

Rephid

Dear Magnus,"

The Granta piece has alas impressed many outsiders including our children, which proves it's pernicious propaganda value, and I think must be rebuffed in print or that version of history will be forever distorted.

This is a bit of what I replied to our children's query about it, trying to enlighten them -

A few hurried comments in response to your email: I see that Daddy emailed you that he did not know why Leftwich published this article - he published it as the most recent addition to his contemptible behaviour SINCE LEAVING GAOL, in order to start worming himself back to acceptance in South Africa. The ruling Communists may welcome him back there and even fete him, which would open lots of wounds and divisions in the ailing liberal element in S.A. (Neville wryly commented "they'll probably make him an MP).

Worse still is that he had the gall last year to write to Albie Sachs that he would not return to S.A. unless Eddie forgave him. Vile to put the onus on vulnerable Eddie (recently widowed) to do so, taking advantage of his good nature and implying that he would be in the wrong if he doesn't officially "forgive" the wretched Leftwich. ? >!

(Over the years he's also taken advantage of others' good natures but that's different. Everyone was even too compassionate to veto his distasteful career in politics at York University.) ?

The mind boggles at Leftwich's disingenuous writings, blatantly reporting his afflictions but not those of the betrayed - their limbs and innards tortured, their sewing of mail bags, their fear for years, their loneliness, sick, cold, hungry, thirsty in smelly concrete boxes, their breaking stones in a prison quarry and countless other sufferings.

After he left gaol he should have spent the rest of his shabby life atoning. Instead he had the insolence to want to enjoy a normal life. While his victims suffered, he was free to earn money (which he should have sent anonymously to their dependents). Instead he spent it on travel, "therapy", women, children, comfort etc. While his victims had to be celibate he had children who boost his reprehensible self esteem. He had the effrontery to write to his victims thereby adding to their desolation, to the anguish he'd already inflicted on them, trying to make them feel guilty if they didn't forgive him. !

Hugh Lewin, Roman Eisenstein, Neville and others are staunch in their rejection of this abject man. Most of them would not have been caught if Leftwich has not been so overweening in his vanity. ?

Love

Gillian