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Time Out of Cell — is the Ministry of Justice Telling the Truth?

Peter Dawson, Prison Reform Trust: We noticed an article in the Daily Express on 8 August in which a ministry spokesman gave a categorical assurance that prisoners were not spending 23 hours a day in cell. This came as something of a surprise. That's partly because we continue to hear from people that this is still happening regularly, and inspection reports support that view. But it's also because the lengthy correspondence we've had with ministers on this issue (since December last year) seemed to demonstrate pretty conclusively that the ministry hasn't had a reliable way of measuring time out of cell. The only honest answer the ministry ought to be giving to the question of "are people still spending 23 hours a day in cell?" is "we don't know". The last letter we received, from the previous prisons minister, suggested that new regime monitoring tools would give the possibility of both local and central "oversight and scrutiny" of individuals who weren't accessing any activity out of cell. So, prompted by the Daily Express article, we've written to the new minister asking for that data to be made public. It's an open secret that many prisons are struggling with intense staffing shortfalls, and that outbreaks of Covid amongst both staff and prisoners also continue to cause local problems. The solution to that lies in more staff and fewer prisoners — not in un-evidenced assertions from the MoJ press office.

Eight Years in Prison - Racist Sentencing for Telegram Messages

Yara Osman, FRFI: On 1 July four black teenagers from Moston in Greater Manchester received sentences of eight years in prison for conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm purely for their being in a Telegram group chat. It is a sentence that exposed the racist, anti-working-class foundations of the British court system. The prosecution successfully argued that the boys had been part of a conspiracy that was executed over the course of three months, and which led to two attacks that were committed by other defendants. It was alleged that the boys identified targets and gathered information about their locations. The prosecution based its case on one strand of evidence – a Telegram group chat the boys had all been part of called 'MDs World [crying emoji]', which was set up after one of their friends was murdered. The prosecution used informal messages exchanged by the teenagers to create a gang narrative that painted the boys as implicitly involved in a conspiracy which the judge decided 'was played out in social media and through drill rap music, with threats of violence, the display of weapons, including firearms, machetes, and crossbows. Entering the territory of one gang was treated as provocation, to be met by violence or the threat of violence.'

However, when the facts of the case are examined properly and without the creation of false narrative it is clear that there was no evidence or legal basis for convicting the four boys: Ademola Adedeji, Raymond Savi, Omolade Okoya and Azim Okunola. None of them had played a role in any of the violent acts described in the case; none of them possessed weapons, nor had they taken part in any activity to gather information about the location of potential targets. All they had done was participate in an informal group chat with their classmates, and like many teenagers, had discussed their interest in drill music. As the director of the campaign Kids of Colour, Roxy Legane, outlined: 'A few boys were caught on CCTV for their offences, and they [Greater Manchester Police] used that to bring in a much wider net of young boys who were just speaking out their grief in a Telegram chat after they lost a friend.'

Kids of Colour also created a pre-sentencing survey with over 500 people from the boy's communities which collectively demanded either leniency for the boys or suspended sentence. Although the report did not change the outcome of the case, it was introduced by the defence team to counter the prosecution's argument that the public would support a harsh sentences. It exemplified that the narrative created during the case by the prosecution does not reflect the views of the working class. However, relying on the racism entrenched within the legal system, the prosecution was able to turn thoughtless messages between pupils into criminal intent; the teenagers were punished for just knowing other members of their community. It allowed the judge to conclude that: 'The defendants were not in a joint enterprise; they were each principal parties playing a full role in committing the offence of a criminal conspiracy either to kill others or to intentionally cause them grievous bodily harm.'

Unsurprisingly, the sentence provoked a community campaign in Manchester. Kids of Colour and Joint Enterprise Not Guilty by Association (JENGbA) organised a protest attended by 250 people in the city centre, saying 'we are sick and tired of our children being taken from us by a racist and classist injustice system purposefully built to oppress us.' This case reflects how a legal system built on imperialism and created to uphold the ruling class will always be used as a tool to oppress working class communities, particularly black and brown communities.

Law Commission to Undertake Review of the Appeals System

The Law Commission of England and Wales has announced that it will launch a wide-ranging review of the laws governing appeals for criminal cases. The Commission has been asked by the Government to examine the need for reforms to the appeals system, to ensure that the courts have the right powers to enable the effective, efficient and appropriate resolution of appeals. The comprehensive review, which will include a public consultation, follows calls from several leading bodies, including the Justice Select Committee and Westminster Commission on Miscarriages of Justice, for improvements to the law on appeals to be considered. The new project will consider the need for reform, with particular focus on identifying any inconsistencies, uncertainties and gaps in the law that may be hindering the ability of the appeals system to function as effectively and fairly as possible.

As part of the new review, areas that will be considered by the Law Commission include: 1) The powers of the Court of Appeal – the senior court that hears appeals in England and Wales – including its power to order a re-trial of a case or substitute a conviction for another offence. 2) Whether there is evidence that the "safety test" – the test used to grant an appeal against a conviction on the grounds that it is "unsafe" (for example, because of a major error in the trial) – may make it difficult to correct any miscarriages of justice. 3) The test used by the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) – the independent body responsible for investigating potential miscarriages of justice – that governs when it can refer a case back to the Court of Appeal for further consideration. 4) The Attorney General's powers to refer a case to the Court of Appeal because the sentence is "unduly lenient". 5) The Crown Court's sentencing powers for a new trial that is the result of an appeal. 6) Laws governing the retention and disclosure of evidence for a case, including after conviction, and retention and access to records of proceedings.

Commenting on the new project, Professor Penney Lewis, the Law Commissioner for Criminal Law, said: "The appeals system has faced calls for reform in recent years – often marked by conflicting views on the areas of law that should be changed. Our wide-ranging review of appeals will look at the evidence behind competing arguments for reform. We will closely scrutinise where the law is working well, and where it may be falling short. It's essential that there is clarity, efficiency and

fairness in criminal appeals at all levels. By consulting with the public including those who have direct experience of the appeals process, and identifying areas for reform, we can help ensure that there is confidence in the justice system and its ability to remedy any wrongs." Next steps: The Commission's review will begin with initial scoping and pre-consultation engagement with stakeholders, followed by a published consultation paper containing provisional proposals for reform, a formal consultation process, and a published final report containing recommendations for reform.

Rage Against Deaths in Prison

FRFI: The latest casualty of the system is Taylor, a trans prisoner, who took his own life on 9 July. Taylor was serving an Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection (IPP) the draconian measure introduced by the Blair Labour government. Taylor's friends have sent us this account and tribute: Taylor is dead. He was meant to be on suicide watch but the prison failed him. We were informed by the prison governor at 3.30 am on Sunday. His story is one of abuse, injustice, transphobia and tragedy. It didn't have to be this way. He was murdered by the state. His death should trigger resistance and rebellion inside and outside of prisons everywhere. Taylor was a trans prisoner trapped in the British prison system for over 14 years. He was sentenced to an Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection (IPP), and had served 10 years longer in prison than the specified tariff. He was a beloved friend to anarchist comrades who met him in prison. He had ACAB on his knuckles and an anti-authoritarian spirit and a deep love for animals. He was a working-class 'old school' prisoner who knew which side he was on. He hated the system with every ounce of his being. Taylor was one of the first prisoner members of the Incarcerated Workers Organising Committee, which was founded in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland in 2015. He was also active with Smash IPP, contributing to the newsletter and encouraging other IPP prisoners to join the group.

IPP sentencing was introduced in 2005 and meant that people would be sentenced to an initial 'tariff' (minimum time) and, after that point, their release would be decided by the Parole Board. This means that IPP prisoners have NO definite release date. It is effectively a life sentence for minor crimes. After huge public pressure, IPP sentences were abolished in 2012, but not retrospectively, which means there are still more than 3,500 people in prison with no release date. The uncertainty is a living hell. This sentence led to Britain having one of the highest rates of prisoner suicide in the world. At least 243 of the country's IPP prisoners have died in prison, 72 of them took their own lives. For Taylor, the IPP was a death sentence. He was given four years for burglary but served 14 years before he died. The long-term imprisonment with no end-date totally destroyed Taylor's mental health. He attempted suicide multiple times, including slitting his own throat and taking an overdose that led him to being in a coma twice. It eventually killed him.

We have 14 years of catalogued evidence of impossible parole hearings and prison failings. Taylor's suicidality was used an excuse to keep him in prison, yet his suicidality was caused by prison. There is only so much one human can take. Death became the only option for Taylor as all legal doors to freedom closed again and again. We know Taylor was one of millions of people around the world kept in a cage. We know the state kills people on its borders, in detention centres, in prisons, in psychiatric hospitals. We know it's those harmed by white supremacy, ableism, poverty and transphobia who face the sharpest end of this violence. Every single incarcerated person is a political prisoner. We have no faith that the state can deliver any kind of justice. The inquest and the Prison and Probation Ombudsman's report will not achieve 'justice'. Prisons are working exactly as they are designed to. This horror is no accident. It is intentional. Taylor's blood is on the hands of the prison system. We call on comrades to honour Taylor by fighting for those still in prison. No more empty slogans, this is a life and death struggle. Rage is our weapon. RIP Taylor.

Innocent - No Case to Answer: However CCRC Won't Refer The Case Of Clive Freeman

In his article, Bill Robertson delves deep into the CCRC's rejection of four applications by Clive Freeman, in his 35th year of maintaining his innocence in prison, for the murder of Alexander Calder Hardie. He details how 9 of the most eminent experts have totally demolished the pathology evidence at trial by Dr Richard Shepherd yet the CCRC have failed to refer his conviction back to the Court of Appeal. He concludes that in the case of Clive Freeman the CCRC is shown to be a mere lapdog of the CoA that was set up to, not to assist innocent victims to overturn their wrongful convictions but, rather, to guard against such wrongful and egregious convictions from ever being overturned. Moreover, that this serves to convince the general public to continue to believe the myth that we have the so called 'best criminal justice system in the World'; and that the CCRC is a champion rather than an enemy of justice. Is this really behind the CCRC's refusal to refer the case of Clive Freeman to the Court of Appeal? We would love the CCRC to prove us wrong! On 8 June 2021, the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) was asked for the fourth time,(1) to consider the case of Clive Freeman, one of the longest running miscarriages of justice in the UK. The CCRC yet again refused to refer the case to the Court of Appeal.

What emerges from study of the case is that Freeman was jailed for murder in a case where there is a substantial possibility that no offence had been committed,(2) where the deceased almost certainly died of natural causes. On the 2 May 1989, at the Central Criminal Court, Mr Freeman was convicted of the murder of Alexander Calder Hardie. Freeman was sentenced to life imprisonment with a tariff of 13 years; he has currently served 33 years' imprisonment because he vehemently denies murdering Hardie. Mr Freeman was 44 years old when he was convicted; he is now 79 years old and suffering from prostate cancer. There is very considerable evidence from nine eminent pathologists indicating that the pathologist who carried out the autopsy on Mr Hardie reached an incorrect conclusion that Hardie was murdered. At the heart of the issue is whether Hardie died of natural causes. The first autopsy conducted by Dr Richard Shepherd concluded that Hardie died from alcoholism and pancreatitis. However, this autopsy was kept secret and not revealed to the Court. Shepherd gave evidence based on a second and third autopsy and pronounced death by a technique known as 'Burking', supporting the charges of murder and arson brought against Freeman.

The CCRC are stubbornly refusing to refer Freeman's case to the Court of Appeal on the basis that even if the forensic evidence given by Shepherd is totally wrong there are other circumstantial pieces of evidence that mean that the jury was entitled to return a verdict of guilty. However, this misses the point entirely– if Hardie died of natural causes there was no crime. This was a possibility that the jury was never given an opportunity to consider, because Shepherd concealed vital information about his first autopsy on Hardie from them. The latest submission to the CCRC(3) makes two important points indicative that Hardie died of natural causes: 1. There is now incontrovertible evidence that Shepherd's theory - both in the autopsy and court - that pressure to the lower chest could produce asphyxia was science fiction. 2. Since Dr Shepherd's statement that death through kneeling induced asphyxia is now thoroughly discredited, the CCRC and Court of Appeal must accept the only other cause of death which correlates with known evidence and was presented at court - death through or associated with alcohol and drugs. The CCRC are stubbornly refusing to refer Freeman's case to the Court of Appeal on the basis that even if the forensic evidence given by Shepherd is totally wrong there are other circumstantial pieces of evidence that mean that the jury was entitled to return a verdict of guilty.

Parole Board Knock Back Derek Patterson for the Fourth Time

I am just writing to let you all know that once again, the Parole Board has knocked me back for the fourth time. It seems that they want you to admit to a crime that you did not do before they will do anything. Well, they will have a long wait as my stance will never change.

The Parole Board do the wrong thing by using the same report year in and year out. Where if they only used the Wing reports of staff, who see you day in and day out! Then the Parole Board would release the right people or send them to open prison. They would be better off scrapping all these made-up reports with no evidence by a psychologist who just twist everything to their mad way of thinking. I say this because if any of their assessments or courses worked, the Prison system would be empty, not full to the brim.

You Can't Hurry Love, or the CCRC, stll waiting to hear from them

Derek Patterson A3948AE HMP Garth Ulnes Walton Leyland PR26 8NE

Derek Patterson Inside and Innocent - Eleven Years Over Tariff!

In 2005, Derek Patterson was convicted of Attempted Murder. He received a six-year 56-day tariff on a discretionary life sentence. He is currently approaching his 16th year of incarceration, still maintaining his innocence, and ten years over tariff. He had no record of violent crime. The only prosecution evidence was the word of another. There was no forensic or DNA evidence to support the conviction. Both forensic and DNA evidence rule him out of the crime. The alleged assault weapon was also ruled out. Experts on both sides agreed the knife the defendant was supposed to have used was not the knife that cut the clothing or injured the victims. One of the victims even stated that Derek was not responsible. Lincolnshire Police falsely claimed that Derek had admitted the crime when he had not. There is much on record to show the crime scene was not thoroughly investigated, rendering evidence inconclusive.

While on remand and during the trial process, Derek was given the opportunity to be transferred to Broadmoor for assessment to see if he could be provoked into violent action after consuming alcohol or in a sleepwalking disorder. This was voluntary in the interests of truth, and at the Judge's suggestion, who was trying to be helpful. He was there for three nights. One night after being ordered to drink an excessive amount of vodka, he was provoked by electric shock treatment to see if he would react violently. The Consultant Psychiatrist and Medical Director reported as follows: 'Based on all the data I have examined and in addition on neurological testing including an EEG and three nights of overnight sleep studies, including one night that was provoked with alcohol, it is my opinion that Mr Derek Patterson does not have a diagnosis of sleepwalking disorder and the description of the event on the night (of the assault) does not fulfil the criteria for an automatism'. Disastrously, the report was not helpful in court, and no positive outcome at all, as the prosecution played on the fact that Derek had 'spent time' in Broadmoor and all the implications that could be drawn from this.

Derek's case went to the CCRC. They closed the file and refused to take the case further, saying they were asked to do work that should have been done before trial/appeal, but of course this was not possible because the information was not available.

The appeal against conviction and sentence in 2012: At the Three-Judge Appeal stage the judges agreed that forensic and DNA supported the appellant, but the appeal was refused because 'it would be unfair to bring complainants back to court along with experts' to return to a case 7 years old. It is likely that the experts would not need to come back to court, as their reports are still available and the three judges agreed with them. Derek had not given up hope, and in 2016 he managed to attract the attention of Bob Woffinden, an investigative journalist

specialising in miscarriages of justice, who stated in correspondence 'I do think it is inconceivable that you could have carried out this attack'. Also 'stay feisty but keep calm! You can win this', and 'I do believe that your case is a compelling one'. Sadly, Mr Woffinden was ill with cancer and died before he could take Derek's case up with the authorities. The Leicester Law School Miscarriages of Justice Project has looked at and found significant discrepancies in Derek's case. Recently accessed police scene of crime photographs have confirmed contradictions in the prosecution evidence. His MP, Catherine McKinnell (Newcastle North) has been supportive, as has Lord Ramsbotham, a cross-bench peer who was Chief Inspector of Prisons from 1991-2005 and is currently co-chair of the All Party Group on Penal Affairs. 'Derek is supported by 'Progressing Prisoners Maintaining Innocence', 'Leicester Law School Miscarriages of Justice Project' & MOJUK

Met Police Subjected 650 Children to 'Traumatising' Strip-Searches

Maryam Zakir-Hussain, Independent: More than six hundred children were forced to endure "intrusive and traumatising" strip-searches by the Metropolitan Police over a two-year period, with Black boys disproportionately targeted, figures show. Some 650 aged between 10 and 17 were strip-searched by the force's officers between 2018 and 2020, according to data obtained from Scotland Yard by the Children's Commissioner. Of these children, 58 per cent were described by the officer as being Black, and more than 95 per cent were boys.

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, requested the figures after the Child Q scandal came to light in March. The 15-year-old schoolgirl was strip-searched by police while on her period after being wrongly accused of carrying cannabis at school. The search, by female Metropolitan Police officers, took place in 2020 without another adult present and in the knowledge that she was menstruating, a safeguarding report found. A review conducted by City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) concluded the strip-search should never have happened, was unjustified and racism "was likely to have been an influencing factor".

Four Metropolitan Police officers are being investigated for gross misconduct by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) in connection with the incident. Scotland Yard has apologised and said it "should never have happened". The law firm Bhatt Murphy announced in March that the teenager was taking civil action against the Met and her school to obtain "cast-iron commitments to ensure this never happens again to any other child". Since then, the IOPC has confirmed it is investigating four further strip-searches of children between early 2020 and 2022, and is considering whether to look into three more.

The figures show that the number of strip-searches on children increased each year, up 18 per cent in 2018, 36 per cent in 2019, and 46 per cent in 2020. In almost a quarter of cases (23 per cent), strip-searches took place without an "appropriate adult" confirmed to have been present. This is required by law, except in cases of "urgency", and is usually a parent or guardian but can also be a social worker, carer or a volunteer. Two-thirds of these (70 per cent) involved Black boys.

Overall, 53 per cent of all the strip-searches resulted in no further action, which the Children's Commissioner said indicates they "may well not be justified or necessary in all cases". Dame Rachel said she was "deeply shocked" by the figures, which show that a significant number of children "are being subjected to this intrusive and traumatising practice each year". She is also "extremely concerned" at the ethnic disproportionality they reveal. I am not reassured that what happened to Child Q was an isolated issue, but instead believe it may be a particularly concerning example of a more systemic problem around child protection within the Metropolitan

Police. I remain unconvinced that the Metropolitan Police is consistently considering children's welfare and wellbeing." Dame Rachel said she has submitted the data to Baroness Louise Casey, who is carrying out a review into standards at the Met. The Children's Commissioner's team will request comparable data from all police forces across England.

A Metropolitan Police spokesperson said: "The Metropolitan Police is progressing at pace work to ensure children subject to intrusive searches are dealt with appropriately and respectfully. We recognise the significant impact such searches can have. We have already made changes and continue to work hard to balance the policing need for this type of search with the considerable impact it can have on young people. "We have ensured our officers and staff have a refreshed understanding of the policy for conducting a 'further search', particularly around the requirement for an appropriate adult to be present. We have also given officers advice around dealing with schools, ensuring that children are treated as children and considering safeguarding for those under 18. More widely we have reviewed the policy for 'further searches' for those aged under 18. This is to assure ourselves the policy is appropriate and also that it recognises the fact a child in these circumstances may well be a vulnerable victim of exploitation by others involved in gangs, county lines and drug dealing."

UDR Declassified – How a Sectarian Organisation was Encouraged by the Authorities

Andrew Lynch, Pat Finucane Centre: John Hume is rightly revered as a peacemaker who usually avoided speaking harsh words about his opponents. When it came to the Ulster Defence Regiment, however, he made an exception. "[It's like] a group of Rangers supporters put in uniform," the late SDLP leader once complained, "supplied with weapons and given the job of policing where Celtic supporters live." According to Micheál Smith's expertly researched and coolly damning new exposé, Hume was pretty much on the money. As its name suggests, UDR Declassified is based on newly released files from 10 Downing Street, the Ministry of Defence and the Northern Ireland Office. They point clearly to one conclusion - this was an inherently sectarian organisation with links to loyalist killers that successive British governments not only tolerated, but encouraged. Smith is a former diplomat with the Department of Foreign Affairs who now works as an advocacy case worker with the Pat Finucane Centre in Belfast. His book is not so much a history as a polemic, clearly written from a nationalist perspective. He puts this story in a wider historical context, presenting it as a typical example of how British colonialism worked and why it caused so much suffering.

Anti-Catholicism within the North's security forces, of course, was around long before the UDR. "Papish blood is sweet," someone chalked on a Belfast wall after five members and an employee of the McMahon business family were murdered by RUC B Specials in 1922. British prime minister Harold Wilson was one of many who regarded this reserve force as a unionist private militia. When the Troubles broke out, however, Britain could not afford to be choosy about where its footsoldiers came from. The UDR started out in 1970 as a part-time volunteer force, but soon developed into the army's largest regiment with a membership of around 6,000. Smith quotes a revealing memo from Oliver Wright, London's liaison with the Stormont government, which suggests why so many farmers, mechanics and unemployed unionists were willing to take up arms. "They fear not only the loss of political power within (their) own community, but [their] absorption into the larger society of Southern Ireland, alien in smell, backward in development and inferior in politics."

As early as 1973, an internal army report made what Smith rightly calls "a stunning admission": "It seems likely that a significant pro portion (perhaps 5 per cent - in some areas as high as 15 per cent) of UDR soldiers will also be members of the UDA, Vanguard service corps, Orange Volunteers

or the UVE This document also admitted that the UDR was "leaking" guns and helping to train "Protestant extremist groups. In other words, Britain knew full well that the line between state forces and terrorists had been well and truly crossed The UDR was allowed to continue anyway, mainly because its members had valuable local knowledge that English, Scottish and Welsh squaddies did not. They were also twice as likely to commit a crime as the general public, but Smith shows how the North's legal powers colluded to cover up their identities during trials. Downing Street's attitude was effectively what the Irish-born Duke of Wellington once said about his troops: "I don't know what they will do to the enemy, but by God they frighten me." One of the UDR's most common duties was patrolling traffic, which gave them regular opportunities to abuse their power Walton Empey, a Church of Ireland bishop, was once mistaken for a Catholic priest at a roadblock and endured what he called "an extremely unpleasant experience.

UDR men also helped to set up a bogus checkpoint and then shoot three members of the Miami Showband dead in 1975. An investigation by a Historical Enquiries Team found that the only real motive for such attacks was to "frighten (victims] friends, other Catholics and supporters of the nationalist agenda". Smith acknowledges that UDR members had their fair share of suffering too, with around 250 killed by the IRA. Fundamentally, however, his research project demolishes the "few bad apples theory usually trotted out by UDR apologists Like many books about the Troubles, this one often feels like a litany of atrocities and is not an uplifting read, but it's certainly a valuable reminder of how many skeletons are still waiting to fall out of the North's closet.

Is The Northern Ireland Troubles Legacy Bill 'Fatally' Flawed?

Ella Hopkins, Each Other: Human rights and civil liberty groups have criticised the government's proposals to grant an effective amnesty for crimes committed as part of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. The 'Troubles' is a term used to describe a period of conflict in Northern Ireland that lasted over 30 years, up until the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998. The Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill attempts to address more than 1,000 unsolved killings. Now, rights groups have said the Bill violates the UK's human rights obligations. People accused of committing atrocities during the Troubles could be given 'conditional' immunity from prosecution if they cooperate with 'truth recovery investigations'. The government plans to establish a new statutory body, the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR), to handle investigations. Violating the right to life? In May, Alyson Kilpatrick, chair of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC), described the Bill as "fatally flawed". Kilpatrick claims that the Bill is incompatible with The right to life, under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The ECHR is enshrined into Northern Irish law through the Good Friday Agreement. In an evidence session with the Northern Ireland Committee in June, Kilpatrick said the Bill could not become compatible with human rights and would breach the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA). She highlighted that preventing prosecutions for serious Troubles-related crimes would amount to a "very substantial interference with the rule of law". States under the ECHR should conduct independent and effective investigations into deaths caused by the state or in cases where the state failed to protect life. Kilpatrick said that the proposals meant that investigations into crimes by the ICRIR would not meet requirements set out under the ECHR. Grainne Teggart, deputy director for Amnesty International Northern Ireland, said that the Bill proposes to deny victims of the Troubles "truth, justice and accountability". Teggart highlighted that the Bill was being pushed through the UK Parliament "at alarming speed" in conjunction with the government's Bill of Rights.