

Core Participants

Ruling 19

Tariq Ali

1. Tariq Ali was a founder of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, the first group to be infiltrated by the Special Operations Squad in 1968. The reason given for the founding of the Squad was the need to gather intelligence about a large demonstration planned for October 1968 by the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, to permit uniformed officers to police it in a manner which avoided serious public disorder. The demonstration did proceed without serious public disorder. Contemporaneous newspaper accounts attributed this to a variety of causes, including the wish of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign leadership to avoid it by cooperating with the police about arrangements for the demonstration and its route. Despite this, intelligence continued to be gathered on the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign by members of the Squad.
2. Tariq Ali has important evidence to provide about the events that led to the founding of the Squad and to the decision, if expressly made, that it should continue to exist. He is, so far, the only person who can provide evidence about these matters from a non-police, non-state perspective who has applied to be designated a core participant. He played a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the Inquiry relates and fits squarely within the category of core participant identified in rule 5(2) of the Inquiry Rules 2006. I shall therefore designate him a core participant in **Category [K] Political activists**.

7 June 2018

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry