

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED

Neil Goodwin assumed the character of Charlie Chaplin and held lone protests against the erosion of free speech under the SOCPA law. He was arrested, detained, fingerprinted, photographed and had his DNA taken, before being bailed and then charged under Section 132. He was later given a conditional discharge at Horseferry Magistrates Court.







**This is the statement of NEIL GOODWIN**

To quote the late great Charlie Chaplin:

**'I remain just one thing, and one thing only – and that is a clown. It places me on a far higher plane than any politician.'**

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2006 I tried it on with a new law – Section 132 of the Serious and Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. And I have to say that I was **Serious** and pretty well **Organised**, and my chosen **Act** eventually involved the **Police**, who decided to turn the whole thing into a **Crime**.

People were being leant on for the silliest of things. For dressing up as clowns, teddy bears, Mary Poppins. For eating iced buns, for pity's sake! In truth, one of the first things to go under a dictatorship is a good sense of humour.

I find the idea of asking an agent of The State permission to demonstrate against The State ridiculous. How can you possibly 'authorise' Free Speech? Either you have it or you don't.

Even the Prime Minister Tony Blair has gone on record as saying:

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

I dressed up as Charlie Chaplin and went to Downing Street, where I stood in silence with a placard which said 'Not Aloud' until an armed policeman came over and asked me if I was a protest. I shrugged my shoulders. You tell me, I thought.

The policeman mentioned something about "terrorism", and "this new law prohibiting protest", and that I risked being arrested. I looked around. A crowd had gathered. Many were laughing or smiling, and enjoying the spectacle. And I wondered what form of terrorism could solicit such a response from the general public.

I was indeed guilty of demonstrating outside Downing Street without police permission. I was guilty of demonstrating how ludicrous the law has become in this country and guilty of demonstrating how every right-minded citizen should voice their concerns and oppose it.

SIGNED:



CHURCHILL

Free  
Sprachen  
Stunk

PARANOID

