



## **PRESS RELEASE - STRASBOURG – MAY 30th 2018**

### **FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN THE UK: THE TOMMY ROBINSON CASE**

Tommy Robinson, a British citizen journalist, was reporting with a live stream video outside a court house in Leeds on Friday 25th of May. He was subsequently arrested by British police when broadcasting about the court case, immediately taken to court, charged, sentenced and sent to 13 months in prison for “breaching the peace outside a court during an ongoing trial.” Thousands took the streets on Downing Street in protest of this sentence.

Janice Atkinson MEP: *‘The UK is closing down free speech and issuing a gagging order on the media. Whilst the UK acts in an increasingly totalitarian way, the rest of the world supports Tommy Robinson, a political prisoner. Arrested, detained, without his lawyer present, sentenced and jailed. When the State acts in this way, using the police and judiciary as their political tools, they lose the support of the people. This weekend, all over the world thousands have protested.’*

Gerolf Annemans MEP: *‘Whilst in Belgium, a radicalized Muslim and convicted criminal can go on a penitentiary leave, thereby killing two police officers in a terrorist attack, Tommy Robinson is put behind bars only for reporting on a rape case by Muslim gangs. His only crime is to show the reality to the public.’*

Co-president Marcel De Graaff: *‘The imprisonment of Tommy Robinson is outrageous. The rule of law and freedom of expression are completely thrown out for a gang of child rapists. What kind of a country have you become, when you are not allowed as a journalist to cover a case of child rapists? When children can be preyed upon for years, but criticism is punished with 13 months jail within 24 hours? Tommy Robinson is clearly a political prisoner of a regime that is appeasing Islamists.’*

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