

Canadian

## *Alliance of British Pensioners*

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Release: May 22, 2002

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### **Frozen UK pensioners lose a court battle**

Almost half a million British expatriate pensioners who have their pensions frozen by Britain have lost a first round court battle in London. The case was brought on behalf of a South African resident pensioner. The court was asked to rule on whether her human rights had been breached by the failure of Britain to pay her any annual uprating. The action was brought in under a new UK Human Rights act - the first such act ever passed in the United Kingdom. Before it came into effect Parliament was the final arbiter in such matters. In his judgement announced today, the judge in this case appeared to rule nervously that the issue was for Parliament to decide. At the same time he granted immediate rights of appeal. The pensioner who brought the case has been ordered to pay costs which have been estimated to be as high as £100,000.

Pensions are uprated annually for the 11 million beneficiaries of the mandatory, contributory pension plan who live in the United Kingdom, as well as for the 47% of expatriate pensioners living in some 40 other countries, including those of the European Union, the United States and Bosnia Herzegovina. The frozen pensioners live in most Commonwealth and close to 100 other countries around the world.. Zimbabwe, Grenada, Canada and Australia are just some of the countries where pensions are frozen by Britain. Pensioners in those countries never receive any annual uprating.

"This judgement has brought further pressure into pensioners lives as many wonder whether they will survive to see the end to this disgraceful situation. At the same time, there is little doubt it will greatly increase the anger level throughout the world. It will clearly serve to strengthen the resolve of those fighting on behalf of these usually helpless elderly British pensioners to seek parity treatment for all British pensioners, regardless of where they live," commented Douglas Ross of the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners.

He continued: "To those who for too long have sat on the sidelines letting others campaign to help their frozen colleagues, we urge you to get involved right now, to help us to have the judgement expertly reviewed and, as we fully expect, as quickly as possible launch an appeal to a higher court, perhaps better equipped to deal with the Human Rights issues it raises. This is certainly the most critical time for unity and strength of resolve amongst all those fighting to achieve benefit parity."

Please contact us at: [info@britishpensions.com](mailto:info@britishpensions.com) or find out more information and how you can support the campaign to end benefit discrimination at [www.britishpensions.com](http://www.britishpensions.com)

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