

Evening News

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I exposed child abuse says city man jailed in Albania

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A CARE worker from Edinburgh jailed in Albania on child sex charges has said it was him who exposed the abuse police are investigating.

David Brown, 55, who has spent the last four months in prison in the Albanian capital, Tirana, said he discovered children were being abused in the orphanage he ran.

The devout Christian said he did not contact the Albanian police because he feared the home would be closed down.

But he said he did report his concerns about the suspected abuser - who had left Albania - to a local project staffed by British police, to Interpol and the local church pastor.

Albanian police arrested Mr Brown and fellow workers at the His Children orphanage, which he ran in Tirana, in May.

He was refused bail and no trial date has been set.

He has been in jail ever since and friends and family fear he could remain there indefinitely.

Mr Brown opened the care home about five years ago, after seeing the plight of street children in Tirana while he travelled through on an aid truck to Kosovo.

The evangelical Christian had lived in Edinburgh for more than ten years before.

In an interview from prison with an Albanian journalist, a translation of which has been put on the internet by Mr Brown's supporters, he is reported as saying he noticed signs of abuse in some of the children's behaviour.

He said: "Some of the children began to behave very badly. I had read a book about the behaviour of abused children and [one of the children] had all the signs.

"We decided to question him. He knew that [the man Mr Brown reported to Interpol] wouldn't return and started to tell of the horror that had happened."

"He said that the same things had happened to other children, which was confirmed by other young children."

Mr Brown said he had confided in the pastor at his church in Tirana but he wanted to leave Albanian police out of it.

"We were sure that a full investigation by the Albanian police would cause great stress for the children and would result in the house being closed."

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Mr Brown said he then consulted a British policeman he knew who was working for Pameca, a project which brings police from other European countries to work alongside the Albanian police.

The officer, he said, arranged for him to speak to Interpol about his suspicions.

Mr Brown's father Douglas, 85, of Argyll, said his son had been consistent in his account.

He said: "David thinks the charges are a prefabricated farce to close the home down. The children are Romanies and the Albanians don't like them.

"He has faced opposition from the start because they are Romanies."

Mr Brown snr added: "He's bearing up well. His faith is terrific and he keeps saying not to worry he'll be released in no time.

"I'm convinced David would never harm a child."

David Brown's friend Mike Taylor, 58, of the Scottish Children's Mission, in Edinburgh, said David faced a difficult decision on whether to tell the Albanian police. He said: "The person who had carried out the abuse was away and the reality is the Albanian police beat these kids up."

No-one at Pameca or Interpol was able to comment.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "He is being offered consular support."

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Comments

1. Robert, Kirriemuir / 4:21pm 18 Sep 2006

It is a sad tale which has the ring-of-truth but equally as sad, he is not the only one who has had the tables-turned-on-him; this kind of behaviour manifests itself at all levels of society. The late and great Dr Samuel Johnson made appropriate comment when he observed that "Scoundrels hide behind patriotism" and in this he was not implying the love of one's country. I wonder what our Consular is doing to help?

2. iain, Edinburgh / 6:02pm 18 Sep 2006

I featured in the front page of this newspaper last year as I was on a bus in Albania last year which got hijacked by guys with guns and a handgrenade. I witnessed first hand the views of the Albanian police towards Roma Gypsies. There was a large Gypsy family on the bus who had suffered the same as the rest of the white passengers but while we were welcomed into the Police station, they were made to sit

on the pavement outside the gated station, while the Police officer interviewing us belittled them.

3. Peter, Tasmania / 7:14am 19 Sep 2006

Much the same as Western Australia. A couple of teachers who tried to cope with what they call "out of control kids". They got accused of abuse and sentenced by the testimony of those kids, and the testimony of their peers was ignored. God knows what kind of sentence they got, the whole episode is horrifying. Just in case you are in the teaching profession and thinking of going to Western Australia. A land on its own, do not think that there are many Albanians there.

4. zotrules, London / 10:59am 19 Sep 2006

Erm... Robert, the british consulate is far more involved into denying visas to albanians and discriminating them .
to help? to help what.... the indians? because that's what GB has employed in their embassy in Tirana.

As for the article...

Damn it, is there any other sides of the story? Or the police just arrested that scoundrel without any evidence, any testimony or proof... The way these are writing, it really seems as "arrested for fun"...

5. Dougie, Edinburgh / 12:06pm 19 Sep 2006

Why the big surprise? Corruption is endemic south of the Alps

6. Tomo / 11:26pm 19 Sep 2006

Very convenient on his part.

Whie being arrested for child abuse he uses the old patriotic Brits versus native barbarians card: It was not me, I knew all along who it was, but these albanians are so bad with Roma that I was afraid to tell them.

Well, maybe they should start being more fair with Roma kids by sending this man in jail for life; even if he did not actually commit the crime (which I doubt), he collaborated to it.

7. Bough, Toronto / 4:53pm 20 Sep 2006

Dear friends and family members of the accused as well my dear readers of this article, I thought it will be helpfull for me to mention my coment in this case. I, agree with the Albanian authorities having arrested Mr.Brown for what he has been engaged on wrongdoing mission in a country as inisant as Albania would be were for 50 years of comunism no such think was even close of happening, for that Mr.Brown should be happy that the comunist regime is gone otherwise he, himself knows what would happen to him if in case is involved with these charges...as ending it these coment in a sad way but accurate let me say that, another child abuser is behinde bars were he belongs of no mater on the country he is serving the sentencing....

8. zotrules, london / 5:50pm 20 Sep 2006

comunist Albania 16-17 years ago had no foreigners visiting the country, let alone

working in the country, and lest of all caring about orphans.
there were orphans even in the comunist Albania, but there were no kids in the streets. the state was the one that took care of them.
and it is unthinkable that a brit paedophile could graze in Albania...
there you got 'em, by the family jewels... they can't scream but it surely hurts.

9. Ilir, london / 6:44pm 20 Sep 2006

i am from albania and i have been leaving in london for over five years and i know things change but they don't change that fast, what i'm trying to say is i grew up in tirana and alot of my friends were gypsies so i never saw them get in truble because they were different, they and i got in truble because of the things we did. some one said don't go to west australia because there are alot of albanians! if any of you want to get away from albanians. i have news for you, you can't we are everywhere. some of us are doing good things (yes good) some of us are doing bad things, but no body is perfect and yes i know some of us are far from perfect but never for as long as i remember has any albania been charged for sex abuse.

what is it with some people, why don't they like albanians what did we ever do to anyone. we never got out the country for 50 years we never stared a war we allways wellcomed everyone into our country. Ok we do alot of things that not many poeple shuold be doing but some one else did them before albanians were around, we just did those things beter then them. i'm not proude of any of it but it is the truth. i have come across alot of people that say you lot took our jobs took our money but the sad fact is we didn't you just didn't want those jobs and when you do a job you have to get paid. we might get good money doing it but remembre you didn't want to do it. i have had my mates (english) working for me and they all have left whithin two weeks. so what am i expected to do?

about this article, all i can say is i hop this guy is not that type of peson. because if he is then god knows what will happen to him in prisone.

thank you
p.s. i know my spelling isn't that good but i tried.

10. Fox-trot Oscar, Peterhead / 10:45am 24 Sep 2006

#9.Ilir. Forget the spelling - it is not important !
May I ask if you came to London as a legal migrant or were you "seeking asylum ?"
As you said, , you can't get away from Albanians they are everywhere ! Does this mean that Scotland will be recruiting Albanian policemen to liase with your countrymen ,as they are apparently recruiting Polish polis ? If the majority of your countrymen - and this applies to all the other free-loaders who come here and work for low wages but also claim from the State and do not want to pay taxes - were law-abiding,less arrogant and more appreciative of the fact that they have been allowed in to the United Kingdom,perhaps they would be more readily accepted in Britain.
Like you I hope this guy is innocent ,as I am sure your Albanian prisons are not like the Immigration Detention Centres in U.K.
Meanwhile work hard, don't get in to trouble, pay your taxes and national insurance ,respect the country you have come to live in and try to make Albania proud of you !

11. catherine, edinburgh. / 4:24pm 24 Sep 2006

why do some people not like the scots? its all over the world some people like some dont it is life and what you make of it.

12. Fiona, Dunedin New Zealand / 8:10pm 24 Sep 2006

An innocent man in prison because of corrupt police officers but that is all you can expect from communists as all communists are liars.

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