

ORDER IN COUNCIL

VIII

1950

Ratifying a Projet de Loi entitled

The Blackmail Law, 1949.

(Registered on the Records of the Island of Guernsey
on the 22nd day of April, 1950.)



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1950.

ORDER IN COUNCIL.



IN THE ROYAL COURT OF THE ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

The 22nd day of April, 1950, before Quartier Le Pelley Esquire, Lieutenant-Bailiff; present: Osmond Priaulx Gallienne, Esquire, Ernest de Garis, Esquire, O.B.E., Sir John Leale, James Frederick Carey, Arthur Falla, Walter John Sarre, Esquires, Richard Henry Johns, Esquire, O.B.E., William Robert Freake Clark, Walter John Gavey and Ernest Francis Lainé, Esquires, Jurats.

The Lieutenant Bailiff having this day placed before the Court an Order of His Majesty in Council dated the 31st day of March, 1950, ratifying a *Projet de Loi* entitled "The Blackmail Law, 1949", —the Court, after the reading of the said Order in Council and after having heard His Majesty's Procureur thereon, ordered that the said Order in Council be registered on the records of this Island and that a copy of this present Act, together with an extract of the said Order in Council be sent by His Majesty's Greffier to the Clerk of the Court of Alderney and to the Seneschal of Sark for registration on the records of those Islands of which Order in Council the tenor followeth :—

At the Court at Windsor Castle

The 31st day of March, 1950.

Present,

The King's most Excellent Majesty

LORD PRESIDENT
CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER
SIR ALAN LASCELLES

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a Report from the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council for the Affairs of Guernsey and Jersey, dated the 22nd day of February, 1950, in the words following, viz. :—

“ YOUR MAJESTY having been pleased, by Your General Order of Reference of the 18th day of December, 1936, to refer unto this Committee the humble Petition of the States of the Island of Guernsey, setting forth :—

‘ 1.—That, in pursuance of their Resolution of the 21st day of September, 1949, the States of Deliberation at a meeting held on the 9th day of November, 1949, approved a Bill or “ *Projet de Loi* ” entitled “ The Blackmail Law, 1949,” and requested the Bailiff to present a most humble Petition to Your Majesty in Council praying for Your Royal Sanction thereto : 2.—That the said Bill or “ *Projet de Loi* ” is in the words and figures set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed. And most humbly praying that Your Majesty might be graciously pleased to grant Your Royal Sanction to the Bill or “ *Projet de Loi* ” of the States of Guernsey entitled “ The Blackmail Law, 1949,” and to order and direct that the same shall have force of Law in the Bailiwick of the Island of Guernsey.’

“ THE LORDS OF THE COMMITTEE, in obedience to Your Majesty’s said Order of Reference, have taken the said Petition and the said Projet de Loi into consideration, and do this day agree humbly to report, as their opinion, to Your Majesty, that it may be advisable for Your Majesty to comply with the prayer of the said Petition and to approve of and ratify the said Projet de Loi.”

HIS MAJESTY having taken the said Report into consideration is pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, to approve of and ratify the said Projet de Loi, and to order, as it is hereby ordered, that the same shall have the force of Law within the Bailiwick of the Island of Guernsey.

AND HIS MAJESTY doth hereby further direct that this Order, and the said Projet de Loi (a copy whereof is hereunto annexed) be entered upon the Register of the Island of Guernsey and observed accordingly.

AND the Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Guernsey, the Bailiff and Jurats, and all other His Majesty’s Officers, for the time being, in the said Island, and all other persons whom it may concern, are to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

E. C. E. Leadbitter.

**Projet de Loi referred to in the foregoing
Order in Council.**

PROJET DE LOI

ENTITLED

The Blackmail Law, 1949.

THE STATES, in pursuance of their Resolution of the 21st day of September, 1949, have approved the following provisions which, subject to the Sanction of His Most Excellent Majesty in Council, shall have force of law in the Bailiwick of the Island of Guernsey.

1.—(1) Every person who —

- (a) utters, knowing the contents thereof, any letter or writing demanding of any person with menaces, and without any reasonable or probable cause, any property or valuable thing ;
- (b) utters, knowing the contents thereof, any letter or writing accusing or threatening to accuse any other person (whether living or dead) of any crime to which this Law applies, with intent to extort or gain thereby any property or valuable thing from any person ;
- (c) with intent to extort or gain any property or valuable thing from any person accuses or threatens to accuse either that person or any other person (whether living or dead) of any such crime ;

shall be guilty of an offence under this Law and on conviction thereof liable to imprisonment for life or some shorter term.

(2) Every person who with intent to defraud or injure any other person —

- (a) by any unlawful violence to or restraint of the person of another, or
- (b) by accusing or threatening to accuse any person (whether living or dead) of any such crime,

compels or induces any person to execute, make, accept, endorse, alter or destroy the whole or any part of any valuable security, or to write, impress, or affix the name of any person, company, firm, or co-partnership, or the seal of any body corporate, company or society upon or to any paper or parchment in order that it may be afterwards made or converted into or used or dealt with as a valuable security, shall be guilty of an offence under this Law and on conviction thereof liable to imprisonment for life or some shorter term.

(3) This section applies to any crime punishable with death, or penal servitude or imprisonment for not less than seven years, or any assault with intent to commit any rape, or any solicitation, persuasion, promise or threat offered or made to any person, whereby to move or induce such person to commit or permit the crime of sodomy, either with mankind or with any animal.

(4) For the purposes of this Law, it is immaterial whether any menaces or threats be of violence, injury, or accusation to be caused or made by the offender or by any other person.

2. Every person who with menaces or by force demands of any person anything capable of being stolen with intent to steal the same shall be guilty of an offence under this Law and on conviction thereof liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

3. Every person who with intent —

- (a) to extort any valuable thing from any person, or

(b) to induce any person to confer or procure for any person any appointment or office of profit or trust,

(1) publishes or threatens to publish any libel upon any other person (whether living or dead); or

(2) directly or indirectly threatens to print or publish or directly or indirectly proposes to abstain from or offers to prevent the printing or publishing of any matter or thing touching any other person (whether living or dead);

shall be guilty of an offence under this Law and on conviction thereof liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

JAMES E. LE PAGE,

H.M. Greffier.