



HOW THE POLICE waylaid their coaches, stopping and searching them, and seizing numerous innocent scarves, 2 pairs of scissors, some card board, a bag of toy soldiers, &ct.

HOW THEY WERE coach-napped by the police and "escorted" on a three hour journey from Gloucestershire to London.



HOW THEY TOOK their case to the High Court to uphold their right to attend a lawful public assembly, not to be detained against their will with no charge, no crime, and no lavatory.

HOW THEY WON THE right not to be detained, but the right to protest was still in question.

HOW THEY TOOK forward their case again, to the Court of Appeal, for the good of all, that the right to protest may be upheld.

Regarding the story of the

Fairford

COACHES:

HOW

120 peaceful protestors intended to assemble at

RAF

FAIRFORD

in opposition to

AMERICAN

bombing missions flying from

Gloucestershire to

IRAQ

The details of this story may be found on the information web at:

www.fairfordcoachaction.org.uk

The appeal judgement is expected sometime between November 2004 and January 2005

Regarding The Story of the Fairford Coaches

"The law of this land says it is our public duty to try to prevent any breach of the peace. Planes were leaving Fairford that day to sow death and destruction. So it's beyond surreal that it was those of us aiming to uphold peace - and not the bomber pilots, their political masters, or even the USA guards who (according to UK police) might have shot anyone entering the base unbid - who were detained for threatening an imminent breach of the peace."

Citizen Arrest

"If it was so important to stop the coach loads of protestors from reaching Fairford, why was I allowed to get off one of the coaches and hitch hike my way to the base with two of my friends?"

Heather Cooper

"I had my groin felt for evidence of a pen knife but the coach itself had only one police woman walk down the aisle, she didn't check the luggage compartments or under the seats which would have been far better places to hide weapons than my crotch. I believe that before we even set off someone had made the decision to turn back the coaches"

Erik Klim

"In the circumstances, you have to admire the protesters' restraint."

Mark Thomas

"I tried to exit the coach and managed to wedge the door open several inches while police tried to shut it from the outside. I called out that I believed the actions being taken were not legal, and that I wished to speak to a senior officer. More police came to press on the door from the outside, and eventually they had the door closed."

Legal observer



"It is particularly ironic that the police overstepped their powers in order to prevent us going to a lawful demonstration against an illegal war."

Jesse Schust

"My friend had to pee in a sandwich box at the front of the coach. She was fully visible to the police who were videotaping the coaches throughout the journey."

Coach Passenger

"Our escort would have done justice to a royal motorcade. Whenever we came to a roundabout or junction the other traffic was blocked off with police vans and we were given free passage. Our coach windows were soon decorated with messages from "No War on Iraq!" to "Help! We are being kidnapped!"

Chris Gwyntopher

"This ruling means that to be sure of reaching a demonstration, I would have to be psychic and know what's going on in the mind of a senior police officer."

Helen Wickham

"For practical purposes none of the articles seized were to be regarded as offensive. Two pairs of scissors would not make much

impression on the perimeter fencing of the air base."

Lord Justice May, giving judgement on the case in February 2004

"The freedom to take part in a peaceful assembly - in this instance a demonstration that had not been prohibited - is of such importance that it cannot be restricted in any way... so long as the person concerned does not himself commit any reprehensible act on such an occasion."

Ruling of the European Court of Human Rights (Ezelen, para 53)

"Attending a demonstration is a basic freedom which everyone should enjoy if a society is to function as a democracy... Not only is this an attack on our freedom but the operation and the police's decision to contest the action is a waste of public money."

Jane Laporte

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www.fairfordcoachaction.org.uk*