

# **“ PPP ”**

## **People for Proper Policing in North Wales**

The Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) said it was concerned the right to protest was being undermined by "autocratic" police measures.

[http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/joint\\_committee\\_on\\_human\\_rights.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/joint_committee_on_human_rights.cfm)

Police are increasingly using "**heavy handed**" tactics against protesters, a committee of MPs has warned **ahead of the G20 summit being hosted in London**.

**Anti-terror powers were being "misused"** to restrict lawful protest, the committee said.

The report found no "systematic" human rights abuses but urged changes in the law and police methods.

**MPs called for police to be instructed on human rights as part of their general training.**

But they said protesters had a responsibility to engage with police officers during the planning of their protest to help avoid violence.

**Committee chairman Andrew Dismore** said: *"The right to protest is a fundamental democratic right and one that the state and police have a duty to protect and facilitate. Of course there is a balance to be struck between the rights of protesters, the police and the public, but the state must not impose restrictions unless it is necessary, and proportionate, to do so. That is a high threshold. The presumption is in favour of protest without state interference. We believe there are changes to the law and practice that are needed to make that presumption a reality."*

Protesters claimed officers policing last year's **Climate Camp in Kent** confiscated tent pegs and a clown costume. At one point 1,500 officers, including riot police, were dealing with only 1,000 protesters, organisers said. Kent Police have asked the police watchdog to investigate how they policed the event.

### **ACPO comment on policing protests.**

Commenting on the release of the **Joint Committee on Human Rights report**; Demonstrating respect for rights? A human rights approach to policing protest; **ACPO lead on Public Order and Public Safety, Deputy Chief Constable, Sue Sim**, said:

*"The police service has a difficult role to play in policing protest, as we seek to strike a balance between the lawful rights of protesters, and those of people to go about their daily life unimpeded. We are pleased the JCHR recognises the importance which the service places on upholding human rights in this complex area."*

*"Communication is key, and where there is open dialogue with protest organisers we are able to ensure that policing of protests is proportionate and necessary, rather than going in heavy-handed or allowing situations to build up to a flashpoint before intervening. There are always a small minority of protests, or fringe groups within protests, which will cause problems. Where mistakes are made we must learn from them."*

*"However the vast majority of protests around the country take place without any conditions imposed on them by police and the British approach to policing of protests is recognised as among the best in the world."*

**The PPP comments .... Another case of Perception vs Reality, in this case between ACPO vs the public and Parliament.** We have not been directly involved ourselves but have witnessed the reality on TV and in the press. We have seen significant lax and lenient policing of violent, racist and religious extremism by Moslems in London and Elsewhere. For several years there have been excessively strong policing of protests, including the Hunting Ban, Chinese human rights abuses in Tibet, the Heathrow extensions and several meetings like the G20 summit. We believe these extremes come from the Home Office's influence on Forces via ACPO. We suggest the MPs put their own house in order AND REDUCE THE CONTINUOUS DABBING in Police priorities and policies. If the Police can't handle it then a cross party committee of suitably experienced MPs ((JCHR) should be set to write some guidelines ASAP. The people may well be pushed into public protest on many more issues as the depression deepens. We DO NOT WANT a repeat of the Miners strike confrontations or the violence on both sides that attends protests in France and the ex Eastern bloc countries.

**STOP PRESS .... we wrote this article only 2 weeks ago** and we now have a violent death of a Londoner apparently attacked by a Police Officer without cause whilst just going about his business DURING the G20 protests, exactly what we predicted would happen. We wrote to the JCHR to request access to their full report, their auto. Reply stated that do not reply to e-mails with multiple addresses. As our e.mail was copied to ALL core group members we did not get a reply. We will pursue this issue separately.

The Incident leading to the man's death can be seen on this Daily Express video clip ..

<http://www.dailyexpress.co.uk/posts/view/93934/Video%3A-Police-%27attack%27-on-G20-victim-/>

Note that very soon after the incident the Police reported that the Police Post Mortem concluded that his death was from natural causes. Since when did the Police carry out their own PMs!? Another case for the IPCC and we hear that the London City Police will carry out their own investigation... Boris Johnson must step in and sort this can of worms out.