

SOCPA  
Section 132

resistance is not terrorism

"When I pass protestors every day at Downing Street..... I may not like what they call me, but I thank God they can. That's called freedom."

Tony Blair  
April 7th 2002

Brian Haw has led a continuous, 24 hour protest opposite the gates of parliament for over eight and a half years. He began his protest on 2nd June 2001, in protest against the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq and the bombing of the country by the US and UK.

After 11 September 2001, he widened his focus, directing his campaigning against the 'war on terror', the terror that the US and UK have inflicted on Afghanistan and Iraq.

He believes that Tony Blair is a War Criminal, for his part in the illegal invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq. He demands that Blair be tried at the War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague.

([www.parliament-square.org.uk](http://www.parliament-square.org.uk))



## SOCPA Section 132

On August 1st 2005, the government introduced The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (SOCPA), in an attempt to evict Brian Haw from his long-standing peace protest opposite the gates of Parliament. Section 132 of the Act created a 1km Exclusion Zone around Westminster, making spontaneous protest a criminal offence in this 'Designated Area'. Brian Haw remains for the moment outside Parliament, because laws cannot be introduced retrospectively. His battle continues in the High Court. For the rest of us, protest can lead to arrest, detention and criminal proceedings. If arrested you will be searched, photographed, fingerprinted and have your DNA taken. This information will be held on the central police database indefinitely. You will not be able to have it removed.

The SOCPA laws have eroded our rights to freedom of speech and expression, the very foundation upon which democracy is built. Fear of terrorism has become the justification for an array of measures, which undermine our freedoms.