

Submitted under JENGBA (Joint Enterprise: Not Guilty by Association)

LEVESON INQUIRY

Submission by Patricia Brown
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Date: 1st March 2012

I have enclosed information relating to the press reporting of my son's case. The press began reporting on the case immediately and prior to the trial. This was a high profile case and was made such through the media. Reports told of a high level of brutality towards the victim and that this was a gang attack from a named gang. The Police must have supplied the press with this name, however, there is no evidence that such a named gang actually exists. My son was not part of a gang and never had been.

During the trial it was established that the level of brutality reported by the press was in fact not the case. The victim tragically died at the hands of one person. Although the Police had given the press information on the case, they failed to tell them that they sought a conviction on the basis of a Joint Enterprise and that could mean those charged did not have to have taken part in the violence but that they may have had a plan, or even "possible foresight" that death or really serious injury could occur. The police did not stop the sensational and highly immoral reporting even though a trial was pending. It can be assumed the Police did not think the evidence alone would convict and so press reporting at this level may have been helpful to them.

I am deeply troubled by the extent of inaccurate reports that took place before the trial, and even more deeply concerned that this was allowed to happen unchallenged. I am concerned that the Courts do not prevent this from happening or that they do not realise it is going on or that it is damaging to the defendant.

This reporting leads to witnesses coming forward and giving evidence that was obviously taken from press reports. One such witness was proven in Court to have driven past the scene in her car, but before the attack took place, when nothing was happening. And yet her account in court was of how she had witnessed this brutal attack, going into great detail. There was no mention of this in the Press.

Other witnesses gave similar accounts but evidence proved they were again lying. All reporting before the trial was one sided and inaccurate and perhaps through some sense of duty witnesses came forward thinking they were helping. It will never be known the true extent that these witnesses' evidence may have had on the Jury's decision, but it must be accepted that Press reports must have had some effect, if it could affect witnesses in such a way. During the trial the reporting was again one sided, with no references made to evidence in any defendants' favour.

The jury must have been fully aware of the case and would have had knowledge of the press reports before being selected for jury service. It is not good enough for the Judge to just tell them not to take anything from what they have read already. The damage is already done and because of this they will enter the trial with the conclusion that all the defendants are guilty and it will then be up to each defendant to then prove they are innocent. British Justice is built on being innocent until proven guilty but our media has turned that on its head, destroying any opportunity of a fair trial.

What right do journalists have to act as Judge and Jury or to dictate to our Justice system who ought to go to prison? What right does the press have to orchestrate a public frenzy built on lies and inaccuracies and to do so at the expense of innocent children? The destruction caused is to the highest level. Children serving a life sentence for a murder they did not commit.

The Police do not undertake a thorough investigation, but yet take credit for multiple convictions that are not rightful convictions. The two organisations work hand in hand reaching their own ends with no desire to seek truth or Justice. Once the trial process has begun the damage is done and whatever is put before the court is meaningless particularly in a JE case. This is because the Jury can think that although what they have read in the news did not appear in the trial, there is no smoke without fire and why would journalists lie. What could they gain from lying? Recent events have proven that they do gain substantially and so do the Police. Those who head investigations that are very high profile often gain promotion, and yet clearly neither the media or the Met Police want the public to know what is said at trial, they would rather the bad reports prior to trial continue to circulate after the trial, than to divulge the truth. This in itself proves the whole process is corrupt.

All of this is done at the expense of another person's life. Not only do defendants not receive Justice, the victims' families do not either. They then spend the rest of their lives not knowing what really happened to their loved one and I believe in some cases are put in a position where they have to reinforce the press's output further in their interviews rather than expressing the true evidence that was heard at the trial. And as the victims' families sometimes work alongside the Police in campaigns, why is it that they continue to engage in the tone of reporting that occurred before the trial, rather than engage in media articles that are fitting to the evidence proven at the trial.

The media do not remove articles from circulation that were inaccurate either. They do not correct mistakes. All press reports prior to trial still remain on the internet. These reports are filled with inaccuracies and the trial process proves this. Yet they remain in the public domain unchecked and unchallenged, to reinforce the convictions received. Protecting those who put them in circulation from being made accountable for their irresponsibility.

Miscarriages of Justice is an area the media has no interest in, this could be because they have caused those Miscarriages of Justice in the first place, and to disclose this to their readers would mean they would have to be accountable for the damage they caused in the first instance.

To continue ignoring this issue is to continue discrediting our Justice System. It is not up to journalists to seek justice through scandalous accounts, nor is it up to the Police to feed the media information in order to strengthen a case prior to a trial.

As the mother of Tirrell all I can simply say is this wrongful conviction hurts too too much. I cry every day for my child. To lose a child to the prison system has left me broken. I am not the same person anymore because part of me has died since the imprisonment of my innocent child. There is no word that explain my pain and sorrow and what I am experiencing, all because we are seen as not important. Something has to be done to stop the powers of the press and the way they can just throw away and destroy ordinary individuals, families and community people's life - just chuck away with no care, concern or compassion for the TRUTH!

Please read the reports I have enclosed as they support what I am saying.

I am happy for my submission and supporting documents to be published.
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Statement of Truth

I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed ...P. Brown.....

Date ... 19th April 2012.....