

Miranda, the Arctic 30, Palestinians and press cards

DAVID MIRANDA – partner of a Guardian journalist working on the Edward Snowden revelations on NSA/GCHQ surveillance of absolutely everybody – was recently held and questioned under the notorious Schedule 7 Terrorism Act at Heathrow. There's a petition calling on the UK and USA governments to "stop intimidating journalists and their families" Please take a look at the petition at http://act.freepress.net/sign/journ_press_intimidation and consider signing it.

The NUJ is supporting an application for a judicial review, which was

lodged in August, on the Schedule 7 interrogation of Miranda, an act also condemned by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ, of which the NUJ is a part.) See www.nuj.org.uk/news/whistle-blower-terrorist-why-the-nuj-supports-review-of/ - and tell campaigns@nuj.org.uk your Schedule 7 story.

There's also a campaign to get the IFJ international press card recognised in Israel and the territories it occupies. Currently, the Israeli authorities regularly turn back at their numerous checkpoints Palestinian journalists who have international

press cards or other forms of press accreditation. There's an IFJ petition on this – addressed to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon – at https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Freedom_of_Movement_for_Palestinian_Journalists

And there's a model letter at <http://tinyurl.com/arctic30> to send to the Russian Embassy regarding the freelance journalists – UK national Kieron Bryan and Russian photographer Denis Sinyakov – detained in Murmansk, Russia alongside the "Arctic 30", though understood to be independent of Greenpeace.

Unpaid Internships Must Be Destroyed

The above is the title of a short online comic from the US on the subject of unpaid internships – as bad over there as they are here. The comic encourages current and former interns to "file your lawsuit today!" and includes a comment from Maurice Piantko, lawyer with Intern Justice, who describes the practice as "socially accepted stealing... it's illegal." *Unpaid Internships...* is at <https://medium.com/the-nib/6050f2c25497>

PLR subsumed by British Library

THE PUBLIC LENDING Right (PLR), which ensures authors get micro-payments whenever their books are lent by public libraries services in the UK and Ireland, has been taken over by the British Library (BL), with effect from 1 October.

As far as authors are concerned, this will have no immediate effect. The BL is at pains to stress that PLR staff will transfer to the British Library and continue to work from the current Stockton-on-Tees office.

And authors "should continue to register their books for UK and Irish PLR with the PLR office in Stockton". Web addresses (below), phone numbers and email addresses remain the same. Regrettably, the post of PLR Registrar, whose duties have up to now been carried out so excellently by Dr Jim Parker, will eventually disappear: Jim will be replaced by the British Library Board.

The good news is that the UK Department for Culture, Media and

Sport (DCMS) has announced that the PLR budget for 2015-16 will for the moment be "protected" from cuts, and stay at the current level of £6.7 million.

You may already have noticed a British Library logo appearing in the corner of the banner at the top of www.plr.uk.com, the website for PLR UK & Ireland in recent months.

No logo for *Labharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann* (the National Library of Ireland) appears alongside the BL's, which is a curious omission. The *Freelance* recalls some kind of conflict in the past about British institutions running Irish affairs. The Public Lending Remuneration Office in Dublin (www.plr.ie) is apparently unaffected.



BBC Payment Portal pops up

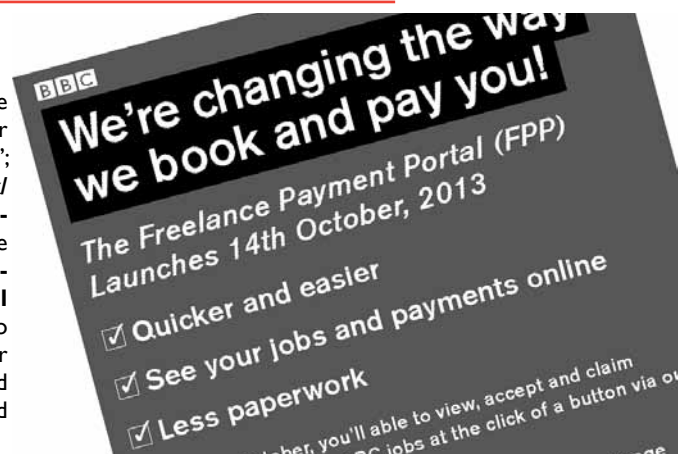
THE BBC has just introduced major changes in the way it pays freelance casual workers. On 14 October the Freelance Payment Portal went live (between press day and this hitting your doormat).

Freelancers should be able to keep track of the shifts that they work, and claim payment for them online. The new system will enable freelancers to accept jobs, and to claim payment once the job is complete.

Payment should arrive with the

next weekly pay run. The leaflet the BBC is distributing says "Search for 'freelancers' on bbc.co.uk for more"; that leads us to www.bbc.co.uk/partnersandsuppliers/freelancers and that leads us to an outline of changes at www.bbc.co.uk/supplying/freelancers/change.shtml

Some freelancers may have to show their passport to prove their eligibility to work in the UK, and some will automatically be enrolled for pensions.



NUJ website rebooted

THE WEBSITE of the NUJ at www.nuj.org.uk has been extensively updated. The search engine is much improved, and new features behind the members-only log in include being able to update your membership details online.

By now you should have received an email containing your new log-in to the NUJ members area – asking you to check your details and update them. If you haven't, it'll be because

the NUJ's Membership Department have an outmoded email for you: in that case update them by emailing membership@nuj.org.uk

There's also a link to forward to colleagues you are trying to recruit, that leads them to the "Join the NUJ online" page at www.nuj.org.uk/join – but rather than trying to visualise it all from these words in print, go and look at www.nuj.org.uk yourself – and at the Freelance's

online guide to its new features at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1309nuj.html

Updating the NUJ membership department is a completely different thing to updating the *Freelance* with your details, which you can do via www.londonfreelance.org/linkup – and in other website news, the search function of www.londonfreelance.org is now working properly again after a glitch.