

Wednesday 17 August 2011

**OFFICIAL ENQUIRY INTO RIOTS CALLED FOR
AT EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL**

Baroness Julia Neuberger, Senior Rabbi of the West London Synagogue, today called for an official enquiry to the recent UK riots at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

Neuberger stated that politicians should not take the easy option and blame social media for the recent troubles but instead investigate the situation in full to discover the underlying reasons behind the violent action and who is responsible, analysing the situation in full.

The Baroness expressed concern that authorities may restrict the usage of social media and mobile networks in incidences of trouble in the future, referring to her experiences in Ulster with the blocking of mobile phone networks in times of conflict. Although Neuberger did comment that even if the networks were restricted or blocked she believes that people would find a method of communication regardless.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival continues until Monday 29 August with appearances from cartoonist Steve Bell, Advertising expert John Hegarty, Sapphire, the American author of Precious and Man Booker Longlisted authors Alan Hollinghurst and Stephen Kelman. Tickets, and full details of the programme, can be found at www.edbookfest.co.uk or through the Box Office on 0845 373 5888.

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