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By fax to 023 8081 4818

Dear Julian

Issues for the Police following the de Menezes Case

I should be interested in your reaction to the following . . .

After the inquest on de Menezes it was revealed that the Police had developed a counter-terrorism policy under which trained armed response policemen were expected to shoot dead without warning a suspect confirmed to them. We are told this policy was developed by a special commission after the London bombings of 7 July 2005. The armed units would be issued with dum dum bullets so that a head shot would immediately destroy the brain, preventing the suspect from triggering his bomb.

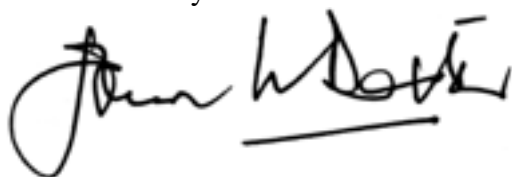
That policy seems to me entirely reasonable. Had I been a member of that commission I would have developed exactly that policy, and expected it to be implemented. Faced with someone known to be of a mind to detonate explosives in a crowded place, for a trained firearms officer to do otherwise, for example to shout a warning, would be extremely foolish.

Clearly the two officers in this case had been briefed that they were chasing a confirmed dangerous terrorist and were expected to kill him. In that context I have three questions:

1. Why did two police officers attempt to persuade an inquest jury they had shouted a warning, when it is now clear from other testimony they were lying?
2. It should have been admitted that the officers were following their training and orders. Were they instructed to lie in order to conceal the policy?
3. If so, then by whom were they told to lie, and what explanation do those responsible for the lying offer us?

Is it now necessary for a public enquiry, not into the de Menezes incident itself, but into whether senior policemen issued an instruction to junior officers to commit perjury and if so then on whose authority those senior policemen so acted.

Yours sincerely



John Dexter