

Robert Kilroy-Silk writes...on Terrorists - Release them or Charge Them

*Note: This article was first published in the Sunday Express on 12 September 2004*

Only three months ago he was said to be a terrorist suspect and a threat to national security. A judge proclaimed that he had a "long history of involvement in terrorist support activity" and that he would be likely to resume those activities if he were released. It was said that he had links with the extreme Muslim cleric Abu Qatada who is suspected of having links with Al Qa'eda.

So why has he been released to live on state benefits? Was the intelligence on the man false, as it was on Iraq? Was a terrible mistake made? Has a horrendous miscarriage of justice been perpetrated? Has he been wrongly imprisoned by the Home Secretary?

We need to know. Yes, we want to detain terrorist suspects but we are not in the business of locking up the innocent. The man is either a terrorist threat or he is not. Which is it?