

My Story: Part 7

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

- Martin Luther King, Jnr.

"I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice."

- Abraham Lincoln

It seems obvious that the US will not play ball. I've been told as much by Foreign Office Minister Kim Howells who tells me that the Americans will not reveal the files they have on me. See [Betty Williams and Kim Howells letter](#).

And yet before I was unceremoniously sent back to the UK, I was promised by Officer 'S' at San Francisco International Airport that I would be given a copy of the statement I was forced to sign under duress. So why did I never get it and why don't the Americans release their information? Obviously, something to hide on their part. Perhaps corruption in their ranks?

More about my latest course of action ...

I tried getting help from Ken Purchase, Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton North-West (where my sister lives and whose address I used for reference).

He was quite hopeless. I just got fobbed off with some feeble excuses. So much for my MP.

I did make several visits to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (F&CO) in London. But before my first visit, I was informed by an official at the office that I was not the only person to be victimised by US Immigration.

She gave me one example of a family that flew to Florida and were turned back because one of their children was not with the family. Simple as that. Even if this child was mentioned on a Visa, or whatever, it was an example of over-zealous and quite possibly underemployed Immigration officials abusing the rule book - just so they could justify their jobs.

The official told me that the F&CO has had several meetings with the Americans to discuss the mistreatment of UK travellers. But because the UK Government has no influence over the tyrannical actions of the US Department of Homeland Security, they could do nothing to help the victims.

We've seen similar things in the UK. Traffic cops have repeatedly been exposed as being instructed to target motorists and give out more traffic violation (usually speeding) tickets.

When I visited the Channel 4 TV offices in London, I was told by a Canadian lady on reception that the same thing was happening in her country. Towards the end of each month, Canadian traffic cops had to meet a quota of tickets.

During my ordeal in San Francisco, the same thing was virtually admitted to me as well. Perhaps if I had not travelled on January 30th and had waited until February 1st, I may have got through immigration. So, the actions of these immigration officials is made even more criminal if this is true.

While I despair of the suffering caused to other travellers who have been victim to corruption in the US Immigration system, it was reassuring to know I was not alone. It was not just about me. It was about all those who feel foul of a system of meeting quotas, of being at the mercy of ill-mannered monsters. An when the two came together - well ...

New hope

By the time I moved to my new location, my next MP seemed more helpful. She wrote to Kim Howells on *my behalf. I appreciate her interest in this matter.

Kim Howells [first reply](#) was very much along the lines of the other responses that I've received - the Americans will not play ball.

So, [another letter](#) has been dispatched to him via my MP. In this letter I've asked for a meeting between the Minister, The US Ambassador and myself. I've asked for this by August 11th, 2008.

I want this matter cleared up. I want my Visa to return to the US to recover all the things the US administration has stolen from me by default. I want justice, not just for myself, but for all the other victims of corruption in the US Immigration system.

It's the beginning of July. Soon, I hope to get my latest reply from Kim Howells. I'll complete the next chapter (Part 8) as soon as it arrives. Watch this space.



UK Passport. It states quite clearly:

"Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State ...

... Requests and requires in the ...

... Name of Her Majesty ...

... all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance,
and to afford the bearer such assistance and protection as may be necessary."

NB. Emphasis (underlining) added

Our opinion?

These words are a complete waste of time. A pathetic and meaningless gesture.

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