

~~who is it?~~ Mark Taha
MEETING JULY 5, 2011

Chaired by Chris Buckhurst, editor of Independent

Evgeny Lebedev, owner of Standard/Independent Looks Asian, not white-younger than I thought- May think takes nerve for son of ex-KGB officer to talk about press freedom -lived in a closed, dark society-foreign newspapers told what going on- father harassed when EL 15- press freedom-currency differs around world- people in Russia die for it- refers to antifascist campaigning work- two journalists and lawyer murdered for it-more press freedom means less corruption and oppression-more restricted media means more corrupt country-eventually no one holds powerful to account-Britons get annoyed over things shrugged at in France and suppressed in Russia (e.g.MPs' expenses)- four journalists now arrested in Russia -safeguard press freedom or risk losing it-shocked by phone hacking, tapping, rubbish sifting, email hacking- Milly Dowler case disgusting- hang heads in shame- response manifestly inadequate-lack of enforcement of existing legislation- hidden surveillance one of biggest scandals in postwar Britain-expects editors to make distinction between public interest and what interests public-Fred Goodwin-not always clearcut- judiciary took view that his private activities no one else's business-how do we know had no bearing on crash? -Human Rights Act- balance rights to privacy and free expression-judges ignoring latter-need law forcing them on Facebook and Twitter- new Privacy law threat to democracy-English law practical, superinjunctions impractical-disagrees with Max Mosley re informing subject-hopelessly compromised if had to disclose prematurely- no brief for Tabloid press excesses-can't have one foot on moral ground, other in moral mire-deceit also practiced on Vince Cable by D.Telegraph- power with responsibility- phone hacking not responsible journalism- all newspapers should embody ethical journalism- free press as much part of democracy as free elections, Magna Carta, unwritten constitution-clean up act or goes to Courts and Internet Max Mosley- prior notification only when about to publish- does approach in overwhelming majority of cases—don't approach when something sexual-would get injunction,"ambush" you- won't sue because published again, damages and costs less than solicitor's bill-he got 60k damages, NoW costs 420k, solicitor's bill 520k- only get injunction if most likely not to win[?]-free speech-can't libel or defame untruthfully-now cultural code-statements can't make, historical events cannot dispute-free speech means must be able to hurt people's feelings-newspapers-gutter press, middle ground(e.g.Daily Mail) , serious newspapers [e.g.Independent]-D.Mail editor think entitled pillory anyone don't approve of- "unimaginable depravity"-which is ordinary depravity? - what does he himself do?-ordinary - leaving the light on? -in charge of great organ- nobody can stop him-will pillory judge if says no-Dacre one-man court-won't debate-contemptible-injunctions-superinjunctions-don't know both sides-how say judge got it wrong?-Henning announces name-utterly wrong—should go to Court of Appeal-MP hasn't heard both sides- Milly Dowler engages public-goes t core-deleted some of her voicemail messages- made parents hope still alive- almost unbelievable—ordinary people see where they lead-convicted more to go-RIPA-section 79 makes officers of company who knew, compliant or negligent also guilty-expects directors and senior management to face prosecution-activities of Murdoch press threat to Parliament-subverted Parl, Gvt, police-operated above law-journalists like Nick Davies brought it up-judiciary only thing between us and Murdoch dictatorship-[then why not more Euroseptic?]-analogous to state control-dangerous subversive,must come to an end Blackhurst- NoW trying to do same top girls in Soham and Sarah Payne's mother

Ruby Wax- If more than 80% laughing, should charge lot more-know when stepped over mark when silent audience-some laugh because insane or come from Alabama-great comedy shocks out of old way of seeing world.....free speech in mouth of beholder- know when fighting for cause and dishing the dirt-right to know-polar bears' plight-start charity,get Sharon Stone to cry over it-women now have important roles but paid less- Notting Hill now-women forced to do pelvic thrusts five days a day or thrown to dogs at 40, replaced by someone else-fight injustice- but what when find out footballer bonking[paraphrase]- when still apes,picking bugs socialising-then gossip-language came about-only need to know so can talk at hairdressers, queens otherwise just have to do your hair-used to have white picket fences and church -now Twitter and tabloids for dirt crux of problem -3 brains in head-reptilian alerts to danger,warm mammalian-nurture rather than eat young-executive brain-like to catch people taking cocaine with...buy Independent for higher brain-being exposed can work-Ruby found item about self while in Barbados, 1996-had her in Priory-posed for Comic Relief-large poster in Tube stations -poster girl of mental illness-tour of NHS mental institutions-show Losing It about mental institutions coming to West End-mental illness affects 1 in 4-people with mental illness nowhere to go-exposing me changed my life

Charlotte Harris, Mishcon de Reya- sarcastic-claimed scandal about her going to erupt but killed by Max Clifford - two categories of client-terrified but done nothing wrong-no affairs, stalkers-has had

affair, don't want private info out there-80% of cases involve blackmail-no injunctions, things get worse- "if done nothing wrong, nothing to be afraid of"-like many oppressive regimes-new light on phone hacking inquiry-some papers rather quiet about this-a) Ryan Giggs and Big Brother contestant-b) hacking into phone of murdered schoolgirl -"voice of the people"-Milly Dowler on page 8 of Mail today-NoW apology opp. Lady Gaga in plastic outfit-admitted done between 2004-7, Milly before then-Soham children's parents subject to interception -taken up in Parliament-doesn't want to live in Iron Triangle of News Int/police/parliament-will be civil actions, criminal trials-need for public enquiry Johann Hari- read from text-on Valium- threat to free speech from religious fundamentalism -Hari did something wrong and idiotic-pointed out-2009 worried right to criticise being doused in acid-belligerent demands "respect religion"-UN rapporteur-UN Declaration criticised by China)Western), Mugabe(colonialist), Dick Cheney(outdated)-Islamic tyrants wanted to replace -"respect unique feelings of religion"-free speech within limits of sharia law(Islamic declaration)-supported by Vatican-demands that rapporteur condemn "abuses of free speech"-Roy Brown, international humanist and Ethical Unin, tried to condemn stoning of women-howled down by Egypt-atheism and doubt "akin to racism"-Hari: All people but not all ideas deserve respect-doesn't respect Virgin birth, Mohammed's record, Jewish fundamentalists on West Bank-article Published in India, Islamic fundamentalists rioted-editor and publisher arrested and charged "upsetting community feeling"-Hari couldn't apologise-secularism assaulted-if upset fundamentalists, so be it-Voltaire-"those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities"-free speech for everybody, right or wrong-try to imagine life if hadn't challenged religion-growth of Gay Pride because of free speech