

Text: Dr. Rolf D. Baldus
 Photos: Adobe Stock

BORIS JOHNSON: HONORABLE CAMPAIGNER AGAINST IMMORALITY

English Prime Minister Boris Johnson is a busy man. He has a never-ending Brexit mess to deal with, a rapidly shrinking economy caused by political chaos, his own “me too” accusations to counter, and much more. But “Boris the plague”, as he was affectionately named by the satirical magazine, *Private Eye*, still has time to combat some morally indefensible activities of his subjects, and even enough time to launch a new law against such activities. “Cherchez la femme,” the French would say in such a situation.

Immoral? No, it’s not what you may be thinking, although many in England are frowning because for the first time in history a PM has moved into 10 Downing Street with a partner, not a spouse. No, Boris is only concerned with morally reprehensible activities as defined by his present girlfriend Carrie Symonds. For her this means trophy hunting.

It is “cruel, sick and cowardly,” said the Prime Minister’s partner in her first public speech as “First Girlfriend” on August 16 at a convention of birdwatchers. She would never be able to understand the motivation to do such things (namely to hunt).

The former PR manager for the Conservative Party is an environmentalist and animal rights activist. However, “Bozzie Bear”, as she calls her disheveled blond boyfriend when no one else is listening, in reference to the somewhat awkward and always embarrassing “Fozzie Bear” of the *Muppet Show*, has shown zero interest in animal rights previously. On the contrary, in 2008 the famously carnivorous Boris, who has a habit of eating chorizo at midnight, voiced his opinion that saving the planet by consuming less meat was utter nonsense. And in 2017, he announced that he was fond of bullfighting. Prior to his election as party leader he even announced that he wanted to once again allow traditional fox hunting, a hot potato in the United Kingdom for animal rights activists and eco-terrorists alike.

With all of this it is easy to understand how there might be potential for conflict in this freshly blossoming relationship. Of course, we do not know if it was about the immorality of trophy hunting or about moral misbehavior, that according to the police caused Ms. Symonds’ neighbors to call them around midnight on June 20, because there was “concern for the well-being of the female neighbor.” “Get off me,” and “get out of my apartment,” Carrie is said to have screamed. Then there were crashing sounds. The Bobbies determined however, that the couple was intact, and that there wasn’t any necessity for police intervention.

It is understandable that after such disputes Boris has to offer something to his 24-year-younger partner in order to keep her on board and happy. He apparently has a history of such efforts. He is currently being investigated for possibly delighting Ms. Symonds’ predecessor, another ex-model. Misappropriation of public funds and taking her



along on official trips when he was the mayor of London are several of the allegations.

This time the honorable Prime Minister's efforts are in a different field. Initially he converted to a vegan diet, at least temporarily. However, this was apparently not enough to satisfy his current muse. "Bozzie Bear" offered his "Little Otter", as he calls Carrie behind closed doors, the hunting topic to deal with on a silver platter. Carrie was allowed to cobble together a prohibitive law that goes by the beautiful name the "Morally Indefensible Act". She was assisted in this endeavor by a state secretary named Zac Goldsmith, who was specially appointed on September 10, 2019. The Eurosceptic and longtime animal rights activist, a buddy of Boris, has, if you believe the *Telegraph*, been granted the magnificent title "Minister of International Wildlife". He is said to be the richest member of the House of Commons, and not just because he has saved millions in taxes by relocating his home address abroad for a couple of years. As the son of a controversial financial investor, he was rich from birth. His curriculum vitae does not refer to any sort of completed education. At least he was at Eton College, albeit temporarily, before being thrown out because of cannabis use.

Carrie and Zac are working on a law that prohibits not only the importation of so-called iconic species, such as elephants or lions, but everything listed on Appendices I and II of the Washington Convention, or listed on the IUCN's Red List. Simply stated, most trophies.

"Thousands of elephants, lions, rhinos, and other endangered animals will be saved this way," Goldsmith said. How he intends to accomplish this by halting, on average, the import of about three dozen trophies in this category to the UK each year, remains his secret. Maybe his expulsion from Eton took place before he completed basic math.

They didn't even hesitate having Queen Elizabeth II relay the message of the new import ban at the opening of Parliament in mid-October 2019, which she did with a straight face. Whether this law survives the long road of the legislative process through committees, Parliament, and the House of Lords is yet to be seen. And, whether Carrie and Boris will still be in power is yet another question. However, it shows how deep the influence of animal rights organizations, with their almost unlimited financial means, is in the United Kingdom. They have established majorities across all parties. This also applies to the European Parliament, where the guild of hunting opponents is led by a liberal MEP from the UK.

One could easily ignore this as a bit of British satire done by comedians, if it weren't so important – namely about the survival of Africa's wildlife, and about the living conditions of people living side by side with it. In the competition for the use of the dwindling natural areas in

Africa, wildlife's only chance of survival is if it is given value, and often this is only possible through sustainable hunting. This fact was recently well-argued by 133 scientists, in an article in the prestigious scientific journal *Science*. Unfortunately, people who consider hunting immoral can't be bothered with facts.

"Cynical," is how Professor Keith Somerville, a thorough observer of developments in Africa, and a member of the Durrell Institute for Nature Conservation and Ecology at the University of Kent, describes this ideology. In addition, it is a well-calculated guise to distract from the poor public image of the conservatives. If your party loves animals, it can't be that bad.

I regard Brexit as a European disaster. However, I find it easier to accept when I see the dramatic rise of the animal rights ideology in the UK. Or, is this only a harbinger of things to come here and in the rest of Europe too? ■



Source: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/09/27/britain-will-have-toughest-trophy-hunting-rules-world-government/>

This photo is anti-hunting propaganda. The trap is obviously the work of a poacher. Poaching and legal hunting are two completely different things.

