

'When I pass protestors every day at Downing Street, and believe me, you name it, they protest against it, I may not like what they call me, but I thank God they can. That's called freedom.' **Tony Blair**, 7 April 2002

Charles Clarke
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
UK
SW1P 4DF

'FREEDOM IS DYING...'
...The rights of ordinary people to speak out against an unjust war and atrocities unleashed in their name are being crushed.'
John Pilger, *New Statesman* 9 Jan 2006



'The Government doesn't want people to hear what I'm saying and to see the pictures of tortured and bombed innocent children which I have on display here.'
Brian Haw, 3 Nov 2004

Dear Charles Clarke,
Since 2 June 2001 Brian Haw has held a continuous vigil in Parliament Square, opposite the House of Commons, protesting against UK foreign policy towards Iraq and promoting a message of peace and social justice. Millions of people around the world have drawn inspiration from his presence.

A long campaign by officialdom to evict him culminated last year with the passage of a new law (Section 132 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 - SOCPA) designed to make his protest illegal. Ironically, the wording of the new law – which makes it a criminal offence to participate in unauthorised demonstrations within a designated area roughly 1km around Parliament – left Brian exempt from the new restrictions.

However, under Section 132 the police now have the power to impose draconian restrictions on all other demonstrations near Parliament, including: when and where they can take place; how long they can last; how many can attend; and the number and size of banners and placards used. Moreover threats against Brian's vigil continue and fresh moves to evict him through SOCPA are likely.

I demand the immediate repeal of Section 132 and an end to the attempts to criminalise Brian Haw's vigil.

Signed _____ Name _____

Address _____