the Birmingham Six. They set up MOJO (The Miscarriages of Justice Organization) to help others who were wrongfully imprisoned.

Jeremy Bamber Campaign - Written Petition to Michael Gove

[After reading below and are so minded, can you copy and send to: Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Justice, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ .]

Dear Michael Gove, can you as a matter of urgency contact Essex Police:and ask them to: Release All Documents Relating to Jeremy Bamber, Withheld under Public Interest Immunity (PII) to Jeremy Bamber's Legal Defence Team with Immediate Effect.

As 30 years have now elapsed since the tragedy took place, there is no beneficial reason for withholding the documents and photographs by refusing disclosure under Public Interest Immunity or for any other reason. The public have a right to insist that they are released to his Defence Counsel forthwith so that a fresh appeal can be lodged on Jeremy's behalf.

At White House Farm, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, England on the 7th August 1985, five members of the same family were shot dead. They included Nevill Bamber, his wife June Bamber and their daughter Sheila Caffell and Sheila's twin sons, Nicholas and Daniel Caffell. Based upon evidence the police established the shootings as a case of murder/suicide.

However, Jeremy Bamber, Nevill and June's son was arrested on the 8th September and released after six days of questioning. He was re-arrested on the 29th September and charged with murder. In October 1986 he was convicted on a 10:2 majority verdict and given a twenty-five year sentence, but the Home Secretary changed this to whole life in 1994.

Disclosure Required

1. Original handwritten logs and statements written by Malcolm Bonnett & PC West relating to Jeremy's father calling the Police between 03:00am and 03:30 am saying his daughter had gone berserk with the gun.

2. The original situation report radioed in by PS Bews calling out the firearms team because he'd seen Sheila Caffell moving in the house while Jeremy was with police. Also PS Bews and PC Myall's original witness statements written on the 7th August 1985.

3. The 06.9.85 Report by DI Kenneally stating that the evidence showed Sheila was

responsible for murdering her family and then committing suicide.

4. Also required, the audio recordings of the open phone line at White House Farm recording the raid on the house by the Firearms Officers who broke in at 07:39am.

5. The original handwritten statements from first case investigation number SC/688/85 including those written by the raid team and all fifty-four (54) people who entered the house on the 7th August 1985.

6. Interviews from the DI Dickinson Enquiry including those from the forensic scientists Glynis Howard, Malcolm Fletcher, Graham Craddock and Graham Renshaw to discover if they wrote the same things to the Dickinson Enquiry regarding two sound moderators, that they later admitted to during the 1991 C.O.L.P Enquiry.

7. Public Interest Immunity file on Julie Mugford referring to her 'deal' with the Crown Prosecution Service in exchange for immunity from prosecution for five criminal offences three of which were unknown to the jury. Also disclosure of the Essex Police file on the £25,000 newspaper deal, agreed to in November/December 1985 (pre-trial) by Julie Mugford's solicitors.

8. Photographs of all the rooms in white house Farm including those containing firearms such as the main office, and the box room next to the Master bedroom. In November 2001, all the case negatives were in uncut complete strips of ten. By 2011 and their disclosure to Jeremy, someone had cut and removed seventy-seven (77) negative images from these film strips, which left sixteen (16) of them cut up into multiple pieces of two, three and four frames. Disclosure is required of all seventy-seven (77) photographic images.

9. Sheila Caffell's medical/psychiatric records referring to her conversations with her consulting psychiatrist where she informs him she was afraid she would kill her children - as he briefly mentioned at trial. Disclosure of her 1983 and 1985 diaries periods where she suffered severe episodes of psychosis.

10. Original forensic report by Renshaw referring to the blood in the sound moderator as identical to beneficiary of the Bamber estate Robert Boutflour, one of the relatives who found it after police searched the house and 'missed it'.

Howard League Criticises 'Unfair And Unrealistic' Court Fees *Owen Bowcott, Guardian*

Homeless shoplifters and people caught begging are being ordered to pay punitive criminal courts charges that will never be recovered, according to a prison reform charity. The Howard League for Penal Reform has compiled a list of cases where heavy financial penalties have been imposed on those who admitted committing low-value offences. The organisation is backing calls by the Magistrates Association for an urgent review of the impact of the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) newly introduced money-raising procedure.

The criminal courts charge came into effect in April with the aim of ensuring that convicted adult offenders contribute towards the cost of running the criminal justice system. It was introduced by the last justice secretary, Chris Grayling. The hefty range of penalties is levied on top of any fines, compensation orders, victim surcharges or prosecution costs already required from those who plead guilty or are convicted at magistrates or crown courts. The Magistrates Association, which represents most magistrates in England and Wales, has confirmed that a number of experienced magistrates have resigned in protest at the charge. More have resigned since last week, the organisation has confirmed.

The charges ranges from £150 for anyone who pleads guilty to a summary offence at a magistrates court, up to £1,000 for those convicted by magistrates after a trial of a more serious

offence. In the crown court, the charge ranges from £900 for a guilty plea up to £1,200 for conviction after trial. Because it costs far less to plead guilty than be convicted after a contested trial, some allege it creates a perverse incentive for the innocent to plead guilty rather than run the risk of failing to convince the court. Examples of how the charge has worked in more than 30 low-value offences have been collected from local reports by the Howard League. They include: • A 26-year-old homeless man who stole a can of Red Bull worth 99p from a supermarket in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and a £15 victim surcharge. • A 30-year-old homeless woman was convicted in her absence of begging in a car park in Coventry, West Midlands. She was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, a £30 fine and a £20 victim surcharge. • A 20-year-old man who was living in a hostel in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, kicked out at a flower pot after being stabbed with a needle by a fellow resident. He became homeless. He admitted criminal damage, which placed him in breach of two conditional discharges that were imposed on him for thefts. He was fined £70 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £20 victim surcharge. • A 38-year-old homeless man admitted persistently begging in Oxford, and breached an asbo prohibiting him from sitting within 10 metres of a cash machine. He was jailed for 30 days and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge. In one case reported by the local paper in Exeter, the Express and Echo, the judge, Alan Large, said he had to impose a £900 charge on a homeless man who had admitted shoplifting. The larger fee was because the case went to a higher court due to previous convictions. The paper reported that, as the defendant was led away, the judge asked the courtroom: "He cannot afford to feed himself, so what are the prospects of him paying £900?"

Frances Crook, chief executive of the Howard League, said: "These cases are a snapshot of a failing criminal justice system. Up and down the country, people are being brought to court for minor misdemeanours and being ordered to pay a mandatory charge regardless of their circumstances. Some are homeless. Some have addictions. Many will be unable to pay. But the Ministry of Justice is poised to waste money it does not have on pursuing the debts. With more budget cuts on the way, ministers should be looking to shrink the system, not trapping more people in it for absurd offences. We do not want to see the return of debtors' prisons. It is time for an urgent review of this unfair and unrealistic sanction, which is doing nothing to tackle crime and, in all likelihood, is making matters worse."

An MoJ spokesperson said: "It is right that convicted adult offenders who use our criminal courts should pay towards the cost of running them. "The introduction of this charge makes it possible to recover some of the costs of the criminal courts from these offenders, therefore reducing the burden on taxpayers."

Prison Guards Sacked Over Jibes About Deceased Welsh Inmate *WalesOnline*

Two prison officers have been sacked for posting cruel comments about a Welsh man who died in custody. The pair were dismissed for remarks they put on Facebook about the death of Ashley Gill, from Llandudno Junction, who died in jail in Liverpool after suffering an asthma attack. According to a source, the guards were "effectively saying 'good riddance to bad rubbish'" following the 25-year-old's death on April 29.

The two officers worked at Forest Bank prison in Salford, where Mr Gill had also been an inmate. The source said: "The two officers made comments on line after Ashley died. They were effectively saying good riddance to bad rubbish. But a number of others clicked 'like' after the message had been posted. "The two officers were escorted off the premises and later