

## PRESS STATEMENT

# **THE PERFIDY OF THE POLITICAL POLICE: BARON FITTED UP AGAIN!**

On November 1, 1996, London-based libertarian and independent researcher Alexander Baron was arrested by Organised Crime Group officers, charged with witness intimidation, and thrown into Brixton Prison. This arrest resulted from an eleven-page memorandum which Baron had sent to a senior detective making a number of serious allegations against a benefits fraud snoop named Rita Broadway. Among other things, Baron claimed Broadway had sent him unsolicited, confidential information about "anti-fascist" activist and Zionist hatemonger Gerry Gable and had offered to send him more if he engaged in perverted sex acts with her.

Baron's accusations were supported by a document and by confidential information about Broadway's sex life. In spite of this, none of them were investigated and Baron was dismissed as a crank and psychopath. The witness intimidation charge was bogus so a second charge was added, making a threat to kill. This was another spurious charge based on Baron's unfortunate remark about Broadway being a whore and deserving to have her worthless throat slit. Incredibly, a third charge was added: assault occasioning actual bodily harm. The basis of this was that the police showed Broadway Baron's memorandum, and she was so distressed by its contents that she suffered psychological damage. This nonsense was too much even for the biased and bigoted judge who heard the case, and he ordered the prosecution not to proceed with it. Broadway eventually spent a year off work sick and suffered a nervous breakdown, or so the police claimed.

Baron's trial opened at Southwark Crown Court at the end of April 1997. Acting against the judge's advice he dismissed his barrister and conducted his own defence. During the trial he declared a previous conviction - from 1983 - called one officer a prat and another bent, and after an outrageously biased summing up was acquitted on both counts by majority verdicts. Following his acquittal, Baron wrote two letters to people connected with the case: one to Broadway's manager and another to her doctor. In the former he reiterated his claim that Broadway was a "dirty little whore" and in the letter he warned Dr. Patricia Critchley both that her patient was sick in the head and that a bent copper called Nemeth might try to fit her up owing to his obsession with the case. (Nemeth had claimed Baron had bribed Broadway's doctor in order to obtain confidential medical information).

In October of last year, Baron was served with two summonses under the Malicious Communications Act in relation to these two letters. In particular it was claimed on each count that he had written a letter which was grossly offensive and which contained information which was false and which he knew or believed to be false with the intent of causing "anxiety or distress".

Believing truth to be a complete defence to both of the spurious charges, Baron was not the least bit concerned, especially when on turning up for the first hearing he was served with a transcript of Broadway's trial evidence and his subsequent cross-examination of her, a transcript which was entirely consistent with the content of the two letters. Baron intended to serve a witness order on Broadway but was warned by his solicitor that if he did this in person it could lead to complications, especially if she were to make further allegations against him. He applied for Legal Aid, and waited.

The trial date was set for January 27, 1998, but no Legal Aid was forthcoming. On the morning of the trial Baron received a letter from his solicitor advising him that he had to complete a further Legal Aid application and return it to the court by January 26, i.e. the previous day. Clearly this was absurd. Baron phoned his barrister at home, interrupting his breakfast, and was given case law to cite in support of an adjournment. At Horseferry Road later that morning Baron was refused an adjournment by the incompetent magistrate and told that he must proceed with the case. The CPS then applied to

amend the charges, claiming that the statute had been misread. The words referring to information which was false or was believed to be false were deleted, removing with a stroke of the pen Baron's defence of truth as a total justification. Baron argued that if now in effect the witnesses claimed to have suffered "anxiety or distress" after reading his letters he would surely be convicted.

The main witness against Baron was Broadway's manager, Michelle Charles, who did her best to act as a frightened, pathetic little woman. The incompetent magistrate severely restricted Baron's cross-examination and dismissed charges when it became apparent that she was in difficulties. Just for good measure the charges were amended again, and, unsurprisingly, Baron was convicted, although probably to give the illusion of impartiality Baron was found "Not Guilty" regarding the letter to Dr. Critchley. He announced his immediate intention to appeal against the £250 fine and £100 costs. Baron had intended to appeal via case stated - that is on grounds of procedure to the High Court - but was refused Legal Aid so had no alternative, due to the complex nature of the case, but to abandon this and appeal through the more usual channel, to the Crown Court.

On March 2, 1998, he wrote to Charles to inform her that she would again have to attend court to give evidence. He also told her that he would be issuing a witness order against Broadway, and that Charles would be exposed as a liar and a perjurer.

On April 21 he attended Southwark Crown Court where Judge Bathurst-Norman set a date for the appeal: September 21. That same evening Baron was arrested by Organised Crime Group officers and charged with making a menacing telephone call to Michelle Charles that morning. The call was (supposedly) taken by someone else in Charles' office. Baron was also, incredibly, charged with witness harassment for the letter of March 2. Denied bail he was thrown into Brixton gaol for trial at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court on May 26.

At the time this telephone call was allegedly made to Charles' office Baron was in the vicinity of Southwark Crown Court and may, ironically, have actually been talking to the arresting officer. The whole area is criss-crossed with video cameras and Baron would surely have been on film at the time of the call. For obvious reasons the police have made no attempt whatsoever to obtain confirmation of this. Baron's main worry is that whatever the outcome of the current case this will not be the last attempt to fit him up. If all it takes to put him behind bars is an unsubstantiated allegation of a telephone call from a woman he has never met or spoken to - or in the case of Charles, a woman who has an axe to grind and a motive to destroy him - he can count on spending a great deal more time behind bars.

**SUPPORTERS ARE URGED TO SEND MESSAGES OF SUPPORT AND DONATIONS TO:**

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**PLEASE PUBLICISE THIS CASE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE!**