

Stop and search not stopped

THE EUROPEAN Court of Human Rights has ruled that random Section 44 Terrorism Act searches are a breach of human rights (see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1002echr.html). But for the moment, it's regrettably still a bad idea to refuse to co-operate with a Section 44 search, however silly it is.

The UK government has deadline of 12 April to request that the judgement on Section 44 be referred to the Grand Chamber of the Court. The *Freelance* is puzzled how it can argue that there is "a serious question affecting the interpretation or application of the Convention or its protocols, or a serious issue of general importance," but that's what it pays lawyers loads for.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Po-

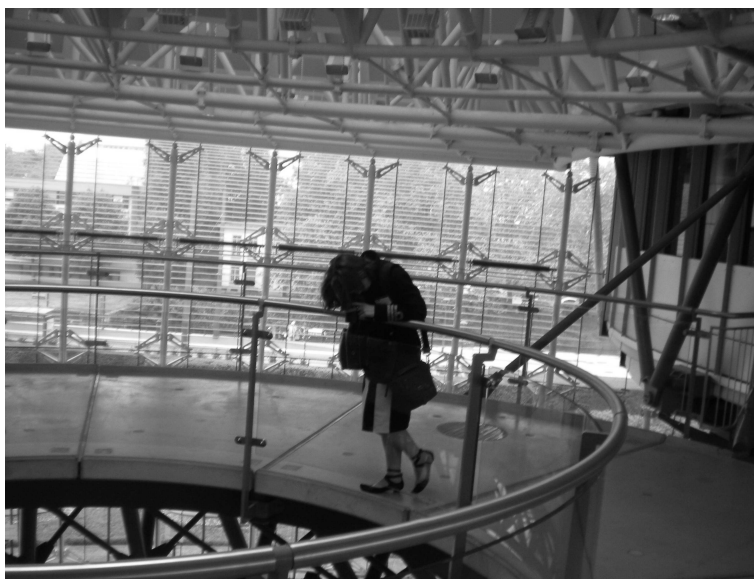
lice seem to be operating as if it's business as usual, at least until the deadline has passed, so for the moment you risk (at least) arrest if you refuse a Section 44 search.

For the moment, journalists are advised to reluctantly tolerate such a search. Insist on a Stop/Search Record Form 5090 and note down as soon as possible details of the search – time, location, officers' shoulder numbers, etc. with a possible view to making a complaint. Get details of witnesses as well if there are any. And stand by for an announcement on or shortly after 12 April.

There's a guide to getting legal assistance from the NUJ at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0701law.html. A gallery of Form 5090s given to photographers after Section 44 searches is at www.flickr.com/groups/police_form_5090x/pool.

Seminars and training

The Association of Photographers has invited human rights lawyer Shamik Dutta, from law firm Fisher Meredith LLP, to speak at a seminar on **Wednesday 14 April** dealing with issues concerning the



rights photographers have when asked by the police to submit to a search or to stop either taking pictures or filming. Veteran NUJ photographer David Hoffman is also speaking. It's free and from 18:30 to 20:30. To book your place, email events@aophoto.co.uk

And, on the activist side of the barrier, the Network for Police Monitoring – made up of individuals involved in Campaign Against Criminalising Communities, Fitwatch and Newham Monitoring Project. It's offering a free training day on **Sunday 18 April** from 10:30 to 16:30. To book email info@networkforpolicemonitoring.org.uk

Pennie Quinton photographs the European Court of Human Rights after her hearing on Section 44 there in May 2009 – which led to it being ruled a breach of human rights

Photo © Mike Holderness

Hostile reconnaissance

That's the title of a rally on terror laws, civil liberties and press freedom on **Tuesday 13 April**. Hosted by London Photographers' Branch and supported by NUJ London Central Branch and the Union nationally. Speakers include *Guardian* investigative journalist Paul Lewis, law professor and author of *Bonfire of the Liberties* Keith Ewing, *Vanity Fair* British editor Henry Porter, NUJ General Secretary Jeremy Dear and others. It's at 7pm at Friends' House, Euston Road NW1, opposite Euston. Details of the event are at www.londonphotographers.org



Mass photography

A mass-photography gathering at Trafalgar Square to defend the right to take photos in public places was a big success, and a lot of fun too. The I'm a Photographer Not a Terrorist event in January, organised by NUJ freelance photographers Marc Vallée and Jess Hurd and others, attracted around a thousand photographers – a rich mix of professionals and amateurs. A Russian TV crew's interviewer was drowned out by the sound of camera shutters clicking. There's more at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1002pnot.html

Photo © Matt Salusbury

New training courses

Upcoming NUJ Training courses in London include the new Understanding Business and Large Companies course on **6 May**, and Understanding the Economy (basic economics for journos) on **7 May**. Looking ahead, another course being offered for the first time is Multimedia Storytelling (multiplatform technobabble demystification) on **7-8 October**.

There are also NUJ Training courses on Video Blogging for Print Journalists (introduction) on **20-21 April**, Sub Editing Introduction on **22-23 April**, Freedom of Information Act on **26 April**, Advanced News Writing on **27-28 April**, Adobe InDesign on **18-19 April**, and Build your own Website on **25-26 May**.

Many of these courses will also be held on different dates in Cardiff. Full details of these and more at www.nujtraining.org.uk

Police urged to engage with media

The Metropolitan Police Authority has reported on public order policing following the London "G20" protests a year ago. It concludes that the Met "must strive for better engagement with the media... and ensure all officers on the ground are able to recognise the press card, its security measures and the status it gives journalists.". The full report is at www.postG20.notlong.com – see "appendix I". It includes the Association of Chief Police Officers flyer for distribution to police officers to explain the Press Card.