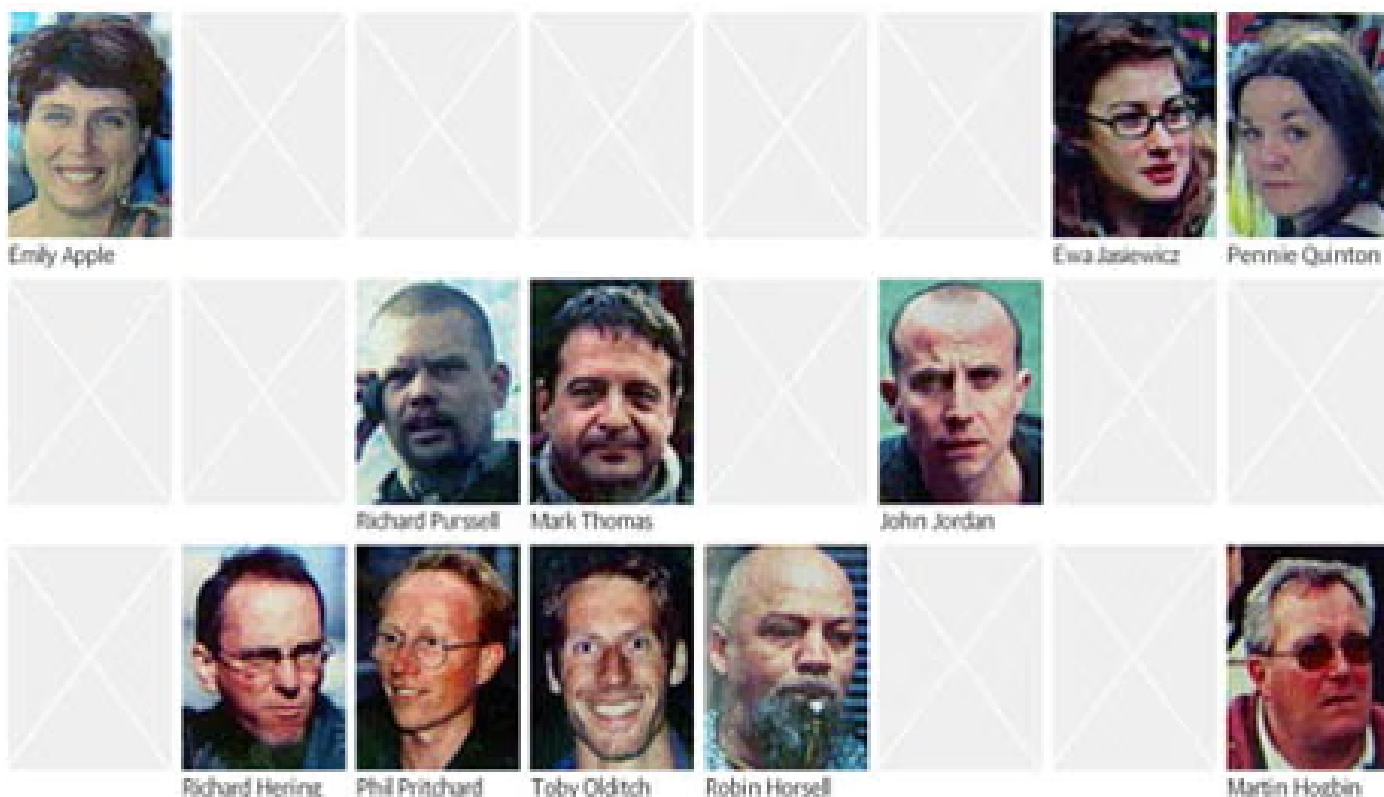


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Arms protester on police spotter card was alleged infiltrator for BAE

Martin Hogbin, listed as target X (bottom right) on spotter card, was accused of supplying information to firm linked to BAE security department

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📷 Police spotter card

Paul Lewis and Rob Evans

Tue 27 Oct 2009 19:47 GMT

He was listed as target X, a so-called domestic extremist included on a secret police spotter card as a regular attender at anti-arms demonstrations.

But today it emerged that X was not quite the threat police took him for - at least to the arms industry. In fact he was an alleged infiltrator from the arms company BAE.

The 2005 spotter card, published by the Guardian this week, contains a photograph of Martin Hogbin (bottom right on the card), who was national co-ordinator for the Campaign against the Arms Trade. He was later accused of supplying information to a company linked to BAE's security department, but denied the allegation.

When asked about his past today, Hogbin said: "I couldn't possibly comment." He added that he had attended demonstrations because he thought the arms trade was "wrong".

Hogbin is the most unusual of almost a dozen people who have come forward after identifying themselves on the spotter card. The others are a medley of environmental and anti-war activists including an ecologist, an artist, a carpenter, an anti-roads demonstrator and a camerawoman who has challenged her detention by police all the way to the European court of human rights at Strasbourg.

The photos include the Fairford Two, who won an acquittal for breaking into an airbase on the grounds that they were preventing war crimes.

Subject A on the spotter card is Emily Apple, whose apparent mistreatment by police caused concern when the Guardian published a video this year showing her being held by the neck and forced in front of a police camera.

Apple, whose FITwatch group have retaliated by filming and recording pictures of police intelligence gatherers, said today that she was harassed and followed while travelling with her 18-month-old son. "I am not an extremist. I care deeply about an illegal and immoral [arms] trade."

Several of those who have come forward describe being targeted for extensive pursuit around London, sometimes by police making "sarky remarks".

Hogbin was apparently a close friend at the time of the campaigning comedian Mark Thomas, whose face also appears on the card.

Thomas said: "He seemed to be everywhere: getting kicked out of a company annual general meeting, helping to run a mock fire sale of the Iraqi national bank in the City, dressed as a devil on May Day or organising press conferences at the start of the London arms fair. We were friends, I knew his family. He became an integral part of my life."

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