

Officers of the security state and others who support or profit financially from the security economy, be on notice:

The UK, US & EU governments are intent on turning society into an authoritarian police state-in-the-making. Not only is this morally wrong and an abuse of power, it also directly prevents the very openness and democratic processes necessary to build a good society. As non-violent activists we feel this keenly, for we who campaign for a just world now find ourselves forced to defend our essential political freedom.

The restrictions on assembly, freedom to protest, rising surveillance and encouragement of a 'snoop' culture, the removal of hard won rights like habeus corpus and many other rights; these are totally unacceptable in a democratic society. And those who support these laws, whether as legislators, enforcers or apologists for the status quo are collectively guilty of abuse of power and should be prosecuted. Are you aware that our ancestors died for these principles? We will not allow you to give them away!

We therefore hold you and all other relevant government bodies responsible, including the Home Office, the Cabinet, police force and local councils who crave ever-greater means of surveillance and control over the populace. And we hold guilty those companies that directly benefit from the selling of surveillance equipment or who are inappropriately shielded from our democratic protest at their cruel and dangerous activities. And we denounce the state that colludes with these corporations.

We call upon you, good people within these organisations to end your blind acceptance of these laws and the various wrong-headed doctrines that support their enactment, including the war on terror. All doctrines that encourage the notion we need a civil liberties crackdown are false doctrines!

We demand that you

- 1 .Scrap ID cards & the proposed database state
- 2 Bring about strict punishment for abuse of power (like arresting peaceful protesters under anti-terror law)
- 3) End council powers to snoop on its residents
- 4) Repeal SOCPA s132, 128, 145
- 5) Abort the Counter Terror Bill

And this is just the beginning! Stop the persecution of dissidents, for these are the lifeblood of any democratic society. Recognise that dissident actions, whether against state or other co-called anti-social behaviour; these are usually born of necessity. They are symptomatic: of perpetuated injustices, of the failure of economic and political power structures to include everyone, of the need for a wide debate, deliberation and inclusive legislative process about the direction of society. Without justice, no peace! Protests and anti-social behaviour reflect our collective failure to create a good and authentically democratic society. Do you not see that we dissidents are good, because we want a society in which all can have their freedom to self-determination in solidarity with one another, and not just a few? And the irony that we cannot possibly achieve this by being demonized? Without a whole-scale reappraisal of how our society operates, justice cannot be secured. But this is now impossible under our vote and closed media/celebrity culture system because those with power will not let the necessary, and serious ideas

into the mainstream. We are peaceful, but we can see why the terrorist blows up a plane to get on the agenda, even if we disagree with means and ends.

We demand the government adopts a new approach to dissidents. If not, levels of terror, protest and general civil unrest will only grow. Reinstating civil liberties and human rights for all, but at the same time you must enlarge them. Open up the public sphere for peaceful activists! We need a full debate in the mainstream media, so that the views of non-violent, non-sectarian dissidents (those many radicals now excluded from the coverage their causes deserve) can be heard, and their ideas openly debated. For only then will democracy have the chance of fulfillment and the challenge of our times addressed. We need open and ongoing, daily debate about how to use our freedom well, about the way we organise society; about how our culture can bloom. Facilitation of THESE things are what we need from public servants – not Robocop. For it is through these means, and not through authoritarian measures that peace will be possible. We will not let the logic of the surveillance state continue!!