

Document: SP 16/488/52

A committee considering the safety of the kingdom after the arrest of 5 members; it is a printed leaflet from parliament, 12th Jan 1642

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The Declaration agreed upon by the Committee of the  
House of Commons appointed to sit in the Guildhall in London, to consider of the  
safety of the Kingdom, and of the City of London. And of the preserving the  
Priviledges of Parliament.



Master Wilde Serjeant at Law, sitting in the Chaire of that Committee. 6. Jan. 1642.

Whereas the Chambers, Studies, and Truncks of M. Hollis, Sir Arthur Haslerige, M. Pym, M. Hampden, and M. Strode, Members of the House of Commons, upon Munday the 3. of this instant January, by colour of His Majesties Warrant have been sealed up by Sir William Kilegrey, and Sir William Flemen and others; which is not only against the Priviledge of Parliament, but the common Liberty of every Subject: Which said Members afterwards, the same day were under the like colour, by Serjeant Frances, one of His Majesties Serjeants at Arms, contrary to all former Preidents and Priviledges of Parliaments demanded of the Speaker, sitting in the House of Commons to be delivered unto him, that he might Arrest them of High Treason: And whereas afterwards the next day His Majesty in His Royall Person came to the said House attended with a great multitude of men armed in warlike manner, with Halberts, Swords, and Pistolls, who came up to the very door of the house, and placed themselves there, and in other places and passages neer to the said house, to the great terrour and disturbance of the Members thereof, then sitting, and according to their dutie, in a peaceable and orderly manner, treating of the great Affairs of England and Ireland: And his Majesty having placed himself in the Speakers Chair, demanded of them the Persons of the said Members to be delivered unto him, which is a high Breach of the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament, and inconsistent with the Liberties, and Freedom thereof. And whereas afterwards his Majesty did issue forth severall Warrants, under his own hand, for the apprehension of the Persons of the said Members, which by Law he cannot do, there being not all this time, any Legall charge or Accusation, or due Proceses of Law issued against them, nor any pretence of charge made known to that house; all which are against the Fundamentall Liberties of the Subject, and the Rights of Parliament. Whereupon we are necessitated, according to our duty, to declare, That if any Person shall arrest M. Hollis, Sir Arthur Haslerige, M. Pym, M. Hampden, and M. Strode, or any of them, or any other Member of Parliament, by pretence or colour of any Warrant issuing out from the King only, is guilty of the Breach of the Liberties of the Subject, and of the Priviledge of Parliament, and a publike enemy to the Commonwealth. And that the Arresting of the said Members, or any of them, or of any other Member of Parliament, by any Warrant whatsoever, without a Legall proceeding against them, and without consent of that house, whereof such Person is a Member, is against the Liberty of the Subject, and a Breach of Priviledge of Parliament; And the Person which shall Arrest any of these Persons, or any other Member of the Parliament, is declared a publike enemy of the Common-wealth.

Notwithstanding all which we think fit further to declare, that we are so farre from any endeavour to protect any of our Members, that shall be in due manner prosecuted according to the Laws of the Kingdom, and the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament for Treason, or any other misdemeanor, That none shall be more ready and willing then we our selves, to bring them to their speedy and due tryall, Being sensible that it equally imports us, as well to see Justice done against them that are criminous, as to defend the just Rights and Liberties of the Subjects, and Parliament of England.

London, Printed for Joseph Hunscoot. 1642.

**Transcript: SP 16/488/52**

*A committee considering the safety of the kingdom after the arrest of 5 members; it is a printed leaflet from parliament, 12th Jan 1642*

A committee considering the safety of the kingdom after the arrest of the five members; printed leaflet from Parliament, 12th January 1642

The Declaration agreed upon by the Committee of the House of Commons to sit in the Guildhall of London, to consider of the safety of the Kingdom, and of the City of London. And of the preserving the Priviledges of Parliament.

Master Wilde Serjeant at Law, sitting in the Chaire of that Committee. 6. Jan. 1641.

Whereas the Chambers Studies, and Truncks of M. Hollis, Sir Arthur Haslerige, M. Pym, M. Hampden, and M. Strode, Members of the House of Commons, upon Munday the 3. of this instant January, by colour of His Majesties Warrant have been sealed up by Sir William Kilegrey, and Sir William Flemen and others; which is no only against the Priviledge of Parliament, but the common Liberty of every Subject: Which said members afterwards, the same day were under the like colour, by Serjeant Frances, one of His Majesties Serjeants at Arms, contrary to all former Presidents and Priviledges of Parliaments demanded of the Speaker, sitting in the House of Commons to be delivered unto him, that he might Arrest them of High Treason: And whereas afterwards the next day His Majesty in His Royall Person came to the said House attended with a great multitude of men armed in a warlike manner, with Halberts, Swords, and Pistolls, who came up to the very door of the house, and placed themselves there, and in other places and passages neer to the said house, to the great terrour and disturbance of the Members thereof, then sitting, according to their dutie, in a peaceable and orderly manner, treating of the great Affairs of England and Ireland: And his Majesty having placed himself in the Speakers Chair, demanded of them the persons of the said Members to be delivered unto him, which is a high Breach of the rights and Priviledges of Parliament, and inconsistent with the Liberties and Freedom thereof. And whereas afterwards his Majesty did issue forth severall Warrants and Officers, under his own hand, for the apprehension of the Persons of the said Members, which by Law he cannot do, there being not all this time, any Legall charge or Accusation, or due Processes of Law issued against them, nor any pretence of charge made known to that house; all which are against the Fundamentall Liberties of the Subject, and the Rights of Parliament. Whereupon we are necessitated, according to our duty, to declare, That if any person shall arrest M. Hollis, Sir Arthur Haslerige, M. Pym, M. Hampden, and M. Strode, or any of them, or any other Member of Parliament, by pretence or colour of any Warrant issuing from the King only, is guilty of the Breach of Liberties of the Subject, and of the Priviledge of Parliament, and a publike enemy to the Commonwealth. And that the Arresting of the said Members, or any of them, or of any other Member of Parliament, by any Warrant whatsoever, without a Legall proceeding against them, and without consent of that house, whereof such Person is a Member, is against the Liberty of the Subject, and a Breach of Priviledge of Parliament; And the Person which shall Arrest any of these Person, or any other Member of the Parliament, is declared a publike enemy of the Commonwealth.

Notwithstanding all which we think fit further to declare, that we are so farre from any endeavour to protect any of our Members, that shall be in due manner prosecuted according to the Laws of the Kingdom, and the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament for Treason, or any other misdemeanour, That none shall be more ready and willing then we our selves, to bring them to their speedy, and due tryall, Being sensible that it equally imports us, as well to see Justice done against them that are criminous, as to defend the just Rights and Liberties of the Subjects, and Parliament of England.

*London, Printed for Joseph Hunscott, 1642*

## Simplified transcript: SP 16/488/52

*A committee considering the safety of the kingdom after the arrest of 5 members; it is a printed leaflet from parliament, 12th Jan 1642*

[Extra explanations are in square brackets.]

The Declaration agreed by the Committee of the House of Commons, in the Guildhall of London, to consider the safety of the Kingdom and of the City of London. And to protect the Privileges of Parliament [particular rights given to MPs sitting in Parliament].

The committee meets here on the 3rd January, because of the King's Warrant [an order to arrest the five MPs involved in the Grand Remonstrance]. This is not only against the Privileges of Parliament, but also against the common freedom of every subject. Sergeant Frances, one of the King's Sergeants at Arms, demanded of the Speaker sitting in the Houses of Commons [Chief Officer of the House who makes sure that the rules are followed], that the five MPs should be delivered to him so he could arrest them for High Treason. This is against all of the Privileges of Parliament. The next day, the King came to the House of Commons along with many armed men carrying halberds [a weapon with an axe-like blade and steel spike], swords and pistols [small guns]. Some came up to the door of the House of Commons, whilst others stood in the corridors near to the House. This caused great terror and disturbance for the MPs in the House, who were all carrying out their duties in a quiet and peaceful way. The King sat in the Speaker's chair, and demanded that the five MPs be brought to him. This is against the rights and privileges of Parliament. Afterwards the King sent several warrants signed by him for the arrest of the five members. Again, he cannot do this, as no proper charge has been brought against them. We declare that if anyone tries to arrest M. Hollis, Air Arthur Haslerige, M. Pym, M, Hampden, M. Strode or any other MP with a warrant from the King, is guilty of a breach of liberties [freedom] and of the privileges of Parliament, and is a public enemy of the commonwealth.

We are not trying to protect any MPs that should be prosecuted for Treason or any other crime, in accordance with to the laws of our kingdom. We want to see justice done against those that are criminals, in order to defend the rights and freedom of the subjects, and of the Parliament of England.

*London, Printed for Joseph Hunscott, 1642*