

Moral rights and fake news

WE HAVE another reminder that for many citizens the most important of their authors' rights is the right to object to manipulation and distortion of their works – and to its use in damaging contexts. In July one Nigel Farage Tweeted out a version of a photo a woman wearing a sandwich-board saying “my door is open for refugees”. It had been manipulated, very badly, to make the slogan offensive.

There was – as he must have intended – a Twitter storm. It caught the attention of Lasia Kretzel, who took the photo while reporting on at a rally three years ago in Saskatchewan, Canada, in support of refugees

in Syria. Lasia is now a digital reporter for News 1130 in Vancouver and Tweets as [@lkretzell130](#)

Many suggested that she sue Farage. The *Freelance* contacted her to point out that under UK law he owes her not only for the value of the use of the photo in political campaigning – whatever that might be – but extra for distributing a distorted version, breaching her moral rights. Arguably, just putting your photo near his name is an act “contrary to her honour or reputation”.

We pointed out that she could bring a case at reasonable cost through the Small Claims procedure – which the NUJ had a hand

in bringing into being. She decided not to take legal action.

She did get a piece in the *Guardian* out of the affair. There she wrote that “as a reporter... I thought about how in an era of instant information-sharing it is more important than ever that we verify what we are spreading and own up to our mistakes when we falter.”

© Mike Holderness



The original photo showing the Amnesty International slogan

Photo © Lasia Kretzel

LFB's mission to Afghanistan

LFB's OWN Safiullah Tazib has recently returned from a visit to Kabul, Afghanistan where he made contact – on behalf of the NUJ and LFB in particular – with independent journalists' organisations.

His visit followed a series of targeted attacks on nine Afghan journalists in Kabul on 30 April, with another journalist, from the BBC, shot dead the same day.

Safi brought with him a letter from LFB which included the words, “News of the nine reporters killed in Kabul on April 30 shocked all of us... Our hearts go out to the families, colleagues and friends of those who died... NUJ London Freelance

Branch expresses its solidarity and a wish to help in any way we can. We would like to hear what the needs of Afghan colleagues are, apart from raising the voices of journalists around the world calling on governments to put a stop to these attacks, by bringing perpetrators to justice, where possible, and resolving the bitter disputes that lead to war. We will certainly make this case whenever we can. Our colleague Safiullah Tazib has kept us informed about Afghan media and through him we hope to build firm ties between us. Please keep in touch and let us know anything we can do to help. In solidarity.” In the photo Safi is second

from right, wearing a traditional Pakol hat. He was “advised by some to go ‘completely native’ to divert muggers’ attention. For that I was mercilessly mocked by the journo at every encounter.”



Jenny gets Gold

LFB Branch Treasurer (centre) was awarded the NUJ's Gold Badge for her more than 45 years of activist work with the NUJ. There was a surprise presentation at the July Branch meeting. General Secretary Michelle Stanistreet (left) said Jenny's award was “richly deserved.” Jenny said she only joined back in 1973 because she had to – journalism then was a closed shop, with NUJ membership a prerequisite for many jobs. Photo © Matt Salusbury



L to R: Hujatullah Mujadidi, Afghan Independent Journalists' Association; Abdusamad Hamed Poya, Media Bazaa; Safi; Sardar Mohammad Dindarkhail, Gaheez Forum of Writers; Aziz Tassal, Kabul Press Club; Ahmad Zia Rahimzai, *Satre Awal* weekly; and Abdul Mujeeb Khalvatgar, NAI.

COPYRIGHT from page 1

to screen uploaded files to filter out infringing material.

The astroturfers are claiming this would be censorship. This is false. Returning to our metaphorical greengrocer: is prevention of theft “carrot censorship”?

Best for journalists would be articles 14 to 16, which would give us the right to know what use is made of our work, and to “windfall” payments if it was unexpectedly successful. Intriguingly, no-one is making a great fuss about this at present.

What happens now?

The effect of the July vote is that the entire Directive is up for amendment in the full EU Parliament on 12 September. If a very large number of amendments is put forward, the Directive may be referred back to the Committee – which could lead to it running out of time before the Parliament elections in May. Each amendment must be signed by dozens of MEPs – but the astroturfers managed to get a large number to sign up to force a vote in July.

If it, or most of it, is passed, it's not

out of the woods: it then goes to a “conciliation committee” of the Parliament and the Council that is made up of the governments of EU member states.

What can I do?

Organisations representing journalists and other creators will be launching a campaign at the end of August, when MEPs return from holiday. Check back at www.london-freelance.org/fl/1808copy.html for suggestions.

© Mike Holderness

Fees Guide update

WE HAVE updated the *Freelance Fees Guide* suggested rates for print media – chiefly writing and doing shifts for newspapers and magazines – and illustrations and cartoons. The *Fees Guide* is based on the Rate for the Job market survey (see page 2). Examining recently-paid rates that are not clearly below par, we are able to suggest increases for many types of work – but in many cases sadly not keeping pace with inflation. See www.londonfreelance.org/feesguide