

UK Human Rights Report
2015

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Chapter 1: Human Rights

Human rights are moral principles or norms, which describe certain standards of human behaviour, and are regularly protected as legal rights in municipal and international law. They are commonly understood as inalienable fundamental rights "to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being," and which are "inherent in all human beings" regardless of their nation, location, language, religion, ethnic origin or any other status. They are applicable everywhere and at every time in the sense of being universal, and they are egalitarian in the sense of being the same for everyone. They require empathy and the rule of law and impose an obligation on persons to respect the human rights of others. They should not be taken away except as a result of due process based on specific circumstances; for example, human rights may include freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture, and execution.

The doctrine of human rights has been highly influential within international law, global and regional institutions. Actions by states and non-governmental organizations form a basis of public policy worldwide. The idea of human rights suggests that "if the public discourse of peacetime global society can be said to have a common moral language, it is that of human rights." The strong claims made by the doctrine of human rights continue to provoke considerable skepticism and debates about the content, nature and justifications of human rights to this day. The precise meaning of the term right is controversial and is the subject of continued philosophical debate; while there is consensus that human rights encompasses a wide variety of rights such as the right to a fair trial, protection against enslavement, prohibition of genocide, free speech, or a right to education, there is disagreement about which of these particular rights should be included within the general framework of human rights; some thinkers suggest that human rights should be a minimum requirement to avoid the worst-case abuses, while others see it as a higher standard.

Definition of the Term “Human Rights Violations”

When governments, public institutions or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) deny basic human rights, including civil, political, cultural, social and economic rights, human rights are violated. Human rights violations include violation and denial of all rights to which human beings are entitled- rights which are stipulated by international declarations and conventions.

Chapter 2: Violence in UK Prisons

According to studies and documentation presented by the media, violence has increased in British prisons in 2015 and based on UK annual statistics more than 15,000 prisoners were under attack. In addition, British prisons suffer from a shortage of staff and there is not enough space to hold prisoners. These prisoners are not treated as humans. The cases mentioned below show that prisoners are frequently kept in solitary confinement or are sexually abused. It is also noteworthy that many people who were imprisoned in England last year are the country's minorities. UN special rapporteur pointed out that the government has refused a series of demands to visit several prisons in the United Kingdom. He said this action is against guidelines adopted by the UN Human Rights Council. According to the fact that the female population is rising in prisons in England, he expressed concerns about prison overcrowding and bad conditions in prisons in this country. He also expressed concern about high rates of minorities and immigrants detained in prisons in England. Accordingly, 28 % of women in British prisons are ethnic minorities.



Half of the female population in UK prisons have experienced physical and emotional abuse at least once. Many women in prisons have injured themselves due to the bad conditions and there have also been some suicide cases. Lack of staff, particularly female staff, invasion of privacy of women by male staff and rough treatment and beating the prisoners are other cases cited.

According to a report published in mid- July, the violence in prisons in England and Wales has increased in an unprecedented way. This report states that the prisons in England are full of violence. It points out to official statistics by the statistics center and adds that over 15,000 prisoners have been under attack and this is the highest rate in over a decade. The shortage of prison staff and overcrowding in prisons are the factors which increase violence and these factors have had a bad influence on the correction system in England. Chairman of the Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB) points out that these attacks have been deliberately under the influence of psychotropic drugs. The report also indicates that many prisons are faced with a financial crisis and concludes that the best way to solve this problem is to reduce the number of prisoners.



The next case about the human rights violation in prisons refers to holding prisoners in solitary confinement. Two convicted terrorists were illegally held in solitary confinement for prolonged periods in prison, the Supreme Court has ruled. Kamel Bourgass, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of a police officer, and Tanvir Hussain, jailed for involvement in the 2006 airline bomb plot, were kept in segregation for almost six months. But cellular confinement for disciplinary matters, the court heard, can only be imposed for a maximum of 21 days. The five justices who considered the case unanimously declared that holding the men under such conditions for so long was unlawful because it breached prison rules. The Supreme Court reported that one of the two prisoners was locked in his cell for 23 hours a day and denied association with other prisoners.¹

The High Rate of Suicide in UK Prisons

According to a new report, staff shortages in British prisons are in part to blame for the high level of suicides. Vulnerable young people in custody are not receiving the support they require. Urgent action is required by government ministers to prevent more inmates taking their own lives, the report warned, adding that each of the 87 suicides recorded in the course of the study was a state failure. The report, led by Lord Harris of the Independent Advisory Panel (IAP), laid out over 100 recommendations for prisons across the country including ensuring young people spend more than eight hours a day outside their cell and an increase in productive activities within prison. This report adds that two 15-year-old children are among those who have committed suicide and this is a disaster for the government. Finally, it concludes that if the current trend continues, the number of suicides will be increased.²

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jul/29/terror-prisoners-segregation-for-extended-periods-ruled-unlawful>

² <https://www.rt.com/uk/270994-staff-shortage-prison-suicide/>



Chapter 3: Unorganized Social Situations

According to Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

According to the reports, the poverty line in the UK in 2015 has increased in an unprecedented way and accordingly in the report of the European Commission (EC), England is the most unequal country among the European countries. In addition, a third of the UK population live below the official poverty line. Also, an unprecedented increase in the number of the homeless in this country has been reported and many experts consider austerity measures of the government as its main factor.³



³ <https://www.rt.com/business/260389-uk-eu-poverty-rate/>

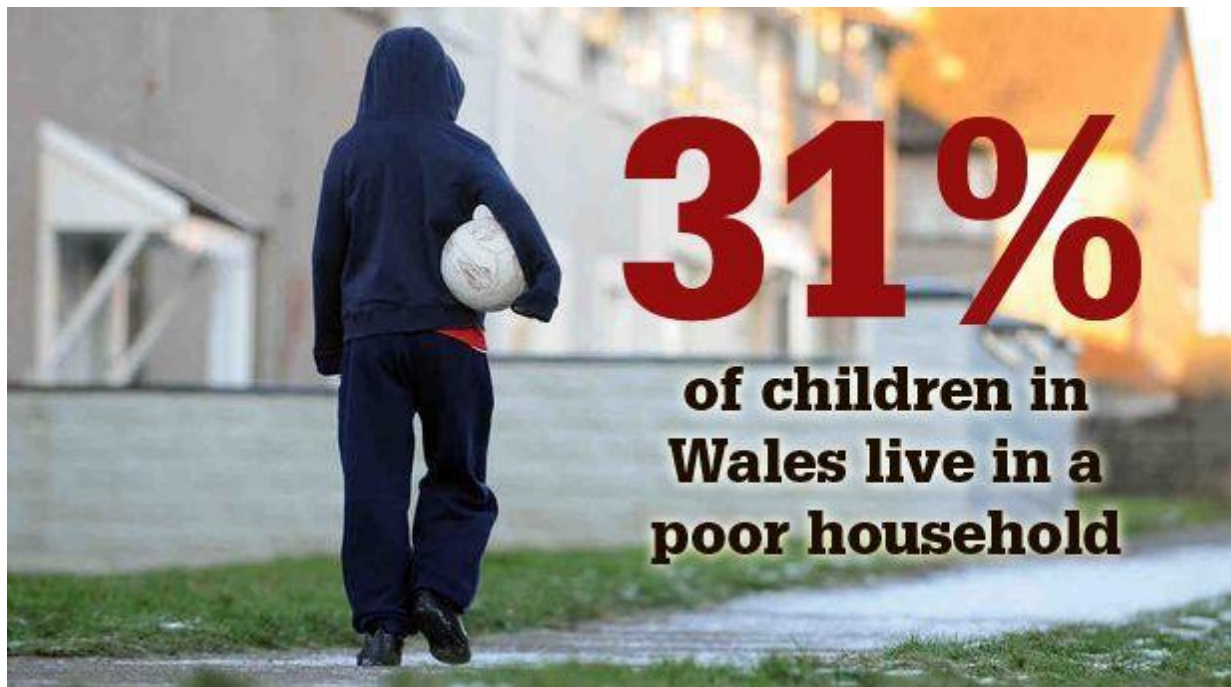
Class Conflict and Poverty in British Society

European Commission announced in a report that England is the most unequal country in Europe and that the inequality in this country is even worse than the United States. The report also notes that the income distribution in this country is unfair. According to this report, the crisis in 2009 has extremely increased unevenness among European countries, including Britain. In addition, an Economist, with an economic analysis of Britain, stated that David Cameron's policies for getting out of recession have led to failure. He pointed out that British officials' claim to have the strongest economy in Europe, is an exaggeration.

A third of the UK population lived below the official poverty line at some point between 2010 and 2013, Britain's Office for National Statistics (ONS) has said. According to (ONS), about 19.3 million people experienced poverty in at least one year between 2010 and 2013. It adds that 4.6 million people are living at the lowest level of so-called "persistent poverty" in the UK. Retired people in the UK faced the highest risks of falling below the poverty line. A report was released in September based on the fact that 200 thousand people have lost their lives due to poverty and inequality in the UK. This is a perfect example of violation of the provision that all human beings need to have prosperity and this is the role of the government to make that possible, but the British government has refused to do it. The report adds that poor people die 7 years earlier than the rich and suffer from a variety of defects 17 years earlier than them.



Statistics presented in this report show that social inequality and poverty are increasing in this European country. The report also criticizes the British government's austerity policies and claims that public spending cuts can lead to a humanitarian disaster. A report by the National Institute of Economic Research also announced that most poor children are among the working-class community.⁴



Homelessness

A report published in late June showed that the homelessness crisis is strongly increasing in the UK and it is unprecedented over the past seven years. Statistics show that the population has increased, but the number of housing has not increased. The report shows that the UK housing crisis has forced many families to live in inadequate and unhealthy housing. The situation is worse for minorities in such a way that they have to live in temporary housing with shared bathroom and toilet. In late February, many charities announced that the indifference of the British government and the increase of homelessness is a violation of human rights and said that the British government should pay attention to demands for the increase of housing. These institutions expressed the right to housing and the need to a standard

⁴ <https://www.indy100.com/article/the-uk-is-the-most-unequal-country-in-the-eu--11It2nHEZb>

of living for every one as the basics of the human rights and that the government's inattention to this issue is unacceptable. But despite the rise of homelessness and lack of affordable housing, the British government has been unable to provide it.⁵



Job Dissatisfaction

More than 35 percent of workers in the UK think their job does not make any meaningful contribution to the world, but are not currently seeking more fulfilling employment, a new survey has revealed. The research, carried out by YouGov, found that 50 percent of workers believe their job is in some way meaningful, while 13 percent are not sure.⁶

⁵ <https://www.rt.com/business/260389-uk-eu-poverty-rate/>

⁶ <https://www.rt.com/uk/312365-people-think-jobs-useless/>

Child Poverty in the UK

Nearly two-thirds of children in poverty live in working families. According to a new report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), rising employment between 2009–10 and 2013–14 led to increases in the proportion of children living with working parents. At the same time, falls in real earnings reduced the incomes of working families. These two contrasting trends led to absolute child poverty remaining unchanged overall in this period. However, the proportion of children in poverty living in a working family rose from 54% in 2009–10 to 63% by 2013–14.⁷

The Use of Child Labor for Compulsory Work

A report published in late July announced the use of trafficked Vietnamese children to work in cannabis farms and factories. According to this report, Vietnam is ranked fourth out of the countries from which children are trafficked to Britain and it has been estimated that there are around 3,000 Vietnamese children in the UK who are being used to work in cannabis farms. Child trafficking experts are now warning that the British authorities are unable to keep up with this issue.⁸

High Rates of Deaths Caused by Drugs

Statistics from the General Register Office of Scotland showed that the death rate caused by drugs has reached its peak in 2014. Most deaths were among heroin and methadone users. Annabel Goldie, the Scottish Tory leader, said: “These awful figures are proof of the tragic consequences of Scotland’s drugs epidemic. Each death represents not just a life needlessly lost, but a family devastated and a community scarred. These wasted lives are the consequence of a wasted decade.”⁹

⁷ <http://www.ifs.org.uk/events/1161>

⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/may/23/vietnam-children-trafficking-nail-bar-cannabis>

⁹ <http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/120329/Drug-death-toll-hits-record-high>



Chapter 4: The Status of Women in the UK

Every year, 3 million women in Britain are subjected to violence, including domestic violence, beating, rape and sexual abuse which sometimes lead to AIDS, acid attacks, forced marriages and trafficking that lead to physical injury, abortion, disability and in some cases death due to intensity of injuries.



The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Rashida Manjoo, conducted an official visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 31 March to 15 April 2014. She reported her findings on May 19, 2015 among which the main findings are as follows:

Violence in the Family

Domestic violence is one of the most pervasive forms of violence against women in the United Kingdom. Crime surveys for England and Wales reveal that 30 per cent of women reported having experienced some domestic abuse since the age of 16. In 2012–2013, 77 women were killed by their partners or ex-partners.¹⁰ The incidence of domestic and sexual violence across Northern Ireland during the 2012/13 period

¹⁰ Office for National Statistics, *Focus on violent crime and sexual offences 2012/13* (2013), chap. 4 “Intimate Personal Violence and Partner Abuse”

included 27,190 incidents of domestic abuse, 5 murders as a direct result of domestic violence and 404 sexual offences with a domestic motivation. During 2011/12, 697 victims and their children were recorded as being homeless as a result of domestic violence.¹¹



In Scotland for the 2012/13 period there were 60,080 incidents of domestic abuse and women were the victims in 81 per cent of the incidents in which the sex of the victim was recorded. Furthermore, 50 per cent of female victims were killed by their partner or ex-partner, while this was the case for only 6 per cent of male victims.¹²

¹¹ www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/dsva-strategy.pdf

¹² www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00435280.pdf



According to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, 1302 cases of forced marriages were recorded in the UK in 2013. Victims included people thought to be at potential risk, those going through forced marriage, and those who had already been forced to marry, with 82 per cent of female victims and 40 per cent under the age of 18. 97 cases involved victims suffering from physical or mental disabilities. Forced and early marriage affects a wide range of communities in the United Kingdom, including the Irish Traveller community, as well as Afghan, South Asian, Kurdish, Iraqi Kurd, Arab and some African communities.¹³

Violence in the Community

Another part of the report is devoted to violence against women in the society. This section shows that 60,894 sexual offences were recorded by the police for 2013 across England and Wales, representing an increase of 17 per cent compared to the previous year. Rape increased by 20 per cent and other sexual offences by 15 per cent.¹⁴ According to interlocutors, 38 per cent of women victims of the most serious sexual offences in England and Wales in 2011–2012 did not tell anyone, and 87 per cent did not tell the police.¹⁵ Issues such as victim-blaming and a lack of trust in the justice system discouraged women from disclosing incidents. As regards sexual

¹³ Imkaan submission to the Government's forced marriage consultation, p. 2. For additional information, see www.gov.UK/stop-forced-marriage

¹⁴ www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_360216.pdf, p. 39.

¹⁵ www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime/stb-focus-on--violent-crime-and-sexual-offences-2011-12.html, p. 74.

harassment, it was reported that 42 per cent of young women in London aged between 18 and 34 experienced unwanted sexual attention in 2013.¹⁶ Girls aged between 16 and 18 are reportedly at the highest risk of sexual assault,¹⁷ while women aged between 18 and 29 are at greatest risk of threatening and offensive advances on the Internet.

Regarding Internet violence, a recent study found that many women and girls had been exposed to harmful behaviours online, including humiliation, harassment, intimidation and “sexting” as a form of bullying.¹⁸ Women activities in organized crime groups and their deplorable condition are other cases. As a result, most girls are absorbed in organized groups through school friends and educational authorities in England do nothing regarding this issue.

Violence against Women in UK Prisons

The Special Rapporteur visited Hydebank Wood Prison in Northern Ireland, Cornton Vale Prison in Scotland and Holloway Prison for Women and Young Offenders in London.

There is an increase in women being incarcerated, with black and minority ethnic women overrepresented within prisons and immigration detention centres. A 2007 report indicates that ethnic minority women made up 28 per cent of the women’s prison population, representing over three times that of the general population.¹⁹ Furthermore, black and minority ethnic women were more likely to be living in a deprived area, more likely to be subject to poverty, to have experienced the State care system and to find it harder to access educational opportunities. They were also more likely to be remanded in custody than white offenders, and their disadvantage and marginalization continues and is compounded in the criminal justice system.²⁰

¹⁶ United Kingdom, YouGov, “Sexual Harassment in the Capital” (2010).

¹⁷ www.cps.gov.uk/news/articles/domestic_violence_-_the_facts_the_issues_the_future/.

¹⁸ www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/qualitative-study-children-young-people-sexting-report.pdf%20%E2%80%83.

¹⁹ www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/corston-report-march-2007.pdf, p. 23.

²⁰ *ibid.*, p. 27.



Unequal Job Opportunities for Women

British Muslim women are around 70 per cent more likely to be looking unsuccessfully for work, according to the University of Bristol's Dr Nabil Khattab, who spoke at the British Sociological Association's annual conference in Glasgow. The recent national Labour Force survey showed the unemployment rate among Muslim women was 18 per cent, compared with 9 per cent for Hindu women and 4 per cent for white Christian women. This has previously been attributed to Muslim women being less well educated and less fluent in English, but Dr Khattab says his data shows the discrepancy is also likely to be explained by employer discrimination. Dr Khattab analysed a sample of 2,643 from the national Labour Force survey to compare the rates of those looking for work without success. He adjusted the sample in order to compare women with similar educational level and language abilities and controlled for marital status, children and strength of religious belief. He found that Muslim women were 71 per cent more likely than white Christian women to be unemployed, even when they had the same educational level and language skills. Hindu women were 57 per cent more likely to be unemployed than white Christian women.²¹

²¹ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-muslim-women-71-more-likely-to-be-unemployed-due-to-workplace-discrimination-10179033.html>

British Women Victims of Acid Attacks

The 37-year-old was taken to hospital with significant burns to her face, neck and arms after being attacked outside a restaurant in Southampton. Staff from Turtle Bay gave the woman first aid after a man threw corrosive acid over her face at 9pm. Police described it as a rare and isolated attack and the man was believed to be known to the woman.²²

²² <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/sep/19/acid-attack-southampton-woman-severe-burns>

Chapter 5: Police Violence



According to an Independent investigation, more than 3,000 police officers are being investigated for alleged assault – with black and Asian people significantly more likely than white people to complain of police brutality. According to figures obtained under Freedom of Information requests by the Independent, the Metropolitan Police and West Midlands Police – forces responsible for policing the most ethnically diverse parts of the UK – account for almost half the 3,082 officers under investigation for alleged assault around the country. Almost all of the officers under investigation for alleged violence against members of the public are still on the beat, with just 2 per cent suspended or put on restricted duties. Black and minority ethnic people make up one in three of London’s population but represent 55 per cent of alleged victims of brutality by Met officers. The disparity is even worse in the West Midlands where nearly half of assault complaints against police come from black or Asian people – though just 14 per cent of the population is black or ethnic minority. This means black and Asian people are 3.5 times more likely to allege assault by officers.²³

²³ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/over-3000-police-officers-being-investigated-for-alleged-assault-and-almost-all-of-them-are-still-on-10220091.html>

Police force	Officers being investigated	Suspended/restricted duties
THE MET	1,218	5/28
WEST MIDLANDS	450	5/0
NORTHUMBRIA	192	0/1
LEICESTER	100+	0/1
HUMBERSIDE	80	NONE
DEVON & CORNWALL	73	0/4
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	73	NONE
MERSEYSIDE	73	NONE
AVON & SOMERSET	68	1/0
WEST YORKSHIRE	58	3/2

SOURCE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Police Officers Jailed over Bijan Ebrahimi Murder Case

A disabled refugee, Bijan Ebrahimi, was punched and kicked to death outside his Bristol home and his body set on fire by neighbour Lee James, who wrongly suspected he was a paedophile. Police had gone to Ebrahimi's home three days before he was murdered after he told them James had burst in and threatened him, but they arrested Ebrahimi rather than James. He spent the night in a police station and after being taken home made a string of calls to police, claiming his life was at risk from vigilantes. His pleas for protection went unheeded.

A police constable and a community support officer who failed in their duty to protect a disabled refugee before he was murdered by a misguided vigilante have been sent to prison. PC Kevin Duffy was sentenced to 10 months at Bristol crown court on Tuesday, while PCSO Andrew Passmore was jailed for four months. The pair were convicted of misconduct in a public office after a jury decided they had made criminally serious errors over the case of Bijan Ebrahimi.²⁴

²⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/feb/09/bijan-ebrahimi-murder-bristol-police-sentenced>



Chapter 6: Violation of Civil Rights

According to the Independent, no one can escape Britain's surveillance state and thousands of cameras on the streets of this country are observing people in every time of day. The following are the violations of human rights on the citizens of the country.

Spying on People

According to a report published in late June, the British Intelligence Agency has been spying on people and advertising in virtual spaces. According to this 42-page report, the agency has manipulated the public through advertisements and has been spying on citizens when necessary. The report adds that this organization has had cooperation with organizations such as the police, national discipline, economic organizations, schools, banks, etc. and has given them information. Other tasks of this organization are collecting data from countries such as Iran, Afghanistan and so on. On July 14, a report published which dealt with the extensive monitoring of the intelligence services. The publication of this report led to a storm of protests for reforming domestic spying laws.

Many human rights activists have stated that surveillance of citizens by government should be reduced and transparency needs to be done in this case. The activists believe that government regulation undermines the privacy and should be stopped. A report published in the Daily Telegraph claims that no one can escape Britain's surveillance state. The report continues that all the streets of London are under complete surveillance and 16000 cameras in the streets and even in the metro have the task of monitoring citizens.²⁵

²⁵ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/news/11831533/Can-anyone-escape-Britains-surveillance-state.html>



Monitoring People

The UN's newly appointed special rapporteur on privacy, Joseph Cannataci, has described digital surveillance in the UK as "worse" than anything imagined in George Orwell's totalitarian dystopia 1984. Warning against the steady erosion of privacy and increasing levels of government intrusion, he also drew sinister parallels with Orwell's vision of a mass-surveilled society, adding that today's reality was far worse than the fiction: "At least Winston [a character in Orwell's 1984] was able to go out in the countryside and go under a tree and expect there wouldn't be any screen, as it was called. Whereas today there are many parts of the English countryside where there are more cameras than George Orwell could ever have imagined."

As part of his new role, which elevates digital privacy to the same level of importance as other human rights, Cannataci has vowed to begin systematically reviewing government policies and the business models of large corporations, which he accuses of "very often taking the data that you never even knew they were taking". Although the privacy chief admits that his mandate is more than likely "impossible to achieve in the next three years", he stressed the importance of a

longer-term view in an effort to help protect people's data and safeguard their digital rights.²⁶

Secret Surveillance of the Users' Smart Phones in the UK

Emergency mass surveillance laws rushed through Parliament last year have been ruled unlawful by the High Court.

Edward Joseph Snowden, former contractor for the US Government, insists that the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) can have complete control over the smart phones without the user's notice. This organization can control smart phones by sending an encrypted text message and use these phones to take photos or listen to telephone conversations. Both the Government Communications Headquarters and the National Security Agency have done investments on technology that allows them to hack smart phones and use them. When the Government Communications Headquarters takes control of smartphone, it is able to know with whom people are speaking, what messages they send or receive, what internet connection they have and where their location is. They can even take pictures of people.²⁷

A human rights group in the UK demanded an end to the massive wiretapping in this country. This is the first time that using people's information has been challenged. One of the committees of the UK parliament confirmed in a report that the Government Communications Headquarters in Britain has collected the information about telephone conversations of hundreds of British citizens. Eric King, the Deputy Director at Privacy International, said: "Using this information, some of which are on a voluntary basis, some are stolen and some are collected with bribes or force, is a violation of human rights and this trend must be stopped."²⁸

²⁶ <http://www.wired.co.uk/article/uk-digital-surveillance-joseph-cannataci>

²⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/04/theresa-may-surveillance-measures-edward-snowden>

²⁸ <http://www.wired.co.uk/article/uk-surveillance-laws-are-unlawful>

Internet and Social Media Mass Surveillance

The true extent of the government's interception of Google, Facebook and Twitter – including private messages between British citizens – has been officially confirmed for the first time.

The government's most senior security official, Charles Farr, detailed how searches on Google, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, as well as emails to or from non-British citizens abroad, can be monitored by the security services because they are deemed to be "external communications".

It is the first time that the government has admitted that UK citizens, talking via supposedly private channels in social media such as Twitter direct messages, are deemed by the British government to be legitimate legal targets that do not require a warrant before intercepting.²⁹

Violating Civil Rights under the Pretext of Combating Terrorism

According to English sources, United Nations Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the human rights, in particular anti-terrorism laws, in the UK and called for a reconsideration of the rules.

English sources reported that the UN Human Rights Committee has criticized the increase of religious, national and ethnic crimes in Britain and has expressed concern about the current approach of English media in promotion of xenophobia and racist statements that ultimately lead to discrimination, hostility and violence in the society. A report dealt with the vague definition of the word "terrorist" in Anti-terrorism legislation in 2000 and announced that the definition affects the political expression in the country in an inappropriate way. This law has been long disputed by ethnic and religious minorities, particularly the Muslim community in Britain which is mainly the purpose of this law.

The UN Human Rights Committee also expressed concern about the Law on Fight against Terrorism and the security of Britain in 2015 that on the pretext of preserving social security, gives broad powers including espionage and eavesdropping to the

²⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/17/mass-surveillance-social-media-permitted-uk-law-charles-farr>

country's security forces. The committee added: "According to the law, the police has the right to temporarily record documents (passport) of suspicious people who may participate in terrorist acts and send them to a place which is more than 200 miles away from their home state." The committee is concerned about the 14-day detention of terrorism suspects which can be increased to 28 days according to the Terrorism Act. The committee also expressed concern about the possibility of abuses at detention centers under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 according to which the arrest takes place without a warrant. The committee demands action by the UK government to review its anti-terrorism law and adjust it in accordance with its obligations under human rights treaties.

Section 16 of the report deals with the increase of suicide in UK prisons and announces that English Officials have not done preventive measures regarding this issue. The committee demands that the authorities pay attention to the prisoners' security and their mental health issues. Section 23 of the report deals with the age of consent in England and Scotland which is now 10 and 8 and said that the age of consent should be enhanced to 12 based on international laws. The report also expressed concern about the poor conditions of detention centers for asylum seekers in the UK and announced that there is not a clear duration of detention in these centers.

Bahraini Dissident Faces Deportation from the UK

A seriously ill Bahraini dissident who fled to Britain to avoid a crackdown against Shia democracy campaigners is set to be deported to his country after the Home Office rejected his case. Ali Isa Hasan, 26, who suffers from severe depression and sickle cell anaemia, fled to Britain in November 2011 amid fears that he faced imprisonment and torture for taking part in pro-democracy protest against the ruling al-Khalifa family. Mr Hassan campaigned against the Sunni-dominated Bahraini government during an Arab Spring-inspired uprising in 2011 and has since become a vocal opponent of the ruling family's crackdown on dissent. Mr. Hassan has been admitted to hospital four times during his stay in the UK and his doctors fear his life is at even greater risk if he faced deportation.

Hassan said in an interview with the Independent: "I will try to stay here, because if I go back to Bahrain they will throw me in jail. They beat my father for 10 days during the protest in 2011. I fear I will be tortured, like they already tortured my

father. I protested in Bahrain. I come from a family of protest and I have protested here and spoken at events in Parliament. They know who I am.”³⁰



³⁰ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bahrain-dissident-faces-deportation-from-the-uk-despite-torture-fears-a6724616.html>

Chapter 7: Minority Status in the UK

With sociological analysis of the minorities' status in British society, we realize that the pressure on minorities has increased in different ways since 2015. Statistics of criminals, people who are under police violence and the increase of racist crimes which according to the police have increased substantially and reports of discrimination in hiring students show the status of minorities in the so-called British civilized society.

Ignoring the Rights of Blacks, Asians and Minorities by the Government

As the general election gets under way, members of the black, Asian and ethnic minority (BAME) community, who say they have been “abandoned by the government for years,” are demanding action by political parties to represent them better. The BAME community makes up more than 14 percent of the UK population. According to new research, Britain's minority vote may determine the outcome of the 2015 election. Issues such as unemployment, immigration, criminal justice, tuition fees, housing and health are core policies which matter most to BAME minorities in Britain. However, Labour figures released in March show the number of BAMEs unemployed for more than a year had risen by nearly 50 percent under the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition.³¹

The Increase of Racism in the British Society

Home Office figures show more than 52,000 offences were reported to police in England and Wales in 2014-15, an 18% increase on the previous year. More than 80% were classed as race hate crimes, with others involving religion and disability. David Cameron has announced that anti-Muslim hate crimes are to be recorded as a separate category for the first time. The actual scale of hate crimes is likely to be higher than the number drawn from police records.³²

³¹ <https://www.rt.com/uk/249605-bames-abandoned-demand-voice/>

³² <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/oct/13/reported-hate-crimes-rise-by-almost-a-fifth>

Racist Viewpoint in British Society

One in three Londoners feel “uncomfortable” about the prospect of a Muslim mayor, despite the capital’s diverse population, a new poll has found. The YouGov survey has sent shockwaves through the city’s Muslim community, as Mayor of London Boris Johnson prepares to wrap up his tenure in May 2016. Asked whether they would feel comfortable with a mayor from an ethnic minority, 31 percent of participants said they would not. Some 55 percent said they were comfortable with such a prospect, while 13 percent declined to specify.³³

Attacks against Religious Minorities

A young Muslim woman who was walking toward a private Islamic primary school in south London to collect her two children, had her hijab ripped off in a racially motivated attack. The woman says she was approached by a number of women, who began shouting abuse at her. The attackers then proceeded to pull her hijab off and started to beat her near a school in Croydon. According to reports by the police, racist crimes in British society are growing strongly and Muslims are most vulnerable.³⁴

Racism at Universities

Black, Asian and other ethnic minority students face a persistent gap in winning university undergraduate offers in England compared with white applicants, even when exam performance is taken into account. Data published by the admissions service Ucas show that even after adjusting for A-level scores, ethnic minority students are marginally less likely to be given offers of places, while white students with similar predicted grades at A level are more successful at getting offers. The analysis suggested that while the gap in successful applications by ethnic minorities is narrower than previous measures, a small but stubborn gap in success rates remains. In the case of medical sciences, the figures suggest more than 360 ethnic minority students were turned down for places that the Ucas forecast suggests they

³³ <https://www.rt.com/uk/312371-london-mayor-muslim-poll/>

³⁴ <http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81637816/>

should have gained at leading Russell Group universities, over the five years of data.³⁵



³⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/sep/18/ethnic-minority-students-less-likely-to-win-university-places>

Chapter 8: Muslims Status in the UK

Media reports suggest that British Muslims face economic and social discrimination and are constantly chased by the police and other security agencies.

UN special rapporteur has expressed concern about controlling Muslims' personal data, searching their homes and arresting them solely because of their religious orientation. According to the last census (March 27, 2011), British Muslim population is more than 2,700,000 which make about 4.4% of Britain's population. The majority of the British Muslims live in England whose number reaches 2,600,000. According to official statistics, between 2001 and 2011, one hundred thousand people have converted to Islam in Britain among which 66% are women. British Muslims are among the youngest people and about a third of them are under 16. The growing trend to Islam in British society on the one hand, and the increase of Muslims' immigration to this country on the other hand, makes the Economist report that Islam is converted from an immigrant to a native religion.

But by the accelerating of the phenomenon of Islamist and resurgence in British society, an increase in violence and discrimination has been noticed against Muslims which is arising from stereotypical and unrealistic attitudes and is largely the result of the social identity threat over the past few years, especially after the events of September 11.³⁶

In the first week of December – 2014, the Islamic Human Rights Commission in London complained through a letter about racial discrimination against Muslims in the West, especially in Britain. In the letter, it has been suggested that discrimination against Muslims in Britain has become commonplace and state laws imposed anti-terrorism laws against about 3 million Muslims in this country. The British government, after developments on September 11, 2001, in order to prevent terrorist acts and increase security, adopted regulatory measures and strict surveillance of the country, including the adoption and enforcement of anti-terrorism law, particularly against Muslims. This law is in fact a pretext for the government to put more pressure on the Muslim community in the country which in many cases led to the violation of their rights. Actions of UK security services against the Muslim community living in this country made Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) issue a statement which apart from serious criticism of the government's anti-terrorism law, announced that the police and security apparatus collect information about members of the Muslim community with extensive use of this law. According to the seventh Amendment of

³⁶ <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/4112/islamization-britain>

terrorist act in Britain, the police are allowed to detain and interrogate each passenger for 9 hours at the border of the country in case of suspicion. This law allows the police to arrest and interrogate the suspect without any reasonable cause and evidence.

According to statistics published by the British government, the implementation of this law against ethnic and religious minorities is more than white people. To protest the implementation of this law, Chairman of the Islamic Human Rights Commission stated that one of the consequences of this law is ethnic and religious influences and it influences Muslims in an inappropriate way. In addition to the discriminatory treatment against Muslims by the security apparatus, Muslim minorities in Britain are at risk of other social and economic discriminations, the most prominent of which is the lack of job opportunities. According to the reports presented by the Independent, British Muslims face widespread employment discrimination in this country and this problem is much worse at the level of managerial or professional occupations. The report adds that Muslim men are 76 percent less likely to find jobs compared to white English Christians with the same qualifications. Muslim women are also 65 percent less likely to be employed compared to white Christian counterparts. However, among the minorities in England, the Jews have the best situation in terms of job opportunities, even better than white Christian counterparts. Accordingly, Jewish men and Jewish women are 29% and 15% more likely to be employed. In describing this situation, Dr. Nabil Khattab stated this is probably because the Muslims are at the lowest spectrum of racial-cultural system and it is due to the growth of islamophobia and hostility against them. This has been also depicted in a BBC documentary. In this documentary which investigates the reasons for the rate of unemployment among Muslims compared to non-Muslims in Britain, two journalists from the network, one with Islamic looks and the other with western dress went to several job employment centers in Bristol. In order to get reliable results, two journalists at the same age and with similar ethnic and professional backgrounds were chosen. The only difference was in the appearance and name. In this documentary, Mohammad as a Muslim and Ian as a west citizen went to over forty centers and institutes for finding jobs and among these 40 job opportunities, Ian was invited to thirteen institutes for interview, while only three institutes invited Mohammad.

A report published by the University of Birmingham under the title “maybe we are hated”³⁷, states that English Muslim women are frequently subjected to violence and

³⁷ tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/maybewearehated.pdf

anti-Muslim sentiments. According to a website (tellmamauk.org), among the total reports of violence, 58% of cases were violence against Muslim women in England among which 80 % were happened in public. These attacks are mainly due to Islamic dress, such as the Islamic veil and the burqa. Some Muslims who are worried about the negative and violent reaction of British citizens, avoid to express their religious identity. In some cases, they are forced to act contrary to the religious orders to be safe. In one case, a woman named Aquila, said in an interview with the Independent that when she settled in Hull, England, she and other Muslim women had to remove their veil to be safe. She noted that she had always been insulted because of religious affiliation.

On November 26, 2015, the government presented a new bill entitled “Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act” to parliament and this led to a strong protest from the civil society in Britain. The new law will increase the monitoring of Muslims accused of radicalism and prohibits the presence and speech of the so-called extremist preachers at universities. Critics have described the law as “racist” and believe that it is targeting Muslims and seeks to change the identity of British Muslims.

Tel Mama has announced that because of recent terrorist attacks in Paris, the number of hate crimes against Muslims and Islamophobia has increased. This civil institution claims that the number of hate crimes against Muslims has increased about 70% during the last year.³⁸

Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) stated in a report about the status of the Muslim community in Britain that the hatred against Muslims has intensified. This report points out that the condition of Islamophobia is far worse compared to 2010 and now Islamophobia has become a model for racial discrimination against Islamic groups. Islamic Human Rights Commission states that the number of those exposed to charges against Muslims has increased from 10 percent in 2010 to 39.4 % in 2015. Also, 21 percent of Muslims claim that English politicians call Islam “problematic”.

The Rising Tide of Islamophobia in the UK

³⁸ <http://www.hey.nhs.uk/maternity/community-midwifery-services.htm>

What is Islamophobia? Islamophobia includes when someone or something is targeted, discriminated against or excluded in any way, due to their/its actual or perceived Muslim identity. It also includes prejudice that promotes fear against Muslims and Islam.

Islamophobia is growing in the UK, with ongoing and regular scaremongering about Muslims from certain sections of the media and with anti-Muslim hatred becoming more socially acceptable. There is a real danger that such prejudice will further stoke up anti-Muslim hatred and provide the fodder for an already growing number of acts of violence against the Muslim community. In the last year, we have, for example, seen attacks against mosques, physical abuse against Muslims, anti-Muslim graffiti at a university, a rise in verbal abuse and hate mail, reports of Islamophobia in schools and continued online abuse against Muslims through social media.³⁹

In this regard, Arezoo Mirali, a member of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, said: "Today, we are witnessing the deterioration of the general atmosphere in the UK. There are media reports in the UK that spur this situation in their reports about Muslims, governments and politicians that show Muslims as evil and statutory agencies such as the police who enforce the laws which are against Islam." She, by pointing out that organizations similar to where she worked, are trying to do measures in this regard, said: "Maybe 15 or 20 years ago it was possible to achieve a suitable result, but now it is too late due to the rising tide of Islamophobia in recent years and we need to change our cultural attitudes in this regard and it should be supported by public institutions."

Prohibition of Fasting at British Schools

According to the British media, four primary schools in the UK have implemented a prohibition for fasting directed at students during the Islamic month of Ramadan. Barclay Primary School in east London, a school that operates under an academic umbrella called the Lion Academy Trust, mailed out a letter to the students' parents or guardians informing them of the fasting prohibition school policy. The Muslim Association of Britain (MAB) condemned the school's fasting prohibition policy. "We believe that there are sufficient and stringent rules within Islam which allow those who are unable to fast, to break fast," British paper the Daily Mail Online quoted a spokesman of the association as saying. The approximate Muslim

³⁹ <http://www.mcb.org.uk/islamophobia/>

population of the UK is 3 million. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting.⁴⁰



⁴⁰ <http://www.trtworld.com/europe/four-schools-uk-prohibit-fasting-islamic-month-3162>

Chapter 9: Immigrants Status in the UK

The issue of refugees is so important that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has devoted an article to it. According to article 14 of the Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution, but the west has adopted detailed laws and treaties to escape from its dirty record and to pretend to comply with human axioms.

One of the most controversial news headlines from around the world is refugees' wandering in European countries and the bad treatments of western governments toward them. Before explaining the case of refugees, reminding a convention is necessary and probably interesting. Three years after the adoption and declaration of Human Rights, Due to the importance of Article 14, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, also known as the 1951 Refugee Convention, was approved at a special United Nations conference on 28 July 1951. The Convention builds on Article 14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the right of people to seek asylum from persecution in other countries.

Britain is one of the destinations of refugees around the world and specially refugees from Syria and other Middle Eastern countries. Asylum seekers living in bad conditions in their countries are attracted to England, because they think they can have a good life there. But apparently the implementation of international human rights treaties is ignored by Europeans when it has costs.

According to euronews, blocking train railways and trying to get on trains in the Channel Tunnel, are the most recent actions of the asylum seekers. Channel Tunnel is a rail tunnel linking Folkestone, Kent, in the United Kingdom, with Coquelles, Pas-de-Calais, near Calais in northern France. The main objective of refugees is to achieve England through France. Because of tough security inspections, it seems that many of them have risked their lives by getting on these trains. Refugees wander at U.K.-France Border and die one after another due to lack of facilities, while the British podiums, instead of sympathy, deal with the damages caused by the delay of transit vans due to border congestion.⁴¹ Over three thousand asylum seekers are wandering at U.K.-France Border, but the media deal with governmental issues. Conservative interior minister, Theresa May, while referring to the intensification of the measures taken to deal with the refugees' problem, said: "A significant number

⁴¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/gallery/2015/jul/30/migrants-clash-with-police-in-calais-in-pictures>

of refugees who were trying to enter this country were rejected.” The following are other examples of such violation of human rights.⁴²

Rude and Violent People in Manchester Drive Immigrants Back to Their Countries

Rudeness and violence from the people of Manchester led an Iranian man to walk into a police station demanding to be deported, he has disclosed. Mr. Aria told the Telegraph he had been left frustrated and disappointed by local people’s rudeness and his failure to find work.

Immigration is a sensitive political issue in Britain. Thousands of immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa are living in the camps in northern France in the hope of breaking into the British territory. But David Cameron’s government has refused to accept immigrants from other countries⁴³.

Hundreds of Nigerians trafficked to UK

Hundreds of vulnerable Nigerians are being illegally trafficked into Britain, where they are often sexually exploited or forced into domestic slavery. Official statistics from Britain’s National Crime Agency (NCA) reveal over 2,000 possible trafficking victims were brought to the attention of UK authorities in 2014. Of these, 244 came from Nigeria – a 31 percent increase on the previous year. Human rights group Anti-Slavery International said the problem could be more serious than official statistics indicate. The human rights group added it was “*no surprise*” victims don’t want to report their circumstances to UK authorities, as the “*threat of deportation*” is *very real*. Speaking on BBC, Kevin Hyland, Britain’s anti-slavery commissioner, expressed deep concern about the problem. He said the influx of illegally trafficked people from Nigeria was an ongoing problem, totaling “several hundred every year.”⁴⁴

⁴² <http://www.euronews.com/2015/09/22/eu-migrant-redistribution-plan-approved-by-interior-ministers>

⁴³ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11885944/iran-immigrant-hates-manchester.html>

⁴⁴ <https://www.rt.com/uk/267757-trafficking-sex-slavery-servitude/>



Calais Migrant Crisis

The UN's special representative on migration has said he is "amazed" by the UK's reaction to the ongoing migrant crisis in Calais, saying the authorities have exaggerated the scale of the situation in order to ratchet up international tensions. Peter Sutherland said the crisis was humanitarian rather than economic, and criticized the government for failing to tackle the poor conditions of migrants in the Calais camp.

However, the British government, rather than humanitarian assistance, had covered its border with fence and threatened to use this region for military issues. After a visit to the camp on the outskirts of the French port, Peter Sutherland said he was shocked by the squalid and dangerous conditions in the "Jungle" camp. About 3 thousand foreign refugees live in Calais camp at the border of France and England and are looking for an opportunity to enter England. England has taken a strict stance toward foreign migrants.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ <https://www.rt.com/uk/311242-calais-traffic-army-intervention/>



Work Restrictions on Foreign Students in the UK

Thousands of foreign students at publicly funded colleges are to lose the right to work in Britain while they study. New laws prevent college students from applying to stay in Britain and work when they finish their course, unless they leave the country first. The new laws which apply to all students, do not allow people to receive work visa under the excuse of studying at a university.



Joseph Okino, writer and political analyst, said students spend billions of pounds to help the British economy and adoption of such a policy is not fair to them. Official statistics show that 121 thousand foreign students have entered Britain from last June, but only 51 thousand students have left the country. The number of foreign students at British further education colleges has slumped in recent years from a peak of more than 110,000 in 2011 to 18,297 in the last 12 months. The fall is partly a result of a squeeze by the home secretary, Theresa May, in an attempt to reduce annual net migration to below 100,000. Ministers say the fall is also a result of a drive to reduce visa fraud and close down hundreds of privately funded “bogus” colleges. London plans to prevent people to enter the country with a student visa and take advantage of government’s benefits without having a job.⁴⁶

“Britain” Director of Trafficking Networks

According to Sky News, the smugglers in some French camps are mostly from Britain and Belgium and appear to rotate every few months. People-trafficking networks in migrant camps in northern France have links to both Britain and Belgium. Camera crews gained access to a small camp in the Grande Synthe area, just outside Dunkirk which is home to around 120 migrants. Inside the camp, Sky News saw at least 13 British registered cars parked up around tents and shelters and it is believed up to 15 smugglers control the site.

⁴⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jul/13/work-restrictions-foreign-students-visa-fraud-crackdown>



A 21-year-old Afghan man who has friends living there, used to stay at a camp in Calais. He said many are paying traffickers to help them reach the UK and often pay in pounds sterling. He continued: “Some give in euros but most of the people pay in English pounds.”

Illegal entrance to England from Calais border in recent weeks has caused many problems for the government and the country’s transportation industry to the extent that British officials have met their French counterparts and called for European Commission cooperation with Africa to resolve the illegal migration crisis.⁴⁷

Modern Slavery

According to Article 4 of the Declaration of Human Rights, no one shall be held as a slave; Slavery and trade in slaves of any kind and in any form should be prohibited.

Using immigrants in agricultural lands in the worst situation in a way that is reminiscent of slavery in America in the 21st century and in a country which is a defender of human rights, is a catastrophe. A report broadcasted in the UK TV Channel four, uncovers the miserable life of immigrants who live in unsanitary conditions and sometimes even don’t have water to wash their hands. The report argues that many fruits and vegetables which are sold at supermarkets in this country are the result of abuse of helpless refugees who accept to be slaves and live in deplorable conditions in the agricultural fields in order to escape deportation. In this report, immigrants say they are forced to work and eat the worst foods, while they should work in agricultural fields day and night. The report says that the immigrants

⁴⁷ <http://news.sky.com/story/migrant-camp-people-traffickers-linked-to-uk-10350045>

are kept in plastic shed near their work place and provide Britain's vegetable with the minimum wage. These people are exposed to toxic pesticides which lead to a variety of diseases. After the report's publication, many consumers were aware that many substances they consume are provided by immoral actions and by forcing innocent immigrants to work. Many critics have stated that the documents broadcasted from Channel Four should be investigated under the title "Slavery Lobby".⁴⁸

Chapter 10: Sexual Abuse

Child Sexual Abuse

In the history of England, celebrities in all fields, including politicians and famous artists are involved in child sexual abuse and are considered a stigma in the country's human rights history. Many current and past members of parliament, senior staff, general devices, government advisors and members of the intelligence and security apparatus have been involved in this issue and even major centers like churches and schools have been accused of child sexual abuse. Many have tried to cover up the allegations and the judge in charge of the case ordered the investigation of all the subjects. According to English sources, this study is the most important public research in the UK in connection with child sexual abuse and is expected to cost tens of millions of pounds. These sources argue that the judge will face difficulties, because some political and security institutions are involved in this complex case. The research committee asked the victims of abuse to make their information available.

⁴⁸ <http://www.channel4.com/news/salad-supermarkets-cost-migrant-exploitation-pay-pesticide>



According to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), the number of suspects being investigated over historical child abuse allegations now stands at more than 2,220, while 302 of which are described as "persons of public prominence" including 'Jimmy Saville' former host broadcaster on 'BBC', 'Leon Brittan' former minister of Britain and 'Cyril Smith' former parliamentary member of the Liberal Party. Out of the 2,228 alleged offenders, 286 are dead and 1,217 are offenders alleged to have committed crimes in institutions such as schools, medical establishments and children's homes. The number of suspects has risen by more than 800 since the NPCC last gave an update on Operation Hydrant. Of the 302 alleged offenders classified as persons of public prominence, 147 come from the world of TV, film and radio and 99 are listed as politicians both on a national and local level. There are also 39 from the music industry and 17 from the world of sport. The report has not referred to the number of children who are victims of evil desires, but their number is expected to go beyond one thousand. 761 institutions are being examined as part of Operation Hydrant, including 288 schools, 204 children's homes, 86 religious institutions and 39 medical establishments, 25 prisons, 22 sports venues and 10 institutions in communities.

In addition, the Daily Telegraph, in a recent revealing report, announced that there are some documents about the role of the British police in covering up the corruption and crimes of influential members of a child abuse gang in the last decade. Frequent scandals involving child sexual abuse in the UK, has become a serious problem for this European country and in the meantime it is revealed that the judicial system, local authorities and police have failed to protect children who are in danger. Disclosure of repeated scandals about child sexual abuse in the UK has concerned people and organizations which support children in this country.

Children's Commissioner has estimated in a recent report that from April 2012 to March 2014, more than 450,000 children in the UK have been sexually abused. This civil defense agency, according to the fact that registered complaints in this period are about 50,000, says: It is estimated that 85% of cases of child abuse in the UK which are related to family members and acquaintances, are not reported to the authorities.⁴⁹

Sexual Abuse in Schools

The second case of sexual abuse is related to the child sexual abuse in schools in the UK. According to a report, more than 5,500 cases of sexual abuse in schools of Britain are reported to the police over the past three years. The statistics are gathered by BBC. The data show that during this three-year period, 4 thousand cases of physical abuse and 600 cases of sexual abuse in schools are reported in this country. According to this report, more than 500 victims were under 13 and even in some cases both victim and suspect were only 5. Police has recorded these cases over three academic years from 2012 to 2015. Scottish police have also published the statistics for 2011 to 2013. Jan Marie Brown, director of the residential Gateways Program, said in the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC): "These statistics are really alarming, particularly when the victims are too young and the attacks have been carried out in the school building. Unfortunately, I have to say that the statistics are not surprising for me, because previous research shows that sexual abuse is increasing among young people. We know that older students' access to immoral pictures has a devastating impact on views about acceptable behavior and elementary students more or less repeat sexual activities that they see." Simon Bailey, Chief Constable of Norfolk Constabulary and the lead on Child Protection for the National Police Chiefs' Council, said: "the published statistics are only a part of the hidden fact. According to the Ministry of Education, 60 children have been fired from British schools because of sexual misconduct in the school year 2013-14."⁵⁰

The Abuse of Disabled People in the UK

⁴⁹ <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/operation-hydrant-300-celebs-politicians-included-list-2220-child-abuse-suspects-1531482>

⁵⁰ <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/jdibrief/crime/sexual-abuse-in-schools>

Almost 5,000 disabled adults have been sexually abused in England in the past two years, new figures show. People with learning difficulties were the victims of almost two-thirds of reported incidents. The others had a range of physical disabilities. Disabled children are also likely victims.



The charity Respond noted they had seen “some horrendous cases” involving young disabled people. Today’s finding of sexual assault against disabled adults – and likely, teenagers and children – is part of the large-scale abuse of disabled people in this country. According to the NSPCC, disabled children and young people are three to four times more likely to be abused and neglected than their non-disabled peers. Disabled women are twice as likely to be assaulted or raped as non-disabled women – be it at the hands of a stranger or, more likely, their partner, a family member or the person they have trusted to care for them. According to research by Women’s Aid, half of disabled women – and yes, this is often a gendered crime – have experienced domestic abuse.⁵¹

⁵¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/may/18/abuse-disabled-people-sexually-abused-england-cuts-services>

Chapter 11: London is now the Global Money-laundering Centre for the Drug Trade



According to an internationally acclaimed crime expert, the City of London is the money-laundering center of the world's drug trade. The Independent, citing from Roberto Saviano, wrote that London is now the global center of money laundering for the buying and selling of drugs.

Roberto Saviano warned that UK banks and financial services have ignored so-called "know your customer" rules designed to curb criminals' abilities to launder the proceeds of crime. His warning follows a National Crime Agency (NCA) threat assessment which stated: "We assess that hundreds of billions of US dollars of criminal money almost certainly continue to be laundered through UK banks, including their subsidiaries, each year." Last month, the NCA warned that despite the UK's role in developing international standards to tackle money laundering, the continued extent of it amounts to a "strategic threat to the UK's economy and reputation". It added that the same money-laundering networks used by organized crime were being used by terrorists as well.

Interviewed by the Independent, Mr. Saviano said of the international drugs trade that "Mexico is its heart and London is its head". He said the cheapness and the ease of laundering dirty money through UK-based banks gave London a key role in drugs trade.⁵²

⁵² <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/london-is-now-the-global-money-laundering-centre-for-the-drug-trade-says-crime-expert-10366262.html>

Chapter 12: Human Rights Violations Beyond Local Boundaries



Britain Fueling War in Yemen

According to Oxfam UK, the conflict in Yemen has been exacerbated by the UK government's arms deals with Saudi Arabia, causing a terrible humanitarian catastrophe and potentially placing the government in breach of international law. The ongoing war has seen Saudi Arabia, backed by US and UK arms, carry out airstrikes on Houthi rebels attempting to take control of Yemen. International law states that arms deals should be prohibited if there is a risk they could be used to commit war crimes or human rights abuses, the charity said, adding the UK's

response to the conflict has been a paradox, because on the one hand the Department for International Development is funding efforts to help civilians caught up in the conflict, while on the other the government is fueling the conflict that is causing unbearable human suffering.

The charity is calling for a suspension of arms trading with Saudi Arabia and a full investigation into the legal implications of its trade with the country, as well as a push for more humanitarian aid. Its plea comes after an investigation into the conflict by BBC's Newsnight revealed the plight of civilians in Yemen, many of whom have been forced to flee their homes. The report showed one target of a Saudi airstrike believed to have been a training camp and arms factory. In actual fact the target was a water-bottling plant. The airstrike killed many workers, some as young as 13.⁵³



Yemen Crisis

The attack on the factory in the Sana'a governorate, which appeared to be producing only civilian goods, killed one person, and was in apparent violation of international

⁵³ <https://www.rt.com/uk/315062-oxfam-yemen-war-weapons/>

humanitarian law (IHL), the laws of war. This strike, using a British missile supplied in the 1990s, undermines the claim of Ministers that the Saudi Arabia-led coalition's use of UK military equipment is consistent with IHL, and that the UK monitors such compliance "very carefully". The organizations are unaware of any credible coalition investigation into this or other apparently unlawful airstrikes for possible IHL violations.

David Mepham, UK Director at Human Rights Watch, said: "The latest revelations show UK policy to be both misleading and seriously ineffective. Despite multiple, well-documented cases of violations of the laws of war by the Gulf coalition in Yemen, UK Ministers have consistently refused to acknowledge this. The UK should suspend further sales of aerial munitions to coalition members pending a thorough investigation into this case, and other apparently unlawful air strikes".⁵⁴

British Military Allegedly Helping Saudi Arabia Target Locations in Yemen



⁵⁴ <https://www.amnesty.ie/latest/news/2015/11/25/yemen-coalition-used-uk-cruise-missile-unlawful-airstrike/>

Military experts from Britain are allegedly working with Saudi Arabia's military operation in Yemen by helping select locations for attacking rebels. Thousands of people have died in the conflict, many of whom are civilians. The claim that six experts were helping Saudi Arabia with targeting was made by Sky News.

David Mepham, director of Human Rights Watch UK, told *Sky News* that the group condemned Britain's involvement in Saudi Arabia's campaign in Yemen. The group has previously produced reports in which it states the actions of the coalition could amount to war crimes. "Human Rights Watch has put out numerous reports about what the Saudis are up to in Yemen." He said it was "deeply regrettable and unacceptable" that Britain was "working hand in glove with the Saudis".

Britain has come under fire for selling arms to Saudi Arabia. And was recently announced that the Government had licensed £5.6 billion in the sales of arms and fighter jets.⁵⁵

Bahrain Rewards UK for not Taking Human Rights Record into Account

The British Government is set to face a major legal challenge over a controversial new royal navy base in Bahrain, amid accusations that Britain has sacrificed human rights at the altar of trade and military deals.

In December the Foreign Secretary Phillip Hammond announced a new naval base in the country, signalling a renewed commitment to Britain's military role in the Gulf. However it was met by dismay by human rights activists who said the base was a "reward" for the UK's silence on human rights abuses in the country.⁵⁶

Defence secretary, Michael Fallon said: "This new base is a permanent expansion of the Royal Navy's footprint and will enable Britain to send more and larger ships to reinforce stability in the Gulf." It will be the first permanent base in the Middle East for the UK since it formally withdrew from the region in 1971.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/british-military-allegedly-helping-saudi-arabia-target-locations-in-yemen-a6801616.html>

⁵⁶ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/british-navy-base-in-bahrain-faces-legal-challenge-after-not-taking-human-rights-record-into-account-10112832.html>

⁵⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/12/britain-open-naval-base-bahrain-2014126222429935936.html>

Selling Torture Equipment to the UAE

According to the Independent, the Emirates Security Exhibition and Conference (Emsec), which is endorsed by the UK Government's trade arm, is sponsored by the Dubai police force, which has repeatedly been accused of torture, including against several British citizens in recent years. The UK Government has been condemned for encouraging defence firms to showcase hardware including covert surveillance devices, armoured cars and electronic riot gear, at a security show in the United Arab Emirates, where police have been accused of brutally suppressing dissent.

The UAE security show comes amid reports that hundreds of women, some pregnant or domestic servants who are victims of rape, are being imprisoned under laws that ban consensual sex outside of marriage. The claims come as the UAE is set to be elected to a key UN committee on human rights today, to the dismay of open government campaigners. "The UAE has shown a complete disregard for basic human rights since its [first] election to the UN Human Rights Council in 2012. There is little to suggest this will change or that the UAE will have any positive influence on its work," said Nicholas McGeehan, UAE researcher at Human Rights Watch.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/uk-government-condemned-for-encouraging-defence-firms-to-attend-uae-security-show-a6711136.html>



“ISIS” Made by Western Politicians

Much like Al Qaeda, the Islamic State (ISIS) is made-in-the-USA, an instrument of terror designed to divide and conquer the oil-rich Middle East and to counter Iran’s growing influence in the region.⁵⁹

ISIS was founded in April, 2013 by merging two related groups dependant on al-Qaeda and al-Nusra and is now one of the main terrorist groups in the world which commits crimes in Syria and Iraq. The terrorist group that was previously in Syria, has occupied large areas of North and West Iraq from last June.

Many observers and international experts believe that ISIS is supported by the West and its Arabic allies in the region. Hence, they not only consider an Arab-West coalition so-called to anti- ISIS, led by America, inefficient, but also believe it spreads the regions under the influence of this group whose crimes has concerned West countries.

⁵⁹ <http://www.globalresearch.ca/america-created-al-qaeda-and-the-isis-terror-group/5402881>

More than 60 British lawmakers in a letter written by Lord Alton of Liverpool and Baroness Cox has called on the Prime Minister to formally declare ISIS activities as "genocide".

The lawmakers, two of them Catholic politicians has called on Prime Minister Cameron to use his authority to reach an agreement with the United Nations to recognize the evil act committed by the Islamic State. They say they have gathered enough evidence to prove that the terrorists had carried out the slaughter of minorities and targeted Christian communities in Iraq and Syria.⁶⁰

Britain's Role in Arming Israel in Israel-Gaza Conflict

British Government has been accused of failing to regulate arms sales to Israel following evidence that weapons containing British-made components are being used in the bombardment of Gaza. Documents shown to the Independent reveal that arms export licences worth £42m have been granted to 130 British defence manufacturers since 2010 to sell military equipment to Israel.

Among the manufacturers given permission to make sales were two UK companies supplying components for the Hermes drone, described by the Israeli air force as the "backbone" of its targeting and reconnaissance missions. One of the two companies also supplies components for Israel's main battle tank.

Britain claims it is monitoring the situation in the occupied territories. The ongoing Israeli military action in Gaza, to monitor Palestinians and guided missile strikes resulted in the martyrdom of 2226 Palestinians, including 1563 civilians.⁶¹

Leading Figures in British Political Establishment Accused of Plotting to Discredit Investigation into Iraq War

⁶⁰ <http://catholicsay.com/british-prime-minister-under-pressure-to-formally-declare-isis-activities-as-genocide/>

⁶¹ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/revealed-britain-s-role-in-arming-israel-9643902.html>

It has been claimed that leading figures in the British political Establishment are behind a plot to discredit the Chilcot inquiry by portraying the panel members as “bumbling incompetents” who cannot deliver their report on time.

The Conservative chair of the Defence Select Committee said that "anyone with a conscience" would have ensured that the report was published quickly, while the Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon, urged the inquiry's chairman, Sir John Chilcot, to end the suffering of grieving families, saying his report had been delayed long enough".



An inquiry source said: “These are absurd, nasty hatchet jobs on John Chilcot, most of them nonsense. This is an independent inquiry and if forced to publish, only an incomplete report will be delivered.” The source accused Downing Street of unfairly seeking to depict Sir John’s team as “uncaring and lackadaisical idiots”. And he accused the broader political Establishment of “throwing dirt” at the panel to tar them as a load of bumbling incompetents and amateurs whose eventual judgements cannot be trusted.⁶²

Britain’s Unrealistic Report about the Human Rights Situation in Different Countries

⁶² <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/chilcot-inquiry-leading-figures-in-british-political-establishment-accused-of-plotting-to-discredit-10462894.html>

Britain's Unrealistic Report about the Human Rights Situation in Bahrain

Although the British government acknowledges human rights violations in Bahrain, it continues supporting its ally to protect its interests in Bahrain.

Despite the British government's deep concern about the human rights situation in Bahrain which is evident in the report of Britain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, London believes that with the implementation of political reforms, Bahrain will move toward democracy. Britain does not deny its support for its allies by helping Bahrain government implement political reform and human rights reform. In an interview with Bahraini activist, Philip Hammond said that relationships management with each country takes place according to Britain's interests. He emphasized on cooperation with Bahrain.

But these words do not match the reports published by human rights organizations which claim that the situation is quite the opposite. These organizations believe that human rights violations continue in Bahrain and due to the Bahraini regime repression, hopes for reform turned to despair. Reports by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch do not confirm the claim that Bahrain moves in the right direction toward democracy and even if it is moving toward democracy, it is so far from the desirable level of Human rights.

Britain's Unrealistic Report about the Human Rights Situation in Iran

British Foreign Ministry's most recent report on Human Rights in Iran claims the situation in Iran is worsening and has surprisingly claimed that preventing illegal marriages and promiscuity are human rights violations in Iran.

According to this report, in the analysis of human rights situation in Iran which is published by the British Foreign Ministry, it is mentioned that during January and June 2015, the human rights situation is worsened in Iran. Based on the assessment of the Europe Union in the first half of 2015, the rate of executions has increased compared to 2014.

British Foreign Ministry also claims in its report on the human rights situation in Iran that Iranian officials have violated free speech rights of Iranian citizens and some newspapers and magazines in Iran are closed down. A report by British

Foreign Ministry has claimed that the prevention of white marriages that is a kind of unbound living in the West communities, is a violation of human rights in Iran. This report which is written with much scrutiny has referred to the restriction of using certain social networks and a monitoring program called “spider” and it even claims that Viber has over 9.5 million users in Iran. In this report, as usual, restrictions on the Bahai sect and the prevalence of domestic churches phenomenon are mentioned as human rights violations in Iran. The report has also mentioned the release of an Iranian- British person, but stated that this person does not have the right to travel to Iran for 3 years.

Britain Supported Al-Khalifa Regime

A senior member of the British House of Lords, while criticizing the policies of the conservative government of David Cameron toward Bahrain, stressed that London must stop its support for the Al-Khalifa regime. Eric Reginald Lubbock said in an interview with IRNA on the occasion of Bahrain Independence Day on August 14, 1971: “The British government should use its influence to the benefit of Bahrainis and not its political interests.” The well-known member of the Liberal Democratic Party said Bahrainis remain under the pressure of rulers and the international community should support them to make their future. He continued: “I believe that Bahrainis have the right to manage their own political future and it happens only through free elections and electing representatives who are not imposed to them by their government.” Lubbock also criticized the repressive policies of Al-Khalifa regime to close media and limit freedom of expression and said the Bahraini media are not able to reflect the demands of the people, because all of them are in the service of Al-Khalifa regime and those who are opposed to the government, have been close down.

Lubbock said Bahrain government has prevented free functioning of mass media, the latest case was the detention of Al-Wasat which is the only independent newspaper in this country. He said the situation should be changed, according to the fact that the oppositions’ actions in Bahrain have been limited through ban on independent trade unions and the media in this country. He addressed to English politicians: “Through our influence on the Bahrain regime, we should try to make fundamental changes for the benefit of the people. There is a disagreement among organizations and individuals in the UK about the British government policy in Bahrain. The British government should change its policies to benefit the people of this country and not its rulers.”

During a press conference in London, Lubbock stated that London's policies toward Manama should be changed. During the press conference which was held to mark the anniversary of the independence of Bahrain in human rights committee of the British parliament, he said the Bahraini people have the right to make their political future democratically and throw free election. It was suggested at the meeting that all civil and non-governmental human rights organizations should put David Cameron's government under pressure to abandon supporting Al-Khalifa regime. The proposal was supported by Lubbock, deputy of the British Parliamentary Human Rights Group.

Some MPs have asked the British government to change its policy toward Bahrain by signing a joint statement, because the human rights situation in the country remains dire. These representatives whose number has already reached 90, by condemning the deteriorating political situation in Bahrain and suppression of the opposition and basic freedoms in the country, have demanded the release of all political prisoners. The representatives asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to reconsider providing assistance to Manama according to the report of the Foreign Relations Committee which has nominated Bahrain as a concern regarding human rights.

Javad Firouz, Ex-Bahraini MP, said to IRNA in this regard: "We demand that the British conservative government stops its support for the repressive Al-Khalifa." Firouz pointed to last year's security agreement between Manama and London and the creation of a new British naval base in Bahrain and said: "Without external support, including England, Al-Khalifa cannot survive so long."

The head of the Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD) announced that the political prisoners in Bahrain are over 3,500 and said: "There have been 160 injured and disabled people in Bahrain's liberation movement so far. The Bahraini political activist pointed to a death sentence for four Bahraini oppositions and said Al-Khalifa has issued life sentence for a lot of people and has stripped 223 Bahrainis' nationality and still continues the political repression." Jawad Fairuz continued: "Bahrain strips the citizenship of people, while it has given Bahraini citizenship to more than a hundred thousand foreign people during the last ten years." Based on the fact that it is the first time in the world that a government strips the nationality of its citizens, he said Al-Khalifa's goal of this anti-national action is to change Bahrain's demography, ethnic and religious context.

According to news sources, Bahrainis emphasized on the nation's fair and legitimate demands and stressed that they should have the right to determine their future by organizing mass protests in some cities. Coinciding with the start of popular uprisings, Bahrainis started their protest against the authoritarian regime four years ago and although the protests started peacefully and away from violence, Al-Khalifa treated the protesters with cruelty.

UK and Saudi Arabia 'in Secret Deal' Over Human Rights Council Place

The elevation of the Saudi kingdom to one of the UN's most influential bodies in 2013 prompted fresh international criticism of its human rights record. The Saudi foreign ministry files, passed to Wikileaks in June, refer to talks with British diplomats ahead of the November 2013 vote in New York.

Due to the continuing bombardment by Saudi Arabia and the case of Ali Mohammed al-Nimr who faces death by crucifixion after being convicted of joining an anti-government demonstration at the age of 17, the Saudi government can hardly be similar to the banner of social justice. The files passed to Wikileaks in June which have been translated by the UN Watch, show that Britain conducted secret vote-trading deals with Saudi Arabia to ensure both states would be elected to the UN human rights council in 2013.

According to this deal, the two countries agreed to support each other, where the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would support the candidacy of the United Kingdom to the membership of the council for the period 2014-2015 in exchange for the support of the United Kingdom to the candidacy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Another cable revealed that Saudi Arabia transferred \$100,000 for expenditures resulting from the campaign to nominate the Kingdom for membership of the human rights council for the period 2014-2016.



Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN Watch, told the Australian: “Based on the evidence, we remain deeply concerned that the UK may have contracted to elect the world’s most misogynistic regime as a world judge of human rights.”⁶³

English Missile Sale to Saudi Arabia for Killing Civilians

Members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomats stressed that with the increased evidence relating to Saudi Arabia’s use of missiles bought from Britain in the killing of civilians in Yemen, Britain stands in trial for war crimes.

Philip Hammond’s legal advisors warned about missile sale to Saudi Arabia. This is the ninth month of Al-Saud’s rape of Yemen and British diplomats and members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have warned about the possible violation of international law in the case of missile sale to Riyadh. Since March 2015, bombardment and ports’ blockade by Arab coalition has damaged Yemen so much.

⁶³ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/sep/29/uk-and-saudi-arabia-in-secret-deal-over-human-rights-council-place>

Many civilians have been killed in Saudi–Yemeni war so far. Many schools, hospitals and other civilian facilities were destroyed in this war. Human Rights Watch and other NGOs have stated that weapons supplied by the United Kingdom and the USA have targeted Yemeni civilians. A legal adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said British Foreign Secretary acknowledged the issue that some weapons supplied by the United Kingdom are used in Yemen by the Saudi regime. This happens in a situation that Saudi Arabia pays no attention to international humanitarian laws in its incursion into Yemen. The officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are concerned that the issue of arms deal with Saudi Arabia which helps bombardments in Yemen will possibly lead to complaints against Britain for attacking Yemenis at the International Criminal Court.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/10/uk-arms-sales-saudi-arabia-inquiry-yemen-bombing-human-rights>