

## Danger in the case of "M" and a forthcoming Report

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While we talk about Assisted Suicide, it is old-style Euthanasia which is set to increase.

ALERT is asking support for Nikki Kenward's DISTANT LIVES protest to take place at 1 p.m. on Wednesday 27th July 2011 in Old Palace Yard opposite the House of Lords.

The Court of Protection is hearing a case brought by "B," the sister of a brain-damaged patient who is "minimally conscious", arguing for her feeding tube to be removed. "I know in my heart of hearts that that is what she would want," she said in court. Carers at the nursing home where "M" lives tell a different story. A nurse at the unit said she "relaxed" when massaged and reacted to television.

If "M" is condemned to death by this judge, non-voluntary euthanasia, which was quietly legalised by the Mental Capacity Act 2005, will have been given an official stamp of approval. Down the slippery slope started by the case of Tony Bland in 1993 there is not much further to go.

The number of brain-damaged patients to be removed from life is planned to be considerable. The Sunday Times (23rd January 2011) reported on a Working Party funded by the Royal College of Physicians which "is expected to lead to fundamental changes in medical practice. 'We need to take a deep breath and consider whether doctors are striving to keep people alive in inappropriate circumstances,' said Professor Lynne Turner-Stokes, a brain injury expert at Kings College London who is leading the review."

### Search and Destroy

Nikki Kenward, who herself spent five months in intensive care only able to move one eye, commented on Professor Turner-Stokes' project: "There are 6,000 of these patients, she tells us, each costing £100,000 per year... She's asking for a 'centrally funded NHS register of the large number of half-forgotten vegetative patients'. Clever. Now we see lines of inanimate people, drooling and wasting away. We are ready to sign on the dotted line for ourselves and for others. Oh, and by the way she wants to include brain-damaged premature babies and adults with incurable conditions, that's me then..."

Other experts, like Dr. Adrian Owen now in Canada, are more interested in treating the patients, but it is easy to guess which side of the controversy has official backing.

PLEASE join the silent protest outside Parliament at 1 o'clock on Wednesday 27th July.