

## **DT016 - Salman Rushdie refuses to use the law**

I am interested to see from Mick Brown's interview (12 February 1993) that Salman Rushdie admits he was wrong over one of the two things that made me resign from his Defence Committee in December 1990, namely his return to the very Islamic faith that persecutes him. This, he now admits, was 'an aberration', and 'the stupidest thing of my life'. The interview says nothing about the other reason for my resignation. As a barrister, I had wanted the Defence Committee to set up a procedure to collect evidence of threats and plots to kill him. With that, I then wanted it to put pressure on the prosecuting authorities. If they failed to act, a private prosecution could be brought. Mr Rushdie influenced the Defence Committee against doing this. In other words he preferred to remain supine. Now he says 'it's got to change'. He is determined 'to try to force an end to his ordeal'. Yet still he remains unwilling to use the law. Perhaps the reason why, as the interview says, there is much hostility to Mr Rushdie in this country is his refusal to use the means the law provides as a means of getting his predicament ended.

See also:

<http://www.francisbennion.com/pdfs/fb/1991/1991-009-rushdie-press-notice.pdf>

<http://www.francisbennion.com/pdfs/non-fb/1991/1991-001-nfb-fb-attacked-over-rushdie.pdf>

<http://www.hvk.org/articles/0597/0220.html>