

Boudica UK's Best Known Terrorist Acquitted of All Charges

Patrick Kidd, The Times: A mother of two from Norfolk walked free from the Supreme Court after being acquitted by a jury of committing terrorist acts involving the death of some 80,000 civilians and the sacking of three cities. By a margin of ten to one, the 50-strong jury accepted the argument that her trail of carnage down the A12 was a justified act of self-defence against "a rotten and illegitimate Roman government". Boudica, 2,000 (years ago give or take), known in some quarters as Boadicea, pleaded not guilty to the charge under the Terrorism Act 2000 that between the first day of January 60 and January 62 she had "used action involving serious violence against persons, namely the inhabitants of Camulodunum, Londinium and Verulamium" in an attempt to repel the government of Rome and advance the cause of Iceni secession.

The prosecution, brought on behalf of the Senate and People of Rome, was led by Alison Morgan QC, who has been involved in recent terrorism prosecutions including the attempted bomb attacks in London on July 21, 2005, and a plot to bomb the London Stock Exchange. She was leading counsel in the case of Khairi Saadallah, who murdered three in a terrorist attack in Reading in June last year. Morgan urged the jury not to fall for Boudica's image as a flame-haired saviour of Britannia. "Do not buy the hype," she said, claiming that Boudica was in part acting in revenge for her late husband, Prasutagus, making the Emperor Nero co-heir to his estate, and that while the Romans had flogged the queen and raped her daughters "that cannot justify an act of mass murder". The Romans were running a functioning government, Morgan argued, and Boudica's actions were therefore insurrection. "It is important to acknowledge the principle that protects us all from serious violence perpetrated because one individual feels they are entitled to take action," she said.

Opening for the defence, Thomas Grant QC, said "this brave woman" had been the victim of "scurrilous Roman propaganda" and had been resisting an illegitimate occupier. "I am confident that a British jury will do justice to a Briton," he said. "What have the Romans ever done for us?" Apart, he conceded, from the aqueduct. He said that after she made a "mild protest", the Romans had acted so violently towards her that her revolt was "the only conceivable response".

Boudica was finally defeated at the Battle of Watling Street by the Roman governor Gaius Suetonius Paulinus. She is said to have committed suicide by poisoning herself, though was looking in good health in the dock, if not quite how Cassius Dio described her: "In stature very tall, in appearance most terrifying, in the glance of her eye most fierce and her voice was harsh." The moot trial was presided over by Lord Justice Stephens, a Supreme Court judge, who told Boudica that she was at liberty to reclaim her spear from security and retire to her plinth by Westminster Bridge "without any stain on your character and remain as a national symbol of an inspirational hero".

High Court Judge Satisfied that Omagh bombing Could Have Been Prevented

There is "no doubt" authorities could have made life uncomfortable for dissident republicans in the run up to the Omagh bombing, a judge has said. He said measures such as roadblocks near their homes could arguably have prevented the 1998 attack. Mr Justice Mark Horner was explaining his reasons for urging a cross-border investigation. In response, the Northern

Ireland Office said it would "carefully consider" a fresh investigation. The judge said full sharing of surveillance and mobile phone-tracking evidence may have disrupted the bombers. The Real IRA attack in 1998 claimed the lives of 29 people, including a woman pregnant with twins. It was the biggest single atrocity in the history of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Court Delivers Omagh Bombing Judgment: Mr Justice Horner, handing down the judgement on Friday 8th October 2021, said he was satisfied that there were certain grounds which give rise to plausible arguments that there was a real prospect of preventing the Omagh bombing that deserve to be fully investigated through an Article 2 ECHR compliant investigation. While not within his power to order an investigation in the Republic of Ireland, the judge said there would be real advantage if one were to take place simultaneously with one in Northern Ireland. The court received Open and Closed material during the hearing. The judge, delivered his reasons for reaching this conclusion in an Open judgment. He did not reach a conclusion on the evidence that there was a real prospect of preventing the bomb and said this was a matter for any inquiry.

"I am satisfied that grounds 2, 6, 7 and 9 when considered separately or together give rise to plausible arguments that there was a real prospect of preventing the Omagh bombing. These grounds involve, inter alia, the consideration of terrorist activity on both sides of the border by prominent dissident terrorist republicans leading up to the Omagh bomb. It will necessarily involve the scrutiny of both Open and Closed material obtained on both sides of the border. It is not within my power to order any type of investigation to take place in the Republic of Ireland but there is a real advantage in an Article 2 compliant investigation proceeding in the Republic of Ireland simultaneously with one in Northern Ireland. Any investigation will have to look specifically at the issue of whether a more proactive campaign of disruption, especially if co-ordinated, north and south of the border, had a real prospect of preventing the Omagh bombing and whether, without the benefit of hindsight, the potential advantages of taking a much more aggressive approach to policing the suspected terrorists outweighed the potential disadvantages inherent in such an approach. I am not going to order a public inquiry to look at the arguable grounds of preventability. I do not intend to be prescriptive. However, it is for the government(s) to hold an investigation that is Article 2 compliant and which can receive both Open and Closed materials on grounds 2, 6, 7 and 9."

Inquest Jury Rules Lewis Skelton Shot by Hull Police Unlawfully Killed

Tom Ambrose, Guardian: Lewis Skelton, 31, died after he was shot twice by a police officer in Hull after Tasers had no effect on him, a jury at Hull coroner's court heard. The inquest heard how Skelton was shot after failing to respond to officers' instructions to stop on 29 November 2016. Humberside police deployed armed police after it received three 999 calls saying a man was carrying an axe. Skelton, who was known to have mental health issues, was confronted by officers.

The officer who fired the fatal shots – only identified as B50 – said Skelton failed to stop when challenged. A Taser was used four times by that officer and by his colleague, identified only as Charlie, but it had no effect. Skelton was then shot twice in the back with a Glock pistol. He was pronounced dead at hospital. The officer said he fired his gun because he believed Skelton, who had started jogging, was a threat to the lives of a group of people who were walking towards him in the street.

Skelton's sister, Tia, said the verdict had only confirmed the family's view that the "Killing of Lewis was wrong. It has been incredibly difficult for us to hear and see all the evidence. There was nothing to suggest that Lewis was aggressive or dangerous on that day, his final moments must have been ones of terror and fear and this is so hard as a family to know." She also

criticised media reports at the time of the shooting, which reported Skelton was a “crazed axeman” or “axe-wielding”, which she claimed was not what witnesses recounted.

However, Humberside police said it was “disappointed” with the jury’s conclusion and described the incident as a “split-second decision to protect the public”. Chris Noble, the assistant chief constable of Humberside, told BBC News: “We are disappointed with this conclusion and are concerned that it does not undermine the confidence of officers to act decisively when making split-second decisions to protect the public.” He added that the Independent Office for Police Conduct had found the officer’s actions to be “proportionate to the risk that was identified to members of the public”.

UK Prisoners Allowed to Play Chess in Global Online Tournament

Caroline Davies, Guardian: The benefits of chess have long been extolled for retaining mental agility and as an escape from boredom, making it the perfect pastime for prisoners confined to four walls. So the decision to grant inmates at two prisons in England permission to play competitive chess in an international tournament for the first time, allowing them direct access to the internet to make their moves from prison computers, has been lauded by campaigners. Access to the internet is severely restricted in UK prisons and largely limited to education. But the Ministry of Justice has approved prisoners from the category B HMP Wandsworth in London and the category D open prison HMP Hollesley Bay in Suffolk to take part in the first Intercontinental Online Championship for Prisoners.

On a previous occasion, prisoners were indirectly allowed to play against online opponents. But security concerns meant they were not allowed to access the computers themselves. Instead, prison officers and volunteers inputted and relayed the moves for them. With just 10 minutes permitted in a game, this time-consuming method proved impractical and they lost all their matches. This time they can make their moves on the computers themselves. The four-man England team are all members of prison chess clubs, set up by the UK charity Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC). The charity has been working with prison authorities and the technology provider Novus to ensure the games are played securely.

As part of the two-day event, started on Wednesday 13/10/2021, the England team took on inmates from prisons in 31 countries including the US, Russia, Croatia, Portugal and Trinidad and Tobago. The tournament will be played under the auspices of the International Chess Federation. An MoJ spokesperson said it was an exception and confirmed it was understood to be the first time prisoners have been permitted to take part in an online competition. It comes as chess enjoys increased popularity, due in part to the hit Netflix TV series *The Queen’s Gambit*. CSC’s prisons coordinator, Peter Sullivan, who has run a thriving chess club at HMP Wandsworth for more than three years, has trained the England team. Its captain is the CSC chief executive, Malcolm Pein, an international master.

Pein said the charity’s ambition was to establish a chess club in every prison and young offender institution. He said: “Chess instils mental self-discipline, problem-solving skills and the ability to concentrate. It has a positive effect on behaviour as it relieves boredom and was a lifeline to some prisoners during lockdown. At Wandsworth there are games of chess being played all day long. For some prisoners it has relieved the isolation they’ve felt inside by being able to enjoy a shared activity with other prisoners that crosses all language and cultural barriers.” Of the international competition, Pein said: “Our prison team has been preparing for six months and they are highly motivated and excited by the prospect of playing the Russians. If we get to the final we just have to hope that the internet connections hold up.”

From inmate to checkmate: The most famous chess-playing inmate was the convicted murderer Claude Bloodgood, who would have qualified for the US championships had he not been serving a life sentence for killing his mother. Bloodgood gamed the United States Chess Federation system by playing thousands of games against fellow inmates, nearly all of which he won. His success against this closed pool of players, many of whom he had taught himself, secured him one of the highest chess ratings in the US. He also authored a chess book on an offbeat and aggressive chess opening entitled *The Tactical Grob*. He reportedly played a number of chess games against the actor Humphrey Bogart, who was a good amateur player.

Natan Sharansky, a human rights activist who campaigned for the right of Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel, was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1977 in Russia on a fabricated charge of spying for the Americans. The child chess prodigy spent nine years in prison. Half of that time was spent in solitary confinement and for more than 400 days he was locked in a punishment cell where he was forbidden to read or write. He played chess games in his head to keep himself sane, moving for both sides, white and black. “Thousands of games – I won them all,” he said.

Plans to Hand Over NHS Data to Police Sparks Warning From Government Adviser

Shaun Lintern, Independent: Plans to force the NHS to share confidential data with police forces across England are “very problematic” and could see patients giving false information to doctors, the government’s data watchdog has warned. In her first national interview, the data guardian for England told *The Independent* she has serious concerns over Home Office plans to impose a responsibility on the NHS to share patient data with police which she said “sets aside” the duty of confidentiality for clinicians. Dr Nicola Byrne also warned that emergency powers brought in to allow the sharing of data to help tackle the spread of Covid-19 could not run on indefinitely after they were extended to March 2022.

Dr Byrne, 46, who has had a 20-year career in mental health, also warned against the lack of regulation over the way companies were collecting, storing and sharing patient data via health apps. She told *The Independent* she had raised concerns with the government over clauses in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which is going through the House of Lords later this month. The legislation could impose a duty on NHS bodies to disclose private patient data to police to prevent serious violence and crucially sets aside a duty of confidentiality on clinicians collecting information when providing care. Dr Byrne said doing so could “erode trust and confidence, and deter people from sharing information and even from presenting for clinical care”. She added that it was not clear what exact information would be covered by the bill: “The case isn’t made as to why that is necessary. These things need to be debated openly and in public.” Opinion polls commissioned by the data guardian since 2018 have shown a high level of concern by the public about their health data falling into the wrong hands.

The most recent Kantar poll shows that 67 per cent of the public are worried about cyberattacks, while 69 per cent are worried about data being shared unlawfully or accidentally with companies or organisations outside the NHS. The national data guardian is appointed by the health secretary as an independent watchdog over the use of patient data in healthcare. Dr Byrne was appointed in March this year after a 20-year career working in mental health and serving as a chief clinical information officer at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. “We have really got to be straight with people about what we are doing. Engaging the public and getting the social licence is not a one-off. It’s not a sheep dip exercise. The involvement of the public has to be baked into the infrastructure of our systems,”

she said. Dr Bryne added: “It’s very important the government proceeds with extreme caution with any broader sharing of data across government departments. We have got to make sure that no assumptions are made about the data landscape post-pandemic, that there is no compromise of the importance of privacy and confidentiality. “We need to be very clear that emergency use of the emergency powers is short term and only to the end of the pandemic, and only for the purposes of the Covid response. There has to be an endpoint.”

And if these freedoms were extended, she said patients “may give incomplete information or even not present. It could undermine the confidence in the whole system and that can’t be overstated”. “Data is a joint creation between patient and clinician, and we risk changing the nature of that relationship,” she added. And she said the recent furore over the plans to share more GP patient data was an example of assumptions being made about what the public would tolerate.

During 2020-21, the Information Commissioner’s office received more reports of data security breaches in health than in any other sector of business or public service. There were 1,512 breaches in health, compared with a UK total of 8,815 for all breaches. Dr Byrne, who took over from Dame Fiona Caldicott following her death in February, continues to work part-time as a psychiatrist in south London. A government spokesperson said: “Violent crime will not be reduced unless all parts of the government and public services work together – we owe this to the family and friends of those who have been tragically stabbed to death. “Appropriate safeguards are in place and any information shared must be proportionate. The Bill makes clear that information can only be shared in accordance with data protection laws.”

Unannounced Inspection of HMP/YOI Deerbolt by HMCIP

Charlie Taylor, HMCIP: Deerbolt is a prison and young offender institution located near to Barnard Castle in County Durham. The establishment is normally capable of holding more than 500 young adult prisoners aged 18 to 24 years old, but a rolling programme of refurbishment and upgrades meant that this number had been dramatically reduced and only 265 prisoners were held at the time of our visit. Of these, nearly two-thirds were under the age of 21.

When we last inspected Deerbolt in 2018 we found a prison that was reasonably safe and respectful, but one that surprisingly, bearing in mind the resources available, needed to improve the regime experienced by those detained and its approach to the rehabilitation and resettlement of prisoners about to be released. ***At this inspection we again found a mixed picture, showing a deterioration in safety outcomes and the quality of regime,*** but improvement in work towards resettlement.

Deerbolt had been impacted significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic which partly explained the deterioration of the regime. Leaders and managers had taken effective action to minimise the spread of the virus, although at the time of our visit the prison had been declared an outbreak site for the third time in recent months. One prisoner and six members of staff had tested positive and a larger group of staff were isolating after being contacted by NHS test and trace. All prisoners and staff had been offered the vaccine and regular testing was available. This is important context, but it remained the case that the ***experience was very poor for these young prisoners who were typically spending 23 hours a day locked in cell with little structured activity. The impact of this on prisoners was stark and much more needed to be done, and greater ambition shown, in making sure that more work, education and recreational activity was reintroduced as a priority.*** This was particularly disappointing given the large amounts of outdoor space at the prison.

In contrast, the prison had made commendable improvements to sentence planning and risk management arrangements and we were confident there were plans in place to develop this work further. Similarly, we noted some good work to support care leavers and the introduction of a new and interesting initiative to support young people as they transitioned to Deerbolt from juvenile facilities during their sentence. Outcomes in health care, mental health care and social care were likewise much improved and ensured some positive outcomes.

It was clear to us that the governor had a vision for Deerbolt’s future, but it was perhaps less clear how progress would be measured or how and when the vision could be realised. During the inspection itself, leaders did make some improvements in response to our feedback and findings. While welcome, this confirmed to us a somewhat reactive approach to issues and the absence of a useful plan which identified priorities and timeframes for progress. Oversight of violence reduction measures, for example, was poor, which led to a response that was reactive and limited rather than one which dealt with the underlying conflict and issues. This will need to be addressed as the regime improves.

Rise in Deaths of People Detained Under ‘The Mental Health Act’

INQUEST: The Care Quality Commission reported that between 1 March 2020 to 3 September 2021 they were notified of 668 deaths of detained patients. Of these 179 related to Covid-19 and 489 did not. Thirty-six of those people were reported as having a learning disability or Autism, most of whom also had a mental health diagnosis. The majority of these (25) did not relate to Covid-19. Recent inquests have highlighted a number of recurring issues in mental health and secure care settings nationally. We are particularly alarmed by repeated incidents involving mental health patients being able to access items which should be restricted, with fatal consequences. This was identified in the inquests of Joshua Sahota, Samantha Pounsberry and Sarah Price, who were all able to access the same item to self-harm, despite the known risks.

The inquest into the death of Ben King, a man with Down’s syndrome and a severe learning disability, concluded making a number of criticisms of the care he received. He died in July 2020, after spending over two years at Cawston Park, a now closed hospital for people with learning disabilities where two other people died in recent years. His mother, alongside the parents of Joanna Bailey, spoke to The Sunday Mirror. The families of three young people who all died in the same hospital in Manchester have also been speaking out in The Manchester Evening News. Rowan Thompson, Charlie Millers, and Ania Sohail died in Prestwich Hospital in the past 12 months in concerning circumstances. We have called for urgent action from the Care Quality Commission to ensure other young people are kept safe.

396 Prisoners Died in the 12 months to June 2021

INQUEST: This is over a third higher than the previous 12 months and the highest rate of deaths per 1000 prisoners on record. Of these, 80 deaths were self-inflicted, a 3% increase. These statistics reveal the devastating impact of Covid-19 and highly restricted prison regimes on both mental and physical health of people in prisons. Our Head of Policy, Louise Finer, spoke to BBC File on 4 about the broader failings in the prison healthcare system which are contributing to yet more preventable deaths. In September, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman published their report on a particularly shocking death in prison – the death of a baby at HMP Bronzefield in 2019. INQUEST is working with the mother’s legal team and responded: “This harrowing report exposes the inhumane treatment of a young woman in

need. It is further evidence of the inability and inappropriateness of prisons for keeping people facing serious trauma safe, and in this case their new born babies.”

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, alongside family campaigner Linda Allan, have published research on Fatal Accident Inquiries (FAI - the equivalent of inquests) on deaths in prison in Scotland. Over a 15 year period, their analysis found that FAI's are taking three or more years to conclude, and in 94% no recommendations are made to prevent future deaths. Meanwhile, the number of deaths in Scottish prisons has risen. INQUEST joined the researchers and campaigners in calling for action to challenge this failing system. We support the campaign led by Women in Prison and Birth Companions, calling for the Government to stop sending pregnant women to prison. Join us by signing and sharing the petition. Virtual Hearings Eroding Defendants' Rights 'To The Point Where They're Non-Existent'

Noah Robinson, Justice Gap: Plans to expand the use of remote hearings via video and audio links in criminal proceedings will undermine the right to a fair trial, according to lawyers. In a new briefing, FairTrial, Transform Justice and Just for Kids Law call the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which proposes to roll out the use of video and audio introduced last year as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic the 'most dangerous piece of criminal justice legislation in years'.

The European Court of Human Rights has previously ruled that face to face presence at a hearing is a 'necessary precondition' of the right to a fair trial and appearing virtually threatens that right. The new briefing argues remote participation 'cannot be treated as equivalent' to physical participation as undermines this guarantee. According to a survey of professionals working in the courts including defence lawyers, judges, police, and CPS conducted by FairTrial, more than seven out of 10 respondents said COVID-19 had had a 'negative impact on suspects' ability to access prompt in-person legal assistance. More than six out of 10 respondents (63%) felt that remote hearings made it more difficult for defendants to participate in the proceedings. This may be due to practical challenges such as technical difficulties or the complex process of appearing virtually. One of the respondents said: 'The rights of the defendant, and considerations for the defendant, are being eroded to the point where they are non-existent.'

'We are aware that some solicitors and barristers have expressed the view that the increased use virtual hearings is a positive development, particularly for efficiency reasons, but the results of this survey show that the majority of lawyers have significant concerns about their impact on defendants' rights,' say the three groups. 'We are concerned that the Government could promote remote hearings as a way to address the backlog of criminal cases built up during the lockdown (and over the years prior to the pandemic) without adequately addressing these concerns.'

There is particular concern for unrepresented individuals, who may not have been given the appropriate advice about the benefits of appearing in-person. In a report by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, it was found that individuals whose cases were handled remotely were more likely to receive a custodial sentence. In a traditional court setting, individuals were more likely to receive fines or other community sentences. From such findings, the briefing suggests that this demonstrates a significant worry about the equal provision of justice.

Similar apprehensions are expressed about how the use of virtual hearings will impact disabled people in the criminal justice system. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has previously stated that remote justice may 'place protected groups at further disadvantages and deepen entrenched inequality'. The briefing shows that video hearings are unsuitable for disabled people, particularly those with learning difficulties, cognitive impairment or mental health conditions; the opportunity to identify and make accommodations were lost or limited through the use of remote justice.

UFFC Annual Remembrance Rally & Procession 2021- Deaths in Custody

This years annual remembrance procession which takes place in Central London on Saturday 30 October 2021. Every year since 1999, the UFFC holds its annual remembrance procession from Trafalgar Square to Downing Street to remember loved ones who have died in custody. Come and support the families of those who have died at the hands of police, prison and secure medical units in the United Kingdom. The UFFC annual procession is supported by: Black Lives Matter UK, 4WardEverUK, Migrant Media, INQUEST, UNISON, RMT, FBU, UNITE, Tottenham Rights, Sisters Uncut, London Campaign Against Police & State Violence, LARAG, Newham Monitoring Project (NMP), Pan African Society Community Forum, Institute of Race Relations, Edge Fund, National Union of Students and DTRTP. The United Families & Friends Campaign is a coalition of families and friends of those that have died in the custody of police and prison officers as well as those who are killed in secure immigration units and psychiatric hospitals. "We look forward to seeing you – No Justice No Peace"

Northern Ireland Secretary Failed To Comply With Abortion Duty

Alexandra Topping, Guardian: Justice Colton said, "Between April 2020 and March 2021, the Secretary of State failed to comply with his duties under section 9 of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019 to "expeditiously" provide women in Northern Ireland with access to high quality abortion and post abortion services". The ruling will put the government in Westminster under pressure to address the situation in Northern Ireland, where women are struggling to access safe abortion services more than 18 months after the procedure was made legal in the country. Experts have said women are still having to use unregulated services and travel to England and Ireland, including during the pandemic.

Abortion was decriminalised in Northern Ireland in October 2019 after a Westminster vote led by the Labour MP Stella Creasy took advantage of a paralysed Stormont, despite an 11th-hour attempt by the region's assembly to block the change. But since then Northern Ireland's Department of Health has not commissioned or funded any services. Some trusts have attempted providing a service without funding or a commissioned framework, with some areas relying on a single clinician.

Kevan Thakrar: Frankland Prison – As Racist As Ever

Nicki Jameson, FRFI: HMP Frankland the most northerly of England's high security prisons and has a longstanding reputation for being the one staffed by the most racist prison officers, who in turn collaborate with racist prisoners to make the lives of Black, Asian and Muslim prisoners as hellish as possible. So bad was this in the early 2000s that prisoners dubbed one wing of the prison 'Mississippi'. Life sentence prisoner Kevan Thakrar was last in Frankland in 2010 and writes here about his fears for his brother Miran, who was recently sent back to that prison.

In 2010 my brother Miran Thakrar was brutally attacked in Frankland segregation unit because the scum prison staff had decided to go on a spree of targeted assaults against all the Muslims located there. Being the cowards they are, they first got dressed in full riot gear, then ordered each of the prisoners to stand at the back of their cells facing away from the door. They then opened the cells and charged in with the shields, before all going into a frenzy against the victim. I sought to report these crimes from my position within G-wing; however, a gang fronted by the senior officer came to my cell to threaten me. This escalated into them attacking me on multiple occasions before making false allegations against me when one attack did not go how they planned.

I was transferred out of Frankland but my brother remained for several days being tortured

in the seg, left in the cell 24 hours a day and only given food thrown onto the floor, on the rare occasion he was given any. The decision was made to get him out for his own safety as the seg staff clearly could not be trusted not to kill him. It would not have been the first prisoner murdered in that seg. Paul Day was well known to have been killed by the scum in 2002, and they regularly boasted of it. Neither of us returned to Frankland after that, but with the repeated promotion of some of the worst racists in the country, the management of the high security prison system now actively encourages the torture of all prisoners who are either Muslim or of colour. My brother has therefore now been deemed suitable to return to Frankland, and was immediately located in the seg. The significant threat to his life cannot be ignored.

All those who are outraged at this situation, please make your voices heard. You can write to your local MP insisting they pass your concerns to the Secretary of State for Justice for him to explain. You can write to Richard Vince Executive Director of High Security Prisons at LTHSE, 5 Love Lane, Wakefield WF2 9AG. You can write to the governor of HMP Frankland, Brasside, Durham DH1 5YD. You can contact the Independent Monitoring Board. And you can attend the prison in person to shout your objections, and let those inside know that people outside are watching.

Kevan Thakrar A4907AE, HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, Thameside, London SE28
Miran Thakrar A4076AE, H.M.P Frankland, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5YD

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CPS Drop Terrorism Charges Against Administrator of Anarchist Website

Tayab Ali, Leigh Day: In one of the only prosecutions of an alleged anarchist under modern terrorism legislation in the UK, not guilty verdicts have been recorded in relation to four terrorism charges against Toby Shone after the Crown Prosecution Service offered no evidence in respect of the charges. Mr Shone had been charged with providing a service enabling others to access terrorist publications contrary to section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006, fundraising for terrorist purposes contrary to section 15 of the Terrorism Act 2000, and two counts of possession of information likely to be useful to a terrorist contrary to section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000. He had pleaded not guilty to these charges earlier this year and was due to stand trial at Bristol Crown Court on 6 October 2021 until the charges were dropped. Mr Shone, who has suffered from cancer, cancer-related depression and suspected PTSD, pleaded guilty on a reduced basis to eight psychedelic drug offences. These included joint possession of class A drugs including LSD and psilocybin (magic mushrooms) with intent to supply on a non-commercial basis, offering to supply a class A drug, DMT, to a friend, production of a class B drug, cannabis, and simple possession of class A drugs, DMT and MDMA, and a class B drug, THC oil. Mr Shone pleaded guilty on the basis that he was using these drugs to treat his medical conditions. Any supply was to friends and visitors on a non-commercial basis. On Wednesday 13 October, he was sentenced to three years and nine months' imprisonment. He has already served eight months of his sentence.

National Security Court Backs Refugee in Secret Ruling

There is little that can sensibly be said about RT v SSHD SN/72/2019, heard by the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC). In making its decision, SIAC rejected all of RT's grounds for judicial review, but found in his favour anyway on the basis of secret evidence. The claimant, a refugee from Algeria, challenged the refusal of his naturalisation application. The Home Office had rejected it on national security grounds but provided extremely limited reasons — the refusal letter simply stated that RT "may be supportive of acts of terrorism". SIAC found that there were reasons for the decision; RT just wasn't entitled to know what they were. Under SIAC's special procedural rules, the Home Office is permitted to present secret evidence in "closed" proceedings. This undoubtedly places claimants and appellants at an unfair disadvantage. Only RT's special advocate, a lawyer appointed for him and vetted by the government, is allowed to see the secret evidence. He or she cannot discuss it with RT or his lawyers. RT's special advocate seemed to spot two reasons on the secret evidence that the decision should be quashed. But since SIAC's judgment on the secret evidence is itself secret, we cannot know what these reasons are: Despite our dismissal of all five OPEN grounds of appeal, and for reasons contained in our CLOSED judgment, we have concluded that the decision must nonetheless be quashed and remitted to the [Home Secretary]. The case does, however, demonstrate just how opaque SIAC proceedings can be.

Would You Like to Feature in a Miscarriage of Justice Podcast?

If you are a campaigner, family member, or organization helping someone convicted of a serious crime who maintains innocence, then we want to hear from you. Alternatively, perhaps you were wrongly convicted yourself, and your conviction has been overturned, or you are out on license at the end of your sentence. We are offering the opportunity for you to tell listeners about the evidence proving your innocence because we are currently inviting submissions from anyone who wants to raise their innocence profile with new or old cases. There are no costs involved if you want to feature in an interview on the Jeremy Bamber and White House Farm Podcast, Season 2. You will be interviewed either in person, on Zoom or by phone. Miscarriage of justice cases often have the same patterns, for example, non-disclosure or police corruption, and our community of listeners have a great understanding of how these cases work and would recognize where your case fits into this broader pattern.

Contact 'Jeremy Bamber Innocence Campaign' with the following:

- Outline of your/their case.
- Evidence that supports your/their innocence. This will be featured on the programme, so you will need 1-3 pieces of evidence to discuss in depth.
- Types of evidence need to be more than circumstantial. They can be anything from forensic reports, or straightforward case papers you are seeking forensic analysis of, police documents, witness testimony, legal documents, CCTV, or blood or DNA evidence.
- The interview will be conducted in a professional manner by one of the campaign team. There will be no counterargument to your evidence because this is an innocence platform offering you an opportunity to tell listeners about the evidence of why you, or your relative or friend, is innocent.

Jeremy Bamber Podcast. Is released weekly on a Wednesday to active streamers and downloaders. It covers the evidence in the Jeremy Bamber case, which was a shooting at a farmhouse in 1985 where five people died. Jeremy maintains innocence. He currently has submissions with the Criminal Cases Review Commission, the body which reviews appeal applications. The Podcast is funded by donations and operated by Jeremy Bamber Innocence Campaign, who are a team of volunteers working towards freedom for Jeremy who write programmes and conduct interviews. It is produced by a small production company with the help of volunteer actors. This could be a start for you to get exposure in the UK, and around the world. The Podcast attracts investigative journalists, documentary makers, lawyers and a host of other people who might be able to help you by offering information or assistance; because you never know what is around the corner that might help your cause. Our podcasts are scheduled many months in advance, so do write to us as soon as you can. If you would like more exposure on your case, and to feature on one of the most high-profile case podcasts in the true crime genre today, then contact: JB Campaign Ltd 61 Bridge Street, Kington, HR5 3DJ

Racial Bias In Facial Recognition Software - Union Files Claim Against Uber

Adam Carey, Local Government Lawyer: A workers' union has filed a claim alleging that a facial recognition algorithm used by Uber is leading to the termination of darker-skinned workers at a disproportionate rate. The Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain (IWGB) alleges that the ride-sharing company's Real-Time ID Check software is five times more likely to cause the termination of darker-skinned workers. At the beginning of the month, the union filed a claim for indirect racial discrimination on behalf of one of its members. According to the union, the member's account was wrongly terminated following a facial recognition error. Two further claims were made on the worker's behalf, including a claim that Uber denied the claimant's right to paid holidays while they were working for the company up until March 2021 when Uber agreed to pay all its drivers for annual leave.

UFFC Annual Remembrance Rally & Procession 2021- Deaths in Custody

This year's annual remembrance procession takes place in Central London on Saturday 30 October 2021. Every year since 1999, the UFFC holds its annual remembrance procession from Trafalgar Square to Downing Street to remember loved ones who have died in custody. Come and support the families of those who have died at the hands of police, prison and secure medical units in the United Kingdom. The UFFC annual procession is supported by: Black Lives Matter UK, 4WardEverUK, Migrant Media, INQUEST, UNISON, RMT, FBU, UNITE, Tottenham Rights, Sisters Uncut, London Campaign Against Police & State Violence, LARAG, Newham Monitoring Project (NMP), Pan African Society Community Forum, Institute of Race Relations, Edge Fund, National Union of Students, DTRTP, MOJUK. The United Families & Friends Campaign is a coalition of families and friends of those that have died in the custody of police and prison officers as well as those who are killed in secure immigration units and psychiatric hospitals. "We look forward to seeing you – No Justice No Peace"

Russia: Ban on Life Prisoners' Telephone Calls Violations of Articles 8 & 6

Danil Aleksandrovich Danilevich, is a Russian national who was born in 1982 and lived in Naberezhnyye Chelny, Tatarstan (Russia). He is currently serving a life sentence, having been convicted in August 2007 of banditry, illegal possession of firearms, kidnapping, extortion, murder and other crimes committed while a member of an organised criminal group that operated in Tatarstan and other Russian regions from the 1990s to the early 2000s. In Chamber judgment in the case of Danilevich v. Russia (application no. 31469/08) the European Court of Human Rights held, unanimously, that there had been: a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The case concerned the applicant being deprived of telephone contact with his relatives, including his young son, whilst serving a life sentence under the strict prison regime. That special prison regime involves, among other things, a complete ban on telephone calls except in emergency situations for at least the first ten years of prisoners' life sentences. The Court found that the ban imposed by domestic law on life-sentenced prisoners' telephone contact under the strict regime had been disproportionate. Detention, like any other measure depriving a person of his liberty, entailed inherent limitations on a prisoner's rights. However, it was an essential part of the right to respect for family life that the prison authorities assist prisoners in maintaining contact with close family. Court also found- a violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair hearing) of the Convention. The case concerned a hearing in the applicant's civil case brought to challenge the ban on telephone calls with his family which had been held in his absence. The Court found a violation following its well-established case-law.

Serving Prisoners Supported by MOJUK: Derek Patterson, Walib Habid, Giovanni Di Stefano, Naweed Ali, Khobaib Hussain, Mohibur Rahman, Tahir Aziz, Roger Khan, Wang Yam, Andrew Malkinson, Michael Ross, Mark Alexander, Anis Sardar, Jamie Green, Dan Payne, Zoran Dresic, Scott Birtwistle, Jon Beere, Chedwyn Evans, Darren Waterhouse, David Norris, Brendan McConville, John Paul Wooton, John Keelan, Mohammed Niaz Khan, Abid Ashiq Hussain, Sharaz Yaqub, David Ferguson, Anthony Parsons, James 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, Warren Slaney, Melvyn 'Adie' McLellan, Lyndon Coles, Robert Bradley, Thomas G. Bourke, David E. Ferguson, Lee Mockble, George Coleman, Neil Hurley, Jaslyn Ricardo Smith, James Dowsett, Kevan & Miran Thakrar, Jordan Towers, Patrick Docherty, Brendan Dixon, Paul Bush, Alex Black, Nicholas Rose, Kevin Nunn, Peter Carine, Paul Higginson, Robert Knapp, Thomas Petch, Vincent and Sean Bradish, John Allen, Jeremy Bamber, Kevin Lane, Michael Brown, Robert William Kenealy, Glyn Razzell, Willie Gage, Kate Keaveney, Michael Stone, Michael Attwooll, John Roden, Nick Tucker, Karl Watson, Terry Allen, Richard Southern, Peter Hannigan