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How did Mark Kennedy spy on Drax activists?

The convictions of campaigners in Drax case are now in doubt, but what was Mark Kennedy doing during the protest?

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Coming under the spotlight at the moment is a second case of activists who may have been wrongly convicted.

[Keir Starmer](#), the Director of Public Prosecutions, [this month invited 29 activists](#) convicted over a 2008 protest at the Drax power station to challenge their convictions at the court of appeal.

Starmer disclosed that the convictions may be unsafe as a senior prosecutor may have withheld from the trial evidence about Mark Kennedy, [the undercover policeman who infiltrated the](#) environmental movement for seven years.

[Kennedy](#) is understood to have infiltrated the group of activists who were convicted at the Drax protest. He appears to have helped with a reconnaissance mission and later drove some campaigners to a rendezvous.

Any more information which sheds light on what [Kennedy did](#) during the Drax protest would be appreciated. It would be interesting to know what discussions took place between Kennedy and his handlers about whether to disrupt the protest, as the spy apparently knew what was going to happen.

The Drax case mirrors in many ways the case of the activists [who were wrongly convicted over](#) the plot to occupy the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station in 2009. The convictions of the [Ratcliffe activists were quashed](#) at the court of appeal as police and prosecutors had failed to [disclose vital evidence gathered by Kennedy](#).

As the [Drax](#) trial is now coming under renewed focus, we have gathered together a series of Guardian articles on the protest and the court case.

[This is one](#) of the first articles from June 2008 on how climate change campaigners had ambushed a train carrying coal to the Drax power station, Britain's biggest, along with [an audio report](#) and a [video](#).

Here's another article on [how the campaigners stopped the train and shovelled its contents onto the line into the plant](#).

The trial started in June 2009 and here is a report on how [the campaigners were accused of planning](#) to "misuse" the court process to continue their protest on global warming.

[Here](#) and [here](#) are another two articles from the trial on how the protesters managed to argue that they were acting justifiably to prevent harmful emissions from Drax, despite repeated warnings from the judge that the jury was only concerned with whether they had stopped and boarded the train.

[Here's](#) another article on the defence mounted by the protesters.

[Here is a statement](#) from defendant Jonathan Stevenson to sum up the protesters' defence

[Here](#) is an article on the verdict. Commenting afterwards, Rob Turnbull, the chief crown prosecutor for North Yorkshire, said : "While the CPS [crown prosecution service] respects the rights of individuals to lawfully protest, it takes a serious view of criminal activity which targets those carrying out lawful activities."

[Here](#) is an article on the sentences handed down by the judge.

After the conviction, commentator [George Monbiot](#) hailed the activists as "heroes" who had "given up their time and risked imprisonment to show us where responsibility for the climate crisis lies".

Two other opinion pieces from campaigners [Beth Stratford](#) and [Ben Stewart](#) argued that despite the convictions, the campaigners had been right to do what they did.

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