lence, possibly because the prison authorities are aware of her international fame, but that other women are regularly beaten on the face or kidneys. The beatings are carried out by other inmates, but "never happen without the knowledge and sanction of the prison authorities". She also writes of a system of informal punishments, such as forcing inmates to spend time outdoors during the harsh winters, or banning women from going to the toilet all day.

Tolokonnikova writes that Mordovia, which recently became the official home of the French actor turned Russian citizen Gérard Depardieu, has the hardest and most terrifying network of prisons, and that all prisoners are scared of being sent there. A Mordovia prison system spokesman denied all of Tolokonnikova's allegations later on Monday, calling her claims of death threats "absurd" and stating that working days never last longer than eight hours. "The working day in prison colony No 14 is eight hours, as set out in the labour code," said Gennady Morozov. "The women work until 4.30pm. That is how it always was and there have never been any changes to that."

In May the other jailed member of Pussy Riot, Maria Alyokhina, went on hunger strike for 11 days against conditions in the prison in the Perm region where she is serving her sentence. The prison authorities met many of her demands. Both she and Tolokonnikova are due for release in March next year.

Takeaway Driver To Sue West Mids Polic

A takeaway driver is suing police after plain clothes officers smashed his car windows with batons as he made a delivery in Birmingham. The innocent worker had pulled up outside a property in Bournville when four cops appeared from two unmarked vehicles and ordered him out. Fearing he was being car-jacked the terrified driver refused - and says officers then smashed the rear and side windows of his Volkswagen Passat, causing injuries to his head and arm. The Asian takeaway worker, who has never been in trouble with the police, managed to drive away from the scene of what the force later claimed was a stop and search. He and his wife, who witnessed the incident, are now suing West Midlands Police for physical injury and psychological trauma. The officers involved have since faced misconduct hearings after an investigation by bosses and the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) but have kept their jobs. The incident happened in Ingoldsby Road at about 8pm on September 30, 2011. The driver, aged 29, claims the men only told him they were police officers after following him back to his restaurant. He added: "My wife and I feel very let down by West Midlands Police and the IPCC. "As far as I am concerned I was attacked by four men who I think should be prosecuted for assaulting me and vandalising my car. His lawyer Mehfooz Khan, from Lexadeen Solicitors, said: "What is most concerning is the apparent disregard

Hostages: 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 Ashig Hussain, Sharaz Yaqub, David Ferguson, Anthony Parsons, James Cullinene, 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, Sam Hallam, John Twomey, Thomas G. Bourke, David E. Ferguson, Lee Mockble, George Romero Coleman, Neil Hurley, Jaslyn Ricardo Smith, James Dowsett, Kevan Thakrar, Miran Thakrar, Jordan Towers, Patrick Docherty, Brendan Dixon, Paul Bush, Frank Wilkinson, 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 Ulhague, Richard Roy Allan, Sam Cole,

Carl Kenute Gowe, Eddie Hampton, Tony Hyland, Ray Gilbert, Ishtiaq Ahmed.

Miscarriages of JusticeUK (MOJUK) 22 Berners St, Birmingham B19 2DR Tele: 0121- 507 0844 Fax: 087 2023 1623

MOJUK: Newsletter 'Inside Out' No 444 (26/09/2013)

Prisons And Probation Ombudsman Annual Report 2012 - 2013

The past year has been a challenging one for all those involved with custody or probation. The prison population has stabilised but remains proportionately higher than anywhere else in Western Europe and it is also rapidly ageing. As resources have shrunk, so have regimes and staffing levels. Publishing his annual report, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman Nigel Newcomen welcomed the fall in the number of deaths in custody last year, following the record number the year before. - the PPO started 192 investigations into deaths in prison, immigration detention and probation service approved premises; - this was 37 (16%) fewer deaths in custody than the record number in 2011-12; - two-thirds of the deaths were from natural causes, about a third were self-inflicted; - there were also two murders and a small number of cases awaiting a cause of death.

The year also saw a significant improvement in the timeliness of PPO death in custody investigations. This progress informs bereaved families more quickly about what happened to their loved ones, allows lessons to be learned faster and contributes to efforts to speed up the inquest system. The average time taken to produce a natural cause draft report was 28 weeks, 6 weeks shorter than last year. The average time for self-inflicted cases was 40 weeks, three weeks shorter than last year. . In 2012-13: - the total number of complaints received rose slightly to 5,374; Of these 4,894 (91%) were about the Prison Service 1,164, of these 369 were from high security prisons, (7%) were about the Probation Service and 111 (2%) were about immigration detention. - proportion of complaints eligible for investigation rose significantly to 59% from 51% in 2011-12; - 2,815 investigations were started, a 6% increase on last year; and- 31% of complaints were upheld, a marked increase on 2011-12 when 23% were upheld - and another sign of a system under strain and getting more things wrong. - Complaints covered a wide range of subjects, with property being the largest single category, making up 18% of all complaints and 24% of immigration detention complaints. The PPO targeted resources on the most serious complaints, such as allegations of assault, bullying and racism. While small issues can mean a lot to detainees, not all eligible cases merit investigation. In the past year, the PPO declined to investigate complaints where no worthwhile outcome was likely and introduced a policy to ensure scarce resources are not inappropriately consumed by prolific complainants.

Nigel Newcomen said: "I welcome the fall in deaths in custody and very much hope that this trend continues. However, it remains a challenging time for prisons with shrinking resources and consequential reductions in regimes and staffing levels. With the services I investigate under pressure, it is unsurprising that demand for my office's services remains high. The cases reaching my desk reflect these strains and, I believe, show the need for my office's robustly independent efforts to identify the lessons that must be learned to avoid future fatal incidents and appropriately investigate complaints from those in custody or on probation."

The recommendations made as a result of PPO investigations are key to making improvements. The past year also saw the publication of a range of learning lessons materials to draw more general conclusions about where change is needed. A new thematic study reviewed the quality of end of life care for the growing numbers of those dying in prison from terminal illness and another looked at how to improve the prison disciplinary system.

Kevin Nunes Murder Case: Possible Police Charges

[The murder convictions of five men for a gangland-hit were quashed after damning reports were withheld detailing how police handlers took a key witness out drinking to nightclubs and turned a blind eye to his criminal behaviour]

BBC News. 20/09/13

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is to consider charging 14 serving and former police officers, including two current chief constables, over their roles in a murder investigation. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) looked at how the officers acted before the trial of five men over the death of Kevin Nunes. Seven of the officers involved have retired from Staffordshire Police. Mr Nunes was shot dead in Pattingham, Staffordshire, in September 2002. The IPCC investigation examined the officers' dealings with a protected witness and disclosure issues before the trial in 2008.

The four most senior-ranking officers implicated are: Gloucestershire Chief Constable Suzette Davenport Northamptonshire Chief Constable Adrian Lee Staffordshire Deputy Chief Constable Jane Sawyers West Midlands Assistant Chief Constable Marcus Beale. They were all senior officers at Staffordshire Police at the time of the allegations.

Execution-style killing: In March 2012 five West Midlands men who were jailed in 2008 for the murder were freed on appeal, after it emerged concerns over the credibility of the key prosecution witness were not disclosed to the defence. Police believe Mr Nunes was a drug dealer who was shot in an execution-style killing after straying into another gang's territory.

The IPCC has reviewed more than 8,000 documents and taken about 300 statements as part of its investigation and interviewed each of the 14 officers at least twice. IPCC commissioner Tom Davies said: "This has been a thorough and painstaking investigation which has required careful scrutiny of thousands of documents and hundreds of statements, and interviews have been carried out with relevant officers."

In a statement, Staffordshire Police said: "We've been made aware of today's development and now await the outcome of the CPS review. We will continue to fully co-operate with the IPCC-led investigation."

Justice for the Craigavon Two - Appeal Tuesday 8th October

Defense teams for the Craigavon Two were in the appeal court today to seek disclosure of surveillance material relating to the harassment by the PSNI of a key defense witness for the upcoming appeal. The close family member of Witness M, the key prosecution witness, came forward and gave a sworn affidavit destroying Witness M and his credibility. The Close family member was visited at his home by the PSNI who he says forced their way in and threatened him to withdraw his sworn testimony, the family member refused to bow to the pressure and the following day was arrested and held for two days in Dungannon PSNI Station where he says he was pressured into withdrawing his testimony.

When this was revealed on the 29th of April on the first day of Brendan McConville and John Paul Wootton's appeal it was revealed that a covert surveillance operation had been directed against the new witness and the legal teams, this led to the adjournment of the appeal until October. It came to light as part of the arrest of the new witness that his house had been bugged for a considerable period of time and that these audio recordings had been transcripted, yet today the prosecution claimed in court that their was no audio available for the day when the new witness claims he was harassed and threatened by the PSNI.

Lawyers for Brendan and John Paul also claimed authorisation for a police surveillance oper-

was taken to the desert shortly before Christmas in 1989 and shot in the head. The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals threw out Milke's conviction in March, ruling prosecutors had denied her a fair trial by failing to disclose that a former Phoenix police detective, who testified that she had confessed to the crimes, had a history of lying under oath. Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Rosa Mroz set the second trial for Feb. 2 2015.

Prosecutors asserted at Milke's original trial that she had dressed Christopher up in his best outfit, told him he was going to see Santa Claus at a shopping mall and sent the boy off in the care of her roommate, James Styers. Witnesses testified at the trial that Styers picked up his friend, Roger Scott, and instead of heading to the mall, the two men drove to a secluded ravine where Styers shot Christopher three times in the head. Both men were separately convicted of first-degree murder and remain on death row.

Milke was convicted in 1990 in part on the evidence of key prosecution witness, Detective Armando Saldate. Saldate testified Milke had told him she had contemplated having an abortion while pregnant with Christopher, had complained to Styers about her son and conspired with Styers to have the boy slain. The supposed confession was not recorded, nor was anyone else in the room when it was purportedly made. Milke denied during her trial that she made any confessions and has continued to maintain her innocence.

Pussy Riot Member Starts Hunger Strike Over Prison Conditions guardian.uk, 24/09/13

A jailed member of the punk band Pussy Riot has launched a hunger strike to protest against slave-like living conditions and an alleged death threat from the deputy head of the prison where she is serving her two-year sentence. Nadezhda Tolokonnikova has written a long letter detailing life inside prison colony No 14 in the Russian region of Mordovia, revealing appalling conditions reminiscent of the Soviet Gulag system. As part of her punishment she has to sew police uniforms, and she writes in her statement that all the prisoners in her sewing division are expected to work 16 or 17 hours a day, starting at 7.30am and not finishing until after midnight.

"In the best case scenario we get four hours of sleep per night," writes Tolokonnikova. "We get a day off once every six weeks. Almost all Sundays are work days. Prisoners are forced to write requests to work on weekends saying it is their own voluntary decision." Tolokonnikova was convicted of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred for her part in an impromptu Pussy Riot performance in Moscow's largest cathedral in February last year. The group, wearing balaclavas, mimed a song calling on the Virgin Mary to "kick out Putin", and three of them were arrested and later convicted.

Tolokonnikova claims that three weeks ago she complained to the prison's deputy head about the conditions and he informed her that her team would work only eight-hour days from then on. However, he said the team would still have to meet their required output targets – physically impossible in just eight hours – and if they did not, they would all be punished. "And if they find out that it all happened because of you, then you definitely won't feel bad any more," the Pussy Riot member claims he told her. "Because in the afterlife you don't feel bad." She says she will refuse food until her concerns are addressed. "As of Monday 23 September I announce that I am on hunger strike," she writes. "This is an extreme method, but I am absolutely certain that it is the only way out of this situation for me. The prison colony's administration refuses to listen to me."

Tolokonnikova portrays a grim life for inmates where, in a practice surviving from the Gulag system, the authorities delegate certain prisoners to do their dirty work for them and keep the other inmates terrorised. She writes that she has not so far been subjected to physical vio-

briefs until winding up operations on 11 October and dissolving formally at the end of December. Nick Armstrong, a barrister at Matrix chambers who has been leading a coalition of lawyers and organisations opposed to the latest legal aid changes, said: "What this shows is the people who are committed to the vulnerable, the excluded and the unlucky, who work very long hours for very little pay, cannot find a way of making it work in the new legal aid landscape." He added: "What's worse is this is before the latest round of cuts to legal aid come in." Grayling has said he intends to withdraw legal aid for Judicial Reviews this autumn, where permission to proceed with it is not granted by a judge.

Murder Charges Against Husband and Wife are Dropped BBC News, 24/09/13

Charles Valliday, 41, and his wife Julie-Ann, 36, originally from Powerscourt Place in Belfast but now with an address in Antrim, had been accused of killing Christopher Mackin in Belfast in March 2012. The prosecution dropped the case after a review of papers and consultation with the director of the PPS. A third person, James John Valliday, has also had related charges dropped.

Mr Mackin was killed when he was shot up to seven times at College Square North in the city. Previous courts had heard allegations from an investigating officer that the husband and wife had "worked together" to lure Mr Mackin to his death. They had also been charged with possessing a revolver and 51 bullets under suspicious circumstances, with further allegations of having heroin with intent to supply. James John Valliday, 47, from Springfield Meadow in Belfast, had been charged with assisting offenders by buying petrol with a view to setting fire to a Renault Clio car that was allegedly used in the murder.

It is understood the case against the trio centred around circumstantial evidence involving CCTV footage, telecommunications evidence and swabs of cartridge discharge residue. Last Friday at Belfast Crown Court, the prosecution consented to "no bill" applications lodged by the defence on behalf of Mr and Mrs Valliday. They said the police are still investigating the crime. Accordingly, Mr Justice Weir dismissed the case against all three. A PPS spokesperson said on Monday that their intention was to "recommence proceedings against all three individuals".

Police Review of Military Killings 'Grossly Insensitive' BBC News/09/13

A human rights group in Londonderry has said it is "arrogant" and "grossly insensitive" for the police to review 13 military killings. The review follows a critical report into the Historical Enquiries Team. PSNI Chief Constable Matt Baggott told Stormont's justice committee he wanted to see if any evidential opportunities had been missed when soldiers had been interviewed under caution.

The Pat Finucane Centre said the re-examination will "hurt families". Paul O'Connor from the Centre said: "They have been told by Amnesty International and ourselves that families would not find this acceptable. The major problem with the HET is the lack of independence within the process. There is something very broken. A lot of families would say that the PSNI or the RUC didn't do their job the first time so why should they be allowed to do it again?

Retrial set for Arizona Mother Convicted of son's 1989 Murder Reuters 23/09/13

A judge on Monday set a 2015 retrial date for an Arizona woman released from death row earlier this month after an appeals court overturned her conviction for murdering her 4-yearold son in 1989. Debra Milke, 49, was released on \$250,000 bail on Sep. 6, after spending more than 22 years on death row in connection with the murder of her son, Christopher, who ation was improperly obtained in a bid to sabotage attempts to overturn their convictions. The allegations were made during applications for the disclosure of more material before appeal hearings get underway next month.Particular questions were raised over why no material was available from the day in April when officers called to speak to the new witness. "The relevance is to show the demeanour of (the man). He was not a man under pressure," the defence lawyer explained.

But prosecution counsel insisted that there was no further material available. Lord Chief Justice Sir Declan Morgan, sitting with Lord Justices Higgins and Coghlin, suggested it may be surprising that no recordings were carried out on the day police went to the house. The prosecution said: "For the rather prosaic reason ... there was no other audio sought that day."

Dealing with the defence applications, Sir Declan said the issues surrounding surveillance authorisation under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) would be kept under review. He added: "We are not prepared at this stage to order disclosure in relation to the remaining matters sought in light of prosecution indications given to us."

The Justice for the Craigavon Two group calls for an immediate end to the threat and harassment of the defense witness and the full disclosure of the covert material held by the PSNI we also call for an end to the sinister targeting and surveillance of defense lawyers who must be free to do their work unimpeded and without fear for their safety. Brendan and John Paul's appeal opens again on the 8th of October we ask everyone to watch closely the appeal process and help overturn this serious miscarriage of justice. It is Brendan and John Paul today, based on the tactics and shocking lack of evidence in this case it could be you Tomorrow!!! Messages of Support/Solidarity:

Brendan McConville HMP Maghaberry, Old Road, Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn, BT28 2PT John Paul Wootton HMP Maghaberry, Old Road, Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn, BT28 2PT

N. Ireland: Police Officers 'Had Roles In Previous Killings' David Young, Irish News, Two officers involved in directing a police chase that resulted in the fatal shooting of a Co Down man also had roles in controversial security force killings during the Troubles, a coroner has been told. The detective superintendent and inspector were in a PSNI command room overseeing a pursuit that ended with 21-year-old Neil McConville, from Bleary near Craigavon, being shot dead in April 2003.

Police were following the car driven by Mr McConville on the correct suspicion it was transporting a firearm. At the culmination of the chase at Ballinderry Upper near Lisburn, an officer shot him three times amid fears he would drive over another officer he had already knocked down and injured in his efforts to get away. Mr McConville was the first person killed by the police since the PSNI replaced the RUC in 2001 as part of peace process reforms.

While a subsequent investigation by then Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan found that the officer who fired the fatal shots had been justified, her probe criticised the detective superintendent's management of the operation, saying he had not taken steps to "minimise the possibility of recourse to lethal force". The officer retired during the investigation. Ms O'Loan also recorded that the inspector refused to be interviewed by investigators from her office.

A lawyer for Mr McConville's family told coroner Suzanne Anderson at a preliminary in- quest hearing into the death in Belfast that both officers had been involved in contentious lethal force RUC operations during the Troubles. Karen Quinlivan QC said the detective superintendent and inspector both had roles in the incident that resulted in IRA man Pearse Jordan (22) being shot dead shortly after the stolen car he was driving was rammed by police in west Belfast in 1992.

She said the inspector had also been in the RUC undercover unit that shot dead Catholic

teenager Michael Tighe in one of the so-called shoot-to-kill incidents in 1982. Ms Quinlivan told the court the officer had fired '30 shots' into the hay shed in Co Armagh where the 19-year-old was killed. The building was a suspected IRA arms dump. The lawyer claimed the officer had been involved in "at least one other" of the alleged shoot-to-kill incidents, and also during his career had his evidence criticised by a judge in a separate crown court case.

Arguing that all the past events were "potentially relevant" to the inquest into Mr McConville's death, Ms Quinlivan called for official documentation on the incidents to be disclosed to the family. She also said the PSNI should examine the service records of all other officers who had roles on the night Mr McConville was shot.

The lawyer said people may have assumed that RUC officers involved in the 'shoot-to-kill' episodes would not still be involved in PSNI operations more than 20 years on. "But that seems to be the case," she said. "The PSNI need to cross reference their witnesses to see if any other witnesses were involved in lethal force incidents." Ms Anderson asked Ms Quinlivan to outline her argument in writing for her consideration.

In 2007, Ms O'Loan, now Baroness O'Loan, found that the shooting of Mr McConville had been justified. She said after an initial collision with police vehicles, officers had ordered him to stop the engine and get out. However he reversed at speed and struck one of the officers. The prone officer was then in the vehicle's path and when Mr McConville changed out of reverse gear and again tried to drive off, a police colleague, fearing the officer's life was in danger, fired three times. Mr McConville was fatally injured and later declared dead in Lagan Valley Hospital. A passenger in the car sustained non-life threatening injuries in the incident. The man was later jailed for possession of a sawn-off shot gun recovered from the car.

[In the recent bail hearing of Damien Duffy where to date no evidence has been produced except claims there are witnesses, the judge used Irish Republicanism as an ideology to deny bail. "The judge refused bail saying: "In cases of terrorism the offence is driven by a warped political ideology. Therefore there is a significantly higher risk of further offences." Damien Duffy has been interned by remand for almost a year and a half and has yet to see any evidence.]

PSNI to Review 13 Military Killings In Northern Ireland BBC News, 19/09/13

The police are reviewing 13 cases of troubles era military killings following a critical review of the Historical Enquiries Team. Chief Constable Matt Baggott told the Justice Committee they wanted to see if any evidential opportunities had been missed when soldiers had been interviewed under caution.

The review into the HET was carried out by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary. It said their approach was inconsistent and had serious shortcomings. Cases where the state was involved in deaths were investigated with "less rigour" than others, the police watchdog found. The report led to pressure on the head of the HET, Dave Cox. The chief constable then became embroiled in a bitter row with the Policing Board about when Mr Cox would step down. He had said Mr Cox would retire at the end of December, but board members wanted him to go at the end of this month. Mr Cox is to stand down on 28 September.

Evidence has been passed to the CPS relating to five officers, up to the rank of detective chief inspector, who were part of the Staffordshire Police sensitive policing unit responsible for handling protected witnesses, the IPCC said. It added that three of the five officers are retired from the force. The IPCC said a file would be sent to the CPS in coming weeks about a further nine officers, of the rank of superintendent and above, who held senior positions at the

tlement services were reasonable and addressing a range of demands.

This is a concerning report. Bristol is an important institution serving the South West. A sense of drift had returned to the prison. Some useful work was being done to help manage offending risk and reintegrate prisoners at the conclusion of their sentences. But the experience of prisoners was poor. The priorities we identified included improving the environment, improving staff culture, and ensuring prisoners have something useful to do that will equip them for the future.

Automatic and Indiscriminate Ban on Prisoners' Voting Rights in Turkey Too Harsh

In Chamber judgment in the case of Söyler v. Turkey (application no. 29411/07), which is not final, the European Court of Human Rights held, unanimously, that there had been: a violation of Article 3 of Protocol No. 1 (right to free elections) to the European Convention on Human Rights. The case concerned a complaint brought by a businessman convicted for unpaid cheques that he was not allowed to vote in the 2007 Turkish general elections while he was being detained in prison or in the 2011 general elections after his conditional release.

The Court found in particular that the ban on convicted prisoners' voting rights in Turkey was automatic and indiscriminate and did not take into account the nature or gravity of the offence, the length of the prison sentence or the prisoner's individual conduct or circumstances. The application of such a harsh measure on a vitally important Convention right had to be seen as falling outside of any acceptable room for manoeuvre of a State to decide on such matters as the electoral rights of convicted prisoners. Indeed, the ban was harsher and more far-reaching than any the Court has had to consider in previous cases2 against the United Kingdom, Austria and Italy as it was applicable to convicts even after their conditional release and to those who are given suspended sentences and therefore do not even serve a prison term.

Civil Rights Lawyers Tooks Chambers Closes, Blaming Legal Aid Cuts

One of Britain's leading civil rights barristers' chambers, which led inquiries into the deaths of Stephen Lawrence and Princess Diana and the Hillsborough disaster, is closing due to Government cuts to legal aid. Tooks Chambers, whose leading barrister Michael Mansfield QC was in court yesterday representing the family of police shooting victim Mark Duggan, said its dissolution was "a direct result of government policies on legal aid". Its lawyers also said Justice Secretary Chris Grayling's policies were "cumulatively devastating the provision of legal services and threatening the rule of law".

"Tooks Chambers has a proud record of defending the rights of the under privileged and the oppressed. From its early days of defending miners and their communities during their year long strike, consistently tackling miscarriages of justice such as the Birmingham Six and representing the family of Stephen Lawrence, to its current involvement in landmark cases such as the Hillsborough Inquests and the AHK judicial review, members of chambers have sought to hold the state to account." The statement continued: "The dissolution of Chambers is the direct result of government policies on Legal Aid. The public service we provide is dependent on public funding. 90 per cent of our work is publicly funded. The government policies led by Justice Secretary Chris Grayling are cumulatively devastating the provision of legal services and threatening the rule of law."

Established in 1984, the chambers established itself as one of the leading sources of human rights and civil rights advocates. It has 55 members, including five QCs, and will continue to accept

sense of direction. That progress has not been sustained. The prison had recently undergone a major reorganisation of management and staffing, and at this inspection we evidenced several significant concerns. It is usual for local prisons to have a high turnover of prisoners, but it was extreme at Bristol (and made worse by the recent closure of Gloucester prison) with over 70% of prisoners staying for less than three months. This made the job of managers and staff very difficult, and they were struggling.

Ensuring safety and managing risk is a priority and yet outcomes in this important test were weak. The quality and rigour of vital first night procedures were not good enough, and very few prisoners were located on the dedicated first night unit, therefore missing out on vital support and information. Although levels of violence were similar to comparable prisons, too many prisoners felt unsafe or victimised. Recorded bullying was a concern, and procedures to tackle violence and delinquency were lacking. Support for those at risk of suicide or self-harm was better, and encouragingly the prison had been proactive in trying to develop work to promote adult safeguarding for those who were clearly vulnerable.

Security procedures were broadly proportionate but the quality of staff supervision on the wings was not always adequate. It was also concerning that, at 13.8% over the previous six months, the positive mandatory drug testing rate was higher than that seen in similar prisons. It was also troubling that significant numbers of prisoners reported that it was easy to get drugs in the prison or that they had developed a problem while there.

Levels of respect in the prison were poor. The reality for many prisoners was that they could not get things done - even the basics. They could not get enough clean clothes or clothes that fitted, adequate bedding or cleaning materials. Applications were not answered and complaints were not listened to. Some were living in unacceptable conditions. Despite many cleaners, much of the prison was dirty and/or poorly equipped. Prisoners complained of cockroach infestation, and some were living in unacceptable conditions in cells without windows. Fewer prisoners than at similar establishments felt staff treated them with respect, and we observed some disturbing and dismissive attitudes from some staff. The promotion of equality had been neglected and had only recently begun to receive appropriate attention. Strategy continued to lack direction and minority groups were negative across a number of indicators in our prisoner survey. Outcomes for prisoners with protected characteristics were mixed although some, such as foreign nationals, received some helpful support.

Prisoners had little confidence that their legitimate complaints were dealt with fairly or quickly, in our view with some justification. Of particular concern, we evidenced complaints against staff that had not been investigated at all. Prisoner perceptions of the quality of health care were similarly negative. With the exception of mental health care and medicines management, we observed a number of gaps and inadequacies that needed to be improved. Prisoners also had very negative opinions about food quality, although our own observations were more positive.

During the working day it was normal to find about half the prison's population locked in cell. There was only enough work, training or activity for about two-thirds of the population, but even this was not used efficiently with much unoccupied. The range of education and vocational training offered was broadly appropriate, but much of the work on offer was menial or mundane, causing underemployment as well as unemployment. The quality of learning and skills provision was judged to be either inadequate or requiring improvement.

In our healthy prison test of resettlement, the prison was largely meeting the challenges and needs presented by a very short-term population. Both offender management and reset-

force. Four of those are serving at the rank of assistant chief constable or above, while four of the nine officers are retired from Staffordshire Police.

Levi Walker, from Birmingham, Adam Joof, from Willenhall, West Midlands, Antonio Christie, from Great Bridge, West Midlands, Michael Osbourne and Owen Crooks, both from Wolverhampton, all had their murder convictions quashed last year after being found guilty at Leicester Crown Court in 2008.

Crime Boss' Son Spent Share of Lottery Win on Heroin Deal Indpendent, 19/09/13 The son of the head of an infamous crime family has been jailed after he used his share of his mother's £1m EuroMillions win to bankroll a heroin deal. Manchester Crown Court heard Mandy Burgess, 43, widow of Manchester "crime boss" Damian Noonan, won the lottery last year when 100 people became millionaires. Her son Desmond James Noonan used his share of the prize to buy a £350,000 house and new car – and to fund a drug deal. But the 27-year-old was arrested after he and two accomplices were caught with a haul of heroin worth nearly £25,000.

The Noonan family starred in a fly-on-the-wall documentary, titled A Very British Gangster, in 2005. The Noonan name was described in court as "notorious in the city and one that usually instils fear in some communities". Noonan's father was described as a "gangland Mr Big" and was the head bouncer of the Hacienda nightclub in Manchester in the 1990s. Some other family members had been convicted of murder and faced accusations of abduction and torture. Mandy Burgess is the aunt of Kiaran Stapleton, who was jailed for life last year for shooting Indian student Anuj Bidve. Today, Noonan, with his accomplices Graham Beaumont, 29, and Christopher Perry, also 29, admitted possessing class-A drugs with intent to supply. The court heard that the deal had been Noonan's attempt to aid his friend Perry who was in debt to rival criminals in Salford and faced "violent reprisals" from gangsters for stealing their cannabis plants. Noonan was jailed for five years, Perry to four, and Beaumont sentenced to two years prison.

Speaking after the convictions, Detective Chief Inspector Chris Downey of Greater Manchester Police said: "We are working to prove that no one is untouchable and that we will do everything we can to identify and bring to justice organised crime groups and families involved in criminality. All three were found in possession of a significant quantity of drugs. These were undoubtedly heading for the streets of Salford, so to recover such a large amount is a great result. Heroin in particular is an extremely abhorrent drug that goes hand in hand with other crime, ranging from anti-social behaviour on streets where it is dealt to thefts and robberies committed by addicts."

Manchester Crown Court had been told that Noonan was caught in April after a black carrier bag containing heroin was discovered underneath the front passenger seat of a car he and his accomplices were driving in Salford. Today's conviction was just the latest for Noonan, who was jailed in 2009 for admitting to being involved in two violent assaults with his twin brother Damian Jnr. In one attack, outside a Blackpool nightclub, a man had part of his ear bitten off.

Family Partners in crime: His father Damian Noonan was a major figure in Manchester's criminal underworld before his death in a motorcycle crash in the Dominican Republic in 2003. His brother Damian Noonan Jnr was jailed for six years and nine months last year for kidnap, causing grievous bodily harm and conspiracy to supply drugs. His mother's nephew Mandy Burgess is the aunt of Kiaran Stapleton, who was jailed for life last year for shooting the Indian student Anuj Bidve. His uncle Dessie Noonan once boasted his gang had "more guns than the police" and was stabbed to death in 2005 during what was described by police as a drug deal gone bad with a Jamaican Yardie gang.

Six Police Officers Face Misconduct Over Death Of Disabled Man Indpendent, 19/09/13 IPCC said four constables, a sergeant and an inspector had been served with notices of gross misconduct. The investigation was launched after Avon and Somerset Police referred itself to the IPCC after the death of Bijan Ebrahimi on 14 July this year in Bristol. Mr Ebrahimi was found alight by paramedics in Capgrave Crescent, Brislington after allegedly being seriously assaulted. Stephen Norley and Lee James, both aged 24 and from Bristol, have been charged with Mr Ebrahimi's murder and have been remanded in custody.

IPCC said Mr Ebrahmi had been in contact with officers from Avon and Somerset Police in the days before his death. He had been arrested on 12 July on suspicion of a breach of the peace and released later the same day. The IPCC investigation has served notices of gross misconduct to three Pcs who dealt with Mr Ebrahimi between July 11 and 13. Criminal interviews with these three officers are scheduled to take place over the next few weeks. The IPCC said the three officers have been suspended by Avon and Somerset Police as a result of information which has come to light during the investigation. An inspector, sergeant and constable who dealt with Mr Ebrahimi in custody on July 12 have also been served with notices of gross misconduct and they will be interviewed soon.

Rachel Cerfontyne, IPCC deputy chairman, said: "This is a tragic case and my sympathies go to Mr Ebrahimi's family and friends for their loss. "Our investigation is into police officers' and staff decisions and actions in all their dealings with Mr Ebrahimi following his call to police on July 11 until his death on July 14. This will also include any previous police contact with him and how those incidents were dealt with, including interactions with other agencies. Our investigation is progressing well with some notable actions already completed. The police criminal investigation into Mr Ebrahimi's death will take priority and does constrain what we can say at this stage. We will continue to ensure that Mr Ebrahimi's family are regularly updated with the progress of our investigation."

Operation Nexus Fears Not Allayed

Frances Webber for Institute of Race Relations

A recent meeting with Met police failed to reassure migrant rights groups and activists that Operation Nexus is not harmful. Operation Nexus, launched a year ago as a collaboration between the Metropolitan police and the UK Border Agency was designed to clear foreign criminals off the streets of London and send them home. Immigration officers were embedded in dozens of the capital's custody suites, where suspects are booked in after arrest, and police from eastern Europe were brought in to help.

Little wonder, then, that the capital's migrant and refugee communities were apprehensive. A number of public relations initiatives were devised to allay fears. A 'community reference group' was set up to allow communities to question officers involved in Nexus and provide some accountability. And as part of this exercise, on 12 September, two Met police officers, Dave Watkinson and Nick Hughes, came to the offices of the Migrants' Rights Network (MRN), where they spoke to members of migrant and community groups and answered questions.

Thirty or so people, from MRN, Refugee and Migrant Forum of East London (RAMFEL), Refugee Forum, Refugee Women's Network, the IRR and elsewhere, came to listen to the officers and to question them. But what we got was very anodyne. Nexus, we were told, simply does 'what we should have been doing already', i.e. checking the immigration status and, in serious cases, the foreign convictions of those held in the Met's custody suites. If someone in police custody for a minor offence is a foreign national with no right to be in the country, police hand the person over to the Home Office for possible removal. In these circumstances, prosecution is unlikely. If the offence is serious – 'high harm' in police jargon – Interpol and foreign criminal record databases will be who were electrocuted in 2005 after running away from police, triggering the worst rioting in France for 40 years. After eight years of legal wrangling and a campaign led by the boys' families, the appeal court in Rennes ruled that a criminal trial should take place. It promises to be one of the most important police court cases in recent years. For eight years, the faces of Zyed Benna, 17, and Bouna Traoré, 15, have symbolised the dire relations and mistrust between police and youths in French tower blocks. The two teenagers were electrocuted while hiding in a power substation in Clichy-sous-Bois, north of Paris, in October 2005. Another 17-year-old survived with severe burns. The boys were rushing home from a football match for their evening meal during Ramadan.

A subsequent inquiry found they had not committed any crime but when they saw a police van cross their path, they fled, were chased by police and hid in a highly dangerous electricity substation. Their deaths by electrocution triggered riots on the boys' run-down estates in Clichy-sous-Bois, north of Paris, which soon spread across France. Riots raged for weeks on housing estates across the country - more than 9,000 vehicles and dozens of public buildings and businesses were set on fire as the government invoked emergency powers to quell the worst unrest in mainland France in nearly 40 years. The two police officers will face trial on charges of "non-assistance to a person in danger" for failing to come to the boys' aid. The police did not notify the French energy company EDF that the boys were hiding in the substation. The officers' lawyers argued they never thought the boys were in the substation.

Siaka Traoré, Bouna's brother, told French media: "There's progress, a certain recognition." Adel Benna, Zyed's brother, said: "To turn the page we need a trial. We're waiting for explanations." An earlier ruling that the case against the officers should be dropped was overturned by France's highest court last year. Lawyers for the police officers could still appeal against the decision to hold a trial.

Report on an Unannounced Inspection of HMP Bristol

Inspection 6/17th May 2013, report compiled July 2013, published 17/09/13 Inspectors were concerned to find that:

- although levels of violence were similar to comparable prisons, too many prisoners felt unsafe or victimised; - procedures to tackle violence and delinquency were lacking; - the quality of staff supervision on the wings was not always adequate; - significant numbers of prisoners reported that it was easy to get drugs in the prison or that they had developed a problem while there; - prisoners could not get enough clean clothes or clothes that fitted, adequate bedding or cleaning materials; - much of the prison was dirty and prisoners complained of cockroach infestation; - inspectors observed some disturbing and dismissive attitudes from some staff; - the promotion of equality had been neglected and had only recently begun to receive appropriate attention; - during the working day it was normal to find about half the prison's population locked in cell; and - there was only enough work, training and activity for two-thirds of the population but even this was not used efficiently with much unoccupied. - minority groups were negative across a number of indicators in our prisoner survey - Prisoners had little confidence that their legitimate complaints were dealt with fairly or quickly, in our view with some justification - Inspectors made 109 recommendations

Introduction from the report: Bristol is a medium-sized local prison, much of it dating from the 19th century, receiving remand and convicted prisoners, often straight from the streets. Holding mainly adult male prisoners, and some young adults, at our last inspection in early 2010 we noted improvements and described a prison that was well led and had a clear

coming release from a Cape Town prison on parole on 23 September.

Move To Ban Smoking In Prisons theguardian.com, Friday 20 September 2013 Inmates could soon be banned from smoking at prisons in England and Wales, the Ministry of Justice has said. A pilot scheme to monitor how prisoners react to the move is being planned by the government, but sites have not yet been chosen. A spokesman for the Ministry of Justice said: "We are considering banning smoking across the prison estate and as part of this are looking at possible sites as early adopters." The pilot scheme is expected to launch in the spring of next year, and if successful, the ban would be rolled out across all prisons within 12 months, the Times newspaper reported.

There are fears that the ban could cause disruption in prisons, with around 80% of inmates in England and Wales believed to smoke, according to the NHS. Steve Gillan, general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, told the Times that introducing the ban would be difficult. "There is no pretending otherwise," he said. "It could cause disturbances, but they have done it successfully in Canada and in young offender institutions in England and Wales. "We welcome this move. It is our policy to have smoke-free prisons for our members. We will work with the ministry to make sure it works effectively." Gillan said that without a smoking ban, the Prison Service risked legal action from a non-smoker claiming to suffer from the effects of passive smoking.

Counter-Terrorism Policing In Woolwich

Is racial profiling being carried out by counter-terrorism police in South London following the death of Lee Rigby? On 1 June 2013, a group of friends driving through Woolwich in the early evening were intercepted by police officers apparently from the Met's Counter Terrorism command, SO15. According to youth worker Husani Williams, who was driving the car, the officers shot out the tyres, smashed its windows and dragged him and his brother Asanti out of the car. Officers used tasers and 'pain compliance' techniques on the men, who say they did not resist. Police told the two other passengers that the car had been targeted because it had come from an address associated with the Lee Rigby murder. The address in question was that of Mr Williams' cousin, a black Muslim, who has not been approached by police to date.

Speaking to IRR News, Husani Williams stated: 'I was in shock. The officers did not identify themselves, they just dragged me out of the car and held me down. At one point I asked them why they were doing this. They said, "We've got you down as Mr. Nasty, and this is what we do to Mr. Nasty".' One of the brothers, Asanti Williams, was taken straight to hospital as a result of the injuries sustained in the stop by police.

The arrest resulted in no charges relating to terrorism – the group were not even questioned about terrorism. Husani has been charged with minor drugs offences. It seems likely his trial will not take place until spring next year. The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating the incident, but has said that its investigation will only get under way once criminal proceedings against Husani have finished. Husani is being supported by the London Campaign Against Police and State Violence (LCAPSV). So far, the group has attended court in solidarity with Husani, and has helped to collect evidence from witnesses. LCAPSV supports the victims of police assault, and monitors the policing of communities, and of BME communities in particular.

French Police To Stand Trial Over Deaths Of Two Youths That Sparked 2005 Riots Angelique Chrisafis, theguardian.com, Friday 20 September 2013

Two French police officers have been ordered to face trial over the deaths of two teenagers

checked 'so we know the kind of person we're dealing with', and the normal police procedure of referring the case to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for possible prosecution will be carried out regardless of the suspect's immigration status.

Asked about the prospects for Nexus becoming permanent or going national, the officers were cagey, claiming that it is very much a force-by-force thing and dependent on local policing priorities and budgets. Even in the Met, not all boroughs have dedicated officers. The West Midlands, Manchester and Scottish police forces were interested. But in London, the aim is for every police officer to be trained to deal with foreign nationals, who make up 28 per cent of those in custody suites. But, some of the audience wanted to know, what about race discrimination? Were British suspects checked? The officers were at pains to assure their listeners that the checks are non-discriminatory, performed regardless of nationality. And what about recent targeting of irregular migrants through the spate of identity checks at tube stations, the rounding up of homeless migrants for removal, and the Home Office 'Go Home' campaign? Nothing to do with us, they said – Nexus operates only in custody suites and has nothing to do with round-ups or vans. 'We're not interested in overstayers', they said – although later this was contradicted by Hughes' claim that overstaying was a criminal offence anyway.

In their presentation, the officers seemed to want to play down both the extent of the operation and its efficacy. They talked about telephone immigration status checks conducted by phone to the Home Office, but did not explain, as London mayor Boris Johnson had to the London Assembly, that 'the fingerprints of all offenders arrested for mainstream criminal offences are automatically cross-referenced into UKBA via the Livescan system'. They did refer to Interpol and ACPO Criminal Records Office (ACRO) databases, accessed for foreign convictions, 1,100 of which have been recorded on the police national computer – but their claim that Nexus had led to 'over forty' removals since October 2012 seems very modest, particularly when set against immigration minister Mark Harper's figure of over 700 in response to a parliamentary question about Nexus in July.

Ignorance: Getting hard information out of the officers was next to impossible. From October, Romanian and Polish officers funded by the EU will be on a two-year secondment with the Met. They were to have no powers of arrest, we were assured – but what were they going to do? We weren't told. Nor could the officers answer questions about the length of time people were held in limbo in the Met's custody suites while the Home Office and foreign checks were carried out. It took two hours, on average, for Home Office checks – but Interpol and ACRO checks could take from ten days to infinity.

What safeguards were there regarding the accuracy of the information received from abroad, given the risks in some jurisdictions of convictions in absentia, of political dissidents being framed on drugs or sex charges? No answer. What criteria were used for custody sergeants referring suspects lawfully in the UK to the Home Office for possible deportation on conducive grounds? None, apparently. The officers claimed not to have heard of the case of Lincoln Farquharson, deported on allegations of sex offences despite never being convicted, while claiming that all such cases would be referred to the CPS. But their constant references to the suspects in their custody suites as offenders, criminals, people that no one would want in the country, raised the question of whether police understand the point of criminal trials, the formal establishment of guilt or innocence.

Why communities are concerned: Another question the officers consistently avoided, although it was repeatedly asked, was whether they understood communities' concerns. They complained that attendance at community reference group meetings was very poor. But MRN and RAMFEL spokespersons pointed out that migrant groups who wanted to join had been told the Met did

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not want any more organisations – raising suspicions of a closed, tame 'community reference group' whose composition made it incapable of truly bringing the Met to account. It emerged in the post-meeting discussion that mistrust of police and fears of Nexus by undocumented migrant communities are preventing victims of serious crime from seeking police help. Nexus might not be responsible for identity checks at tube stations, or for the targeting homeless and destitute undocumented migrants in parks, but what emerged as one of the communities' biggest concerns is the part it plays in a policing model which has overtones of social cleansing.

Inmates Guilty Of Child Killer Subhan Anwar's Murder

Daily Mirror, 19/09/13

Neither showed any emotion as they were unanimously convicted after the jury had deliberated for around three-and-a-half hours. Gary Smith, 48, and Lee Newell, 44, blamed each other for the death of Subhan Anwar, who was found dead in his cell at HMP Long Lartin in south Worcestershire. But both were convicted of murder today by a jury at Warwick Crown Court.

Anwar, from Huddersfield, was serving a life sentence for killing his partner's two-year-old daughter. The 24-year-old was serving a sentence of at least 23 years at the Category A jail, having been convicted of murdering Sanam Navsarka at Bradford Crown Court in 2009. Smith and Newall tied him up and throttled him with a pair of tracksuit bottoms on Long Lartin's Delta Wing on February 14.

A two-week trial was told Newell and Smith were also serving life terms for murders committed in 1988 and 1998 respectively. The pair are likely to be sentenced next week for killing Anwar, who had received compensation after a previous incident in which he was assaulted by inmates. Neither Newell nor Smith showed any emotion as they were unanimously convicted after the jury had deliberated for around three-and-a-half hours. Jurors heard how Smith calmly made Newell a cup of hot chocolate - even sweetening it with icing sugar - during a stand-off with prison staff after Anwar was strangled.

Prison staff were initially told Anwar had been taken hostage because the two inmates were "bored" - with Newell telling a warder: "He's gone, he's with Allah." Both defendants opted not to give evidence at the trial, but CCTV and DNA evidence proved they were involved in the killing. Prison officers told the trial how they found Anwar's body at about 8.20pm after taking Smith and Newell from the victim's cell to a segregation unit. Smith and Newell, who were found in possession of property belonging to Anwar, were recorded on CCTV entering his cell during a period of free association at about 6pm. Jurors also convicted Newell of stealing a watch, prayer beads and a metal earring belonging to Anwar, while Smith admitted the theft of property from the child-killer's cell.

Smith, then of Anchor Street, Belgrave, Leicester, was jailed in 1999 for murdering 22-year-old Ali Hassan, whose naked body was thrown into a quarry. Mr Hassan was found dead at Swithland Woods, Leicestershire, in 1998. Smith chose to remain in the cells at Nottingham Crown Court in April 1999 as he was ordered to serve at least 18 years for Mr Hassan's murder. The victim, who Smith believed to be a police informer, was stabbed and struck about the head with a hammer in a "brutal and premeditated" attack. Newell was jailed for life in 1989 at Norwich Crown Court for murdering a woman who was strangled in March of the previous year.

In a statement issued after Smith and Newell were convicted of Anwar's murder, Detective Chief Inspector Jon Marsden, of West Mercia Police, said: "We still do not know exactly what happened that day in Subhan Anwar's cell and Smith and Newell have not given a reason as to why they visited him. "I believe they have been utterly cowardly for not giving an explanation for their actions. Both were well-known to their victim and there was no sign of a forced entry or a struggle in the cell." The senior detective added: "Whatever Subhan's status as a convicted prisoner, no one deserves to be killed in this way and it has caused his family a great deal of heartache."

In a statement released by West Mercia Police, Anwar's family described him as a model prisoner and claimed Newell and Smith were "animals". The statement read: "No family of any person in or out of prison should go through the pain, torment and loss of a person like we are. "We believed Subhan was innocent of the crime he was imprisoned for and despite his murder, we will continue our attempts for the case to be appealed. We as a family are devastated by this loss. We have received many condolences, cards, letters and even a collection from other prisoners in Long Lartin. They, like us, are in complete disbelief, shocked and saddened by how Subhan was killed by Smith and Newell."

Police Officer Avoids Prison For Punching Suspect Who Spat At Him

Rohan Scarlett, 47, launched the assault on Andrew Uba as he put him in a police van at 3am on 20 February. Scarlett, of the Metropolitan police, had denied common assault but was sentenced to a three month community order at Highbury Corner magistrates court. He was also given a curfew and ordered to pay compensation to Uba.

The court previously heard the incident happened when Scarlett was transferring Uba from Islington police station to custody in Lewisham, east London. As the burly 6ft 1in officer struggled to put him inside the van with the help of a colleague, Uba spat at close distance in his face without warning. Scarlett, a former nightclub doorman and security guard from Croydon, south London, said he did not want to be assaulted again and hit Uba to "distract him" from spitting a second time.

Cape Of Bad Dope: Gang Warfare In South Africa Out Of Control

Gang warfare is frustrating efforts to rein in crime in a country where 15,609 homicides, or 30.9 per 100,000 people, occurred in the year ending March 2012, a rate that is more than six times that of the US. South Africa's Police Minister, Nathi Mthethwa, released new crime figures confirming that, year on year, the murder rate has increased by 0.6 per cent. "We have seen increases in murder, attempted murder, car hijacking, street robbery and house robbery. These are some of the crimes South Africans are most afraid of," Institute for Security Studies (ISS) researcher Jonathan Rees said in a statement. This shows that government's approach to crime is not working. After a long period of decreases in serious and violent crime, these are the worst figures we have seen in 10 years," said another ISS researcher, Gareth Newham, adding that crime is not only a police responsibility, but that government departments such as the health, education and social development ministries all have their roles to play. Violence remains unacceptably high and should be treated as a serious crisis which stands in the way of South Africa's social and economic development," Mr Newham said.

Preliminary police data shows Manenberg alone had 14 homicides and 56 attempted murders between May and July this year, double the quarterly average over the past decade. While the spike will only be reflected in next year's statistics, the upsurge in violence prompted Western Cape Premier Helen Zille to call for the army to be deployed to restore calm. The conflict forced the closure of 14 schools for two days last month. Fighting has eased since 22 August when church and community groups brokered a truce and police stepped up raids and patrols, making more than 1,200 arrests. Ms Zille, leader of South Africa's Democratic Alliance, blames the flare-up on gangsters trying to assert control over the trade of drugs such as mandrax and crystal methamphetamine, known locally as "tik", before Hard Livings leader Rashied Staggie's forth-