

# No detention without cause

LONDON FREELANCE Branch member Pennie Quinton went to the European Court of Human Rights on Tuesday 12 May in an attempt to overturn Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000, which gives police the right to stop and search anyone in a “designated area” without needing to have even “reasonable suspicion”. The whole of London has been “designated” continuously since the Act came into force, apart from a fortnight when the police forgot to fill in the form.

Pennie was detained and searched while filming a protest against the DSEi arms fair in Docklands on 9 September 2003. Being detained prevented her filming a key part of the protest.

With the support of civil liberties organisation Liberty, Pennie took the case up to the House of Lords – which ruled that to justify detention police merely had to show that they were searching for “articles of a kind which could be used in connec-

tion with terrorism” – and back down to Central London County Court, where the judge ruled that the police could not be questioned about anything else and the jury then ruled against Pennie and fellow-applicant Kevin Gillan.

Interestingly, on 6 May the Metropolitan Police announced that they would no longer use Section 44 in the London boroughs of Southwark, Brent, Newham and Tower Hamlets. The government had previously argued that it was essential *not* to publicise where Section 44 was and was not in force.

Pennie’s barrister Ben Emmerson reminded the Court that the Section 44 powers are not – as the government had argued repeating its submission to the House of Lords, equivalent to being searched on entering an airport – because there you know that this is a condition of entry and you have the choice of staying away.

The supposed safeguards on the



Pennie Quinton leaves the European Court of Human Rights

Image © Mike Holderness

use of the power were meaningless, he said: police merely had to declare, for example, that it was “expedient” to designate an area; and “articles of a kind which could be used in connection with terrorism” would include the A to Z and of course cameras.

The court reserved judgement, which is expected in the autumn.

## Photographer held in cop van

FREELANCE photographer and NUJ member Justin Tallis was briefly detained by police during the Tamil protests in Parliament Square on 18 May. He was forcibly removed from the protest by Tactical Support Group officers as Tamil protesters occupied a road outside Parliament. He wasn’t told the reason for his detention.

LFB member and videographer Jason Parkinson said Justin’s release was negotiated on the spot by other

NUJ member photographers who were at work in the square, and that NUJ General Secretary Jeremy Dear spoke to a Metropolitan Police inspector who was on duty at the scene (on a member’s phone) to demand Justin’s release. Justin received medical attention from London ambulance service paramedics after he was freed. Colleagues documented the incident: see [www.marcvallee.co.uk/blog](http://www.marcvallee.co.uk/blog) and [www.jasonnparkinson.blogspot.com](http://www.jasonnparkinson.blogspot.com)



Photo © Marc Valée:  
[www.marcvallee.co.uk](http://www.marcvallee.co.uk)

## Subbing matters – so ask for more

HOW CAN sub-editors make more money, asked Christy Lawrance, who runs a successful subbing operation, at the June London Freelance Branch meeting, where she was joined by Martin Cloake, who looked into the future of subbing.

Christy, a former building inspector, noticed that builders are much less embarrassed than most of us about asking for more. “I never lost work for asking for more – be business-like about it. Printers and suppliers put costs up. If the publishers don’t hire you, they’ll have to pay an agency £180 a day.”

Christy’s early years in the Brownies taught her to Be Prepared. Preparation for asking for increases includes finding out what others are being paid (see [www.londonfreelance.org/rates](http://www.londonfreelance.org/rates)), and looking at the Office of National Statistics’ index of prices ([www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)) when requesting a rise linked to inflation. The best

time to ask for a rise is exactly a year after you started, or at the beginning or end of the financial year. And keep asking.

Christy’s “asking for more” gambits include: “I was looking at my invoices from a year ago, what’s the new rate?” and “Would you mind awfully talking to the budget people, is there any chance of a rate rise?” One client replied, “it’s too tough this year,” but gave her a £2 a day rise anyway.

Or tell your client bluntly, “I can’t afford to work for you anymore, it’s not cost-effective for me.” This approach resulted in Christy’s rate being upped immediately. “Rates for everyone will stagnate if you don’t ask for more,” Christy warns us all.

What does the future of subbing and production look like?

Martin Cloake, who writes, edits, lectures and makes training videos on production journalism,

looked into the numerous current “lofty debates” on how technology is changing subbing. Says Martin, “it’s too easy for subs to be portrayed as people holding things up.”

“There is more information being put on more platforms than ever before, so why do we need fewer people to do more?” Martin asked: “we have to take control” of the way things are put out into the media, and we have to be confident, and value our own work.

Journalism is still about telling stories, and we can do this better than the bloggers, says Martin.

He teaches journalism students, and notes that while “the media establishment say, we’re hip, we do Facebook, we Twitter,” the future journalists on his course are Facebook-literate, but the questions they’re always asking him are about how you make a good story, and about the principles of journalism.

© Matt Salusbury