



**29 September 2025**

**KRW LAW Press release on George and Gayatri Galloway**

We act on behalf of George and Gayatri Galloway both of whom were detained for 4 and 5 hours respectively by UK Counter- terrorism officers at Gatwick Airport on Saturday 27 September 2025. They were returning on a flight from Dubai when they were confronted by armed police officers citing Schedule 3 of The Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 as the basis for their detention.

As a preliminary it's important to record that neither George or Gayatri were formally "arrested ". Rather, they were detained for the purposes of what's called an "Examination".

During the course of their ordeal they were subjected to a frightening interrogation procedure conducted by armed Police officers who proceeded to ask them questions which at times ranged from the sublime to the outright ridiculous including queries about China Gaza and Russia .On any analysis of such questioning there was nothing put to them which could be remotely described as evidence of " hostile activity ". We can state with confidence that none of the questions posed had anything to do with terrorism.

The operation of Schedule 3 of the index legislation is both draconian and oppressive. It's aimed at subversives who present as a risk to State interests.

Given the facts of the case as they've unfolded it's clear this was a contrived politically motivated investigation undertaken with the aim of humiliating, undermining and ultimately embarrassing Mr and Mrs Galloway.

It served to cause much distress and anxiety not only for them but also their family and close friends and colleagues. To compound their trauma, although police will say otherwise, they didn't have access to lawyer of their choosing. This is important because of the serious implications arising in the event that any person detained under these provisions refuses to answer questions no matter how seemingly banal or otherwise irrelevant.

While the Right to Silence is technically preserved here the anomalous outworking of Schedule 3 serves in many ways to effectively erode that inalienable right. Unlike other mainstream policing investigations where silence alone can never be used of itself to ground a criminal prosecution If you say nothing in a Schedule 3 Examination you run the real risk that your silence will be used disproportionately to prosecute with the flimsiest of other evidence. Such barely credible corroborating evidence could be something as simple as travelling to Moscow. You stay silent at your peril. It makes it all the more concerning then when you look at the failure of the interviewers to inform George that his wife had in fact been detained as well given his belief she was sorting access to legal advice for him.

After consultation with each of them today I have little doubt that had Mr and Mrs Galloway declined to answer questions they would have run the risk of being subjected to the most egregiously contrived prosecutions under Schedule 3. In that event not only would they have lost the right to travel freely but they would have run the risk of being deprived of their liberty.

Notwithstanding they were deprived of legal advice each of them answered all questions put to them.

This entire operation went well beyond the scope of police powers under Schedule 3 as there was plainly no lawful basis to detain nor by any stretch could there be any reasonable suspicion of engagement in so called "politically hostile" activities. This was a barely concealed ruse to get their phones and IT equipment.

Our clients' most immediate legal remedy is a challenge both to the decision to implement their detention and the ongoing investigation. As part of the case we will be seeking access to all records and authorisations relating to the detention and the precise legal basis upon which they were deprived of their liberty. Equally we demand the immediate return of their mobile phone and laptops all of which contain highly sensitive communications relating to their work and engagement with many agencies including the British Government itself.

We are today issuing pre action protocol correspondence against the relevant agencies engaged in this operation which was over seen by Counter Terrorism Policing South East. It remains unclear who exactly was ultimately responsible for overall decision making but that will emerge shortly in the legal action.

We are citing breaches of Articles 5 ,8 , 10 and 11 of the ECHR in relation to our clients right to Liberty and security ; respect for private and family life together with freedom of expression and association.

Given the status of one of the interviewers identifying himself as connected to the Security Service there is a wider discreet issue pointing to the likely involvement of The intelligence agencies. On the basis of this suspicion, we are considering filing an application to the Investigatory Powers Tribunal to assess the extent to which Mi5 ; Mi6 or any other agency had a hand in this investigation.

Standing back and looking holistically on what transpired on Saturday together with our awareness of recent spying revelations on journalists in this jurisdiction we cannot discount the real possibility that Mr and Mrs Galloway equally have been the subject of directed surveillance by State intelligence agencies.

Mr and Mrs Galloway were the victims of a cynical intelligence- led and politically motivated operation of Orwellian proportions. It was specifically designed to access their private data and communications as some sort of fishing exercise. More generally it was initiated to undermine their integrity and credibility by seeking to demonise and marginalise them. However, history has shown that whenever the heavy hand of the State weighs down on its citizens, that only serves to galvanise victims into even greater resolve to challenge and agitate against injustice. As evidence of that we need look no further than the recent exposing of industrial - scale spying operations on journalists and lawyers in this jurisdiction over the past number of years.

We are confident the brave stance taken by George and Gayatri Galloway in legally challenging the abuses of power perpetrated on them at the weekend will equally reap an important dividend. In their case it's the hard fought right and liberty to hold and promote independent political views and thoughts. Saturdays State machinations amounted to the most egregious attempt to erode freedom of speech and expression. Our clients' legal battle starting today transcends both their own case but also ought to put a marker down against the oppressiveness of Schedule 3. Today's legal action has to serve as a precedent to rail against this legislation being used as a sledgehammer to silence political dissent. Detaining George Galloway in a bid to try and silence him because of robustly expressed political views which are uncomfortable to those in authority will simply fail. If nothing else, it'll only serve to redouble his efforts. He fully expects that those who planned Saturday's actions will rue the day they did so.

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