
Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by TLJ - 2008/08/01 13:50

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7536815.stm>

His original conviction was centred around now discredited gunshot discharge residue evidence whilst his defence argued he was not capable of carrying out what could be seen as the "perfect crime" that required "meticulous" planning.

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Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by Bananaman - 2008/08/01 18:15

What incensed me about this whole case was the behaviour of the BBC which at all times presented biased and prejudicial news items which made a mockery of both the principle of journalistic integrity and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Incidentally it is cases like this which, for me highlight why the death penalty is so abhorrent.

It also reinforces my deep unease about media led popular hysteria being used to influence sentencing.

It proves to me that the hang em and flog em brigade are deeply misguided at best.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/01 18:29

Bananaman wrote:

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It also reinforces my deep unease about media led popular hysteria being used to influence sentencing.

It proves to me that the hang em and flog em brigade are deeply misguided at best.

B'man, this case is indeed deeply disturbing. I feel for Jill Dando's partner and her family. This must be truly horrific for them. But you are right the whole celebrity-BBC personality-murdered background to all of it was unhelpful at best, and at worst it broke every rule in the book on reporting in such circumstances.

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Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/01 22:01

The BBC tried hard to make Jill Dando the Princess Diana of the BBC, which created a deal of laughter and scorn from other media outlets. The criticism unfortunately did not stop the hysteria created by the BBC. I have no doubt a great deal of pressure, was put on the police force to make an arrest and get a conviction at any cost. I have no doubt this affected the jury. It is a great pity this family could not sue for wrongful arrest. Unfortunately, the fact that the crown prosecution service does not seem to be finished with this man yet would probably influence the case. Note the statement

"Our test is always whether there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction; it would be wholly wrong only to bring cases where we were guaranteed a conviction."

The Met Police said it would reflect on George's acquittal and "consider how best to proceed".

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7537900.stm>

I believe they will try again they are stating that the only reason he got off is a lack of evidence. I doubt if they will leave him alone. They will get him for something.

=====

Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by Brenna1508 - 2008/08/02 08:28

The latest news is that Barry George is entitled to seek compensation which may be up to Â£1m : Barry George is free to seek more than Â£1 million compensation as the victim of a miscarriage of justice after being cleared yesterday of the murder of the Crimewatch presenter Jill Dando. <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article4446369.ece> Even if he wins that amount I doubt it will compensate for losing 8 years of his life!

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/02 09:12

Brenna1508 wrote:

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How right you are Brenna, my hope is he gets it before the police get him for something else. It seems from his police interview that he is a photographer. I wondered if the police will try to make something of that. The way he was portrayed in the lead up to the trial made him out to be some kind of pervert instead of someone with a passion for taking photographs. Some people take pictures of animals or the sunset or frogs or whatever, his interest seemed to be in taking photographs of woman. From what he said it did not seem to me that these were naked woman or anything like that it just seemed to be photographs of woman and could easily be an innocent hobby. Some woman had posed for him and some not. He did seem to have quite a vivid imagination as he seemed to tell people he had met and spoken to famous people and was related to one. As yet no law exists that I know of to put him in prison for stupidity like that.

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Re:Barry George -

Posted by Martin - 2008/08/02 11:52

The best thing this guy could do is take the compensation, sell his story and emigrate on the profits.

He owes this country nothing.

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Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/02 12:58

I just listened to a man on BBC, sorry about the lack of exact detail. I was too interested to take note of details. This man spent about 5/6 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Eventually when he gained his release he had no help to adjust he left prison with about Â£44 in his pocket. He waited five years for his compensation which amounted to Â£100K ? A house of lords ruling allowed this to be reduced by a daily charge for looking after him for the time he was in prison. Beat that one Mugabe.

Martin, I hope he does sell his story that will at least keep him until he gets his compensation.

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Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/03 10:55

It seems I was wrong on the issue of Barry George and his interest in photography. He has admitted in the media that he was a stalker of woman and that is how and why he used photography.

This could be why the police continue to have an interest in him.

He also stated he was following another woman at the time Jill Dando died.

=====

Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by Brenna1508 - 2008/08/03 11:20

Martin suggested: The best thing this guy could do is take the compensation, sell his story and emigrate on the profits. According to a couple of reports he is planning to join his sister and live in Cork. There are other family members living there also.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by Martin - 2008/08/03 13:14

LYDIA REID wrote:

It seems I was wrong on the issue of Barry George and his interest in photography. He has admitted in the media that he was a stalker of woman and that is how and why he used photography.

This could be why the police continue to have an interest in him.

He also stated he was following another woman at the time Jill Dando died.

Why didn't he keep his trap shut? What a numpty!! Talk about defeat from the jaws of victory!

Still, it does not excuse the fact he was stitched up.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/03 13:38

Martin

I think your post is quite extraordinary. This guy may not be guilty of killing Jill Dando but it seems to me he was certainly a serial stalker of women and therefore a pretty dangerous and terrifying individual. Profiling is common in such cases and yes a mistake was made but one he was guilty of stalking women and two there was a trace of gun residue in his clothing. I don't think stitching up applies although as I said a mistake was made. But please for God's sake don't paint him as some kind of victim.

=====

Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/03 15:12

Hi Clare and Martin.

He was a self-confessed serial stalker of woman and had he been put in prison for that, my sympathies would have been all with the women, which they are anyway. A woman stalked feels terrified and helpless.

Putting him in prison for murder was wrong and cannot be excused. The idea of the law is that if a person breaks a law they are punished for that crime not for the one they did last week else our justice system means nothing.

He may very well lose public sympathy now, it still does not excuse the fact that he was put in prison for a crime he did

not commit. The police are not a judge and a jury, their job is to apprehend criminals not put them in prison because they committed another crime. His or her job is to present the evidence of that crime not to choose someone who may fit the bill because he is a criminal anyway.

I realise it must be heartbreaking and soul destroying for the police to know a person is guilty and not have the evidence to prove this, at least enough evidence to bring before a court of law.

Each agency has a part to play in instituting the principle of justice.

It was discovered that the police entered his premises with guns and this may be a reason for the one speck of residue on his coat.

Jill Dando and her family deserve the real killer to be caught, and put in prison. That would be justice.

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Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/03 15:40

Lydia

Can I just make it clear that I am not "excusing" anyone for imprisoning a person who was not guilty of the crime he was jailed for.

My post to Martin was to Martin and expressed my disgust that he felt George was a "numptie" for admitting he stalked women regularly. I was further appalled by the "stitched up" phrase when police clearly had used the normal process of profiling in trying to identify potential suspects. The phrase "stitched up" is close to "set up" in terms of what is understood by it. This investigation threw up a great deal, including the gunshot residue, and for you to attack the police in the manner you do in your last post is I think rather unfair. Also, by suggesting to Martin that stalking is not something that should be dismissed in such a manner I was not excusing the wrongful conviction.

I think all decent people feel uncomfortable when wrongful convictions surface and so we should. I think too tho that Barry George may not be guilty of murdering Jill Dando but he remains a danger to women if he continues his previous "hobby" of stalking women. Stalking is illegal too.

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Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/03 15:53

Hi Clare

If your post was solely for Martin then perhaps I should not answer this So I won't.

=====

Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by dws - 2008/08/03 16:16

I don't think it's a question of the guy being 'fitted up', contrary to popular opinion the police don't find someone they don't like and then pin a crime to them, not on my watch in any rate.

He probably flagged up as a danger to women in that neighbourhood, so he'd be one of the first to be pulled. I can't comment on whether the conviction was sound, as I know just as much (or little) as anyone else here on the case notes.

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Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/03 18:57

Lydia oh for Gods sake!!!!!!!

Answer it if you like, it really isn't a problem but I did address the last post to you. I was only pointing out that I wasn't excusing anyone for a wrongful conviction.

I also pointed out that Barry George stalked women kind of regularly you know? Which in my humble opinion makes him a real creep just for starters. And frankly the reports I'm hearing today about how much he is now going to get paid by the real perverts in this country, the media, for his "story" make me want to vomit.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by Levenax - 2008/08/03 22:52

Bananaman wrote:

Incidentally it is cases like this which, for me highlight why the death penalty is so abhorrent.

If he had been hanged the case would probably never have been revisited. Once the convicted person is dead it's much harder to get a review of the case although there have been exceptions.

The death penalty is wrong;

1. because nobody can ever be 100% sure the right person has been found guilty.
2. if the law says that killing somebody is wrong then that applies to everybody.
3. the death penalty encourages the mob and weakens what little moral fibre they have; can you imagine the Sun headlines on the morning of a hanging?

Barry George sounds like a real weirdo who poses a danger to women. He's probably the type who should be locked up anyway but it looks as if it maybe wasn't him who killed Ms Dando.

=====

Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/03 23:08

What is the real point of a review if the person is dead. It would not bring the person back. Although maybe the family would feel the need to clear the persons name.

When I think of the death penalty it is that young lad who had mental health issues I think of. I can't remember his name. I think he was the last man to be hung in this country. Many years later better methods of looking at evidence cleared his name.

I agree with all the points you made Lev about the death penalty. It seems barbaric to me and I wonder about the people who would actually execute a person. Imagine that being your job. Imagine when a woman had to be killed. Shiver.

=====

Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/04 00:02

I'm wondering why it would be any worse hanging a woman than a man personally. I would find both equally horrific.

=====

Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by Martin - 2008/08/04 07:57

In answer to your question, Lydia about the point of reopening the case when the person is dead, the reason is that if the case is not reopened, then the real perpetrator will continue to be free and able to do it again.

I still feel, and I accept that I may be wrong here, that the police identified a suspect and then pursued a case against him. I feel that they were under undue pressure from the media to resolve this.

As far as suggesting that Barry George deserved a life sentence for stalking I won't even comment on the silliness of that. The man had (and has) psychological issues. Who knows what was going through his head at the time. One thing I understand is that he did not approach the women he stalked. If that is the case, while what he did was grossly unpleasant, he did not harm anyone.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by Levenax - 2008/08/04 08:43

Martin wrote:

One thing I understand is that he did not approach the women he stalked. If that is the case, while what he did was grossly unpleasant, he did not harm anyone.

Mr George has a conviction for indecent assault and one for attempted rape for which he spent nearly two years in gaol. Not harmless by any standards.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/04 08:57

Martin wrote:

In answer to your question, Lydia about the point of reopening the case when the person is dead, the reason is that if the case is not reopened, then the real perpetrator will continue to be free and able to do it again.

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Martin

First, can you provide your evidence that the Police "stitched" this guy up? Are you actually saying that profiling in such cases would not have made George a suspect in the first place given his regular, repeat, regular practice of stalking women and the many hundreds of pictures he kept of women he didn't even know, whose pictures he had taken without his permission?

Second, are Police not under pressure to find the culprit in any horrific murder like this, and shouldn't they be?

Thirdly, can you tell me where I said George deserved a life sentence for stalking because I did not say any such thing.

Finally, I find it quite astonishing that you view the activities of this pervert George, for that is what a stalker is Martin, as harmless. It is interesting to note that you describe his activities in following those women everywhere and taking their pictures without permission in such a way. Maybe you should read up on some high profile previous cases where you will learn how notorious murderers, rapists and such like started out in their "careers" Martin and perhaps then you will re-think your description of George's hobby as "not harming anyone". Any woman being followed, stalked or whatever you want to call it is immediately placed in a state of alarm by such a man. It is not acceptable behaviour and just because you are male yourself does not give you the right to dismiss it as doing no harm. It is a criminal offence.

And incidentally he admitted that he HAD approached some thirty odd women so you got that bit wrong too.

I would repeat I did not suggest at any time that George deserved life for stalking Martin and I'm very disappointed that you have said this.

=====

Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by Brenna1508 - 2008/08/04 10:28

Lydia wrote: When I think of the death penalty it is that young lad who had mental health issues I think of. I can't remember his name.
His name was Derek Bentley.

Wiki has a list of Miscarriages of justice, including wrongful hangings at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miscarriage_of_justice
Scroll down to the section entitled "United Kingdom".

=====

Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by HelloJimmy - 2008/08/04 13:37

Had he been hung then it would have been 'case closed'.

His excuse for not murdering her was that he was stalking someone else at the time. Okay so 'drop' filth like this, after all he's convicted himself of potential murder and it'll save a lot of taxpayers money as well as making people feel safer on the streets at night. That's logical to me!

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by dws - 2008/08/04 13:38

Brenna1508 wrote:

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His name was Derek Bentley.

Wiki has a list of Miscarriages of justice, including wrongful hangings at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miscarriage_of_justice
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I thought you were referring to Timothy Evans, falsely convicted of murder and hanged.

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Re:Barry George -

Posted by TLJ - 2008/08/04 18:12

HelloJimmy wrote:

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We're all potential murderers.

He's convicted himself of nothing but being someone with very obvious mental health issues - which is precisely the defence which the jury accepted.

As for it being "case closed" had he been hanged, those who thought for his innocence in life would also have fought for it in his death.

=====

Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by Brenna1508 - 2008/08/04 19:40

dws suggested: I thought you were referring to Timothy Evans, falsely convicted of murder and hanged. I don't think Timothy Evans had mental health issues dws. He was accused of, convicted and hung for killing his child. It then turned out that Christie was the murderer.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by dws - 2008/08/04 20:23

Brenna1508 wrote:

dws suggested: I thought you were referring to Timothy Evans, falsely convicted of murder and hanged. I don't think Timothy Evans had mental health issues dws. He was accused of, convicted and hung for killing his child. It then turned out that Christie was the murderer.

His IQ was below 100.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/04 20:46

Clare wrote:

I'm wondering why it would be any worse hanging a woman than a man personally. I would find both equally horrific.

So would I Claire, I just think it may be more difficult for the person to do if it were a female. Then again, maybe not, the Person who would execute a person, as their job, must have hardness inside to do this as a job.

I wonder if prison officers used to do this as part of their job or did they bring in someone to do this?

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by TLJ - 2008/08/04 21:06

LYDIA REID wrote:

Clare wrote:

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They brought the executioner in.

Albert Pierrepoint was the most famous.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by dws - 2008/08/04 21:23

TLJ wrote:

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Re:Barry George -

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/04 21:45

Brenna1508 wrote:

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His name was Derek Bentley.

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Scroll down to the section entitled "United Kingdom".

Thanks for that Brenna.

It made interesting reading, the law has changed and for the better when you read cases like that one.

I note rather than mental health issues it states Derek Bentley had a low intelligence. At no time did the law actually state he was innocent though.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/04 22:01

TLJ wrote:

LYDIA REID wrote:

Clare wrote:

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I wonder if prison officers used to do this as part of their job or did they bring in someone to do this?

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Albert Pierrepoint was the most famous.

Thanks for that TLJ now I feel sure it must be a "different" type of person to be an executioner.

I just cannot imagine a person, well it was probably a man, getting up in the morning eating his porridge, taking the dog for a walk, kissing his wife goodbye saying well "I am off to my work" "what are you up to today then" "Oh it is the Derek Bentley execution today"

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/04 22:09

The Derek Bentley story was that he was innocent but he was old enough to hang whereas his accomplice wasn't.

=====

Re:Barry George - "\"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/04 22:25

This is from the article that Brenna posted

Following the execution there was a public sense of unease about the decision, resulting in a long campaign, mostly led by Bentley's sister Iris, to secure a posthumous pardon for him. In March 1966 his remains were removed from Wandsworth Prison and reburied in a family grave. Then on 29 July 1993 Bentley was granted a Royal Pardon in respect of the sentence of death passed upon him and carried out but it still maintained he was guilty of having carried out the murder.

Eventually, on 30 July 1998, the Court of Appeal set aside Bentley's conviction for murder 45 years earlier.

Though Bentley had not been accused of attacking any of the police officers being shot at by Craig, for him to be convicted of murder as an accessory in a joint enterprise it was necessary for the prosecution to prove that he knew that Craig had a deadly weapon when they began the break-in.

Lord Chief Justice Lord Bingham of Cornhill ruled that Lord Goddard had not made it clear to the jury that the prosecution was required to have proved Bentley had known that Craig was armed. He further ruled that Lord Goddard had failed to raise the question of Bentley's withdrawal from their joint enterprise. This would require the prosecution to prove the absence of any attempt by Bentley to signal to Craig that he wanted Craig to surrender his weapons to the police. Lord Bingham ruled that Bentley's trial had been unfair, in that the judge had misdirected the jury and, in his summing-up, had put unfair pressure on the jury to convict. It is possible that Lord Goddard may have been under pressure while summing up since much of the evidence was not directly relevant to Bentley's defence. It is important to note that Lord Bingham did not rule that Bentley was innocent, merely that there had been defects in the trial process. Had Bentley been alive in July 1998 or had been convicted of the offence in more recent years, it would have been likely that he would have faced a retrial.

Reading this I would feel he was innocent he did not pull the trigger but he was never pronounced innocent in law which I presume is what his family would have preferred.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by Levenax - 2008/08/04 22:29

dws wrote:
His IQ was below 100.

The average IQ of the population is reckoned to be 100 so there are millions of people with double digit IQs.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/04 22:34

There was much debate about the significance of the words shouted by Bentley "Let him have it." at the time. The meaning of the call was debatable. Did he mean "Give him the gun?" or "Shoot him." Either way he did not pull the trigger and his accomplice was too young to hang while Bentley was not.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by Bananaman - 2008/08/06 12:58

Levenax wrote:
Bananaman wrote:
Barry George sounds like a real weirdo who poses a danger to women. He's probably the type who should be locked up anyway but it looks as if it maybe wasn't him who killed Ms Dando.

The world has many weirdos and it depends on your view of what is 'normal' as to what you class as weird. Which is why I'm against depicting someone as a 'weirdo' and then raising public outcry against them.

However the point you raise, and that hasn't been raised here before, is that SOMEONE killed Ms Dando and due to the

horlicks that has been made of the case by the investigating officers that person is STILL out there. This is the real tragedy of this case. She's dead and her killer is still FREE.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/07 02:01

Bananaman wrote:

Levenax wrote:

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B'man, the point you ignore is that George was a serial stalker of women. I'm alarmed at the number of men in this forum who are happy to overlook that. That isn't to say he killed Jill Dando incidentally, but nevertheless it is worrying the number of men who appear to see stalking as "harmless".

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by pogofish - 2008/08/14 15:24

dws wrote:

I don't think it's a question of the guy being 'fitted up', contrary to popular opinion the police don't find someone they don't like and then pin a crime to them, not on my watch in any rate.

You mean like Colin Stagg?

Yet another case of fitting-up the local weirdo.

Some of the same people involved & from the outset they admitted a proactive targetting of Stagg, aimed at creating evidence.

eg Paul Britton:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/2377235.stm>

We need to be exceptionally hard on this as it would be a very bad idea to let these people scrounge off the state for years by getting themselves fitted up! ;)

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by pogofish - 2008/08/14 15:34

Bananaman wrote:

SOMEONE killed Ms Dando and due to the horlicks that has been made of the case by the investigating officers that person is STILL out there. This is the real tragedy of this case. She's dead and her killer is still FREE.

Remember that this happened shortly after NATO forces took-out the TV station in Belgrade, killing several prominent Serbian journalists & personalities.

Which resulted in Serbs making promises of reprisals against media here & IIRC, Dando had expressed support for the

Bosnian side by fronting appeals for aid etc.

=====

Re:Barry George -

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Which resulted in Serbs making promises of reprisals against media here & IIRC, Dando had expressed support for the Bosnian side by fronting appeals for aid etc.

You just can't beat a good conspiracy theory.

Especially since they're often more believable than the tripe that 'official sources' come out with.

=====

Re:Barry George -

Posted by TLJ - 2008/08/25 12:46

dws wrote:

TLJ wrote:

They brought the executioner in.

Albert Pierrepoint was the most famous.

And he proclaimed against the death penalty.

For info, there's a film on about him tonight. It's at 9.00 on S T V

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Re:Barry George -

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Thanks for that TLJ it sounds interesting.

=====

Re:Barry George - \"not guilty\" of Dando killing

Posted by Brenna1508 - 2008/08/25 13:38

TLJ said: For info, there's a film on about him tonight. It's at 9.00 on S T V It is a very powerful, well made film and well worth watching. We saw it at the local cinema last year and Timothy Spall turns in his usual excellent performance.

