# judge dismisses 'freeman of the land' defence in serious rape case



Paul Conrad Wilson, known as Paul of Katesbridge, has recently gained attention for his claims of being a 'freeman of the land'. This self-identification has led Wilson, who is facing serious charges of rape and false imprisonment, to evade the legal system for nearly two years. The charges stem from an incident that allegedly occurred in February 2021, involving an alleged victim who now finds herself in a prolonged state of uncertainty regarding the outcome of her case.

Newry District Judge Eamonn King has expressed scepticism about the 'freeman' defence, describing it as a “false philosophy” that frequently arises in courtroom discussions. Legal professionals widely maintain that the concept of a 'freeman of the land' does not hold any legitimate standing within the legal framework. Despite this, Wilson remains unyielding in his stance, stating that he does not recognise the authority of the law.

Reports indicate that Wilson’s claims are part of a broader trend involving several high-profile cases where similar declarations have been made by various individuals seeking to evade legal accountability. Notably, a previous instance involved a man who unlawfully paraded his daughter through Newry’s streets, asserting that she was his property and that the law did not apply to him.

The alleged victim in Wilson's case has voiced her frustration and concern, expressing that she has been “left in limbo” due to the ongoing absence of legal proceedings. Her situation underscores the challenges faced by those pursuing justice in cases involving individuals who assert such unconventional legal beliefs.

Legal experts continue to advocate for the importance of upholding the rule of law in these circumstances. The case illustrates ongoing tensions between certain fringe ideologies and established legal principles, raising questions about the implications of self-identification as a freeman in serious criminal allegations.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freeman_on_the_land_movement> - This article provides an overview of the 'freeman on the land' movement, detailing its beliefs and the legal challenges associated with such claims.
2. <https://www.hceo.net/freemen-of-the-land> - This page discusses how UK courts have consistently rejected the claims made by 'freemen of the land' adherents, emphasizing that statutory laws apply to all citizens regardless of personal consent.
3. <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/council-tax/freeman-on-the-land> - This resource clarifies that the concept of a 'Freeman on the Land' is not recognized by legislation or the courts, and individuals cannot choose which laws to adhere to or ignore.
4. <https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/council-tax/freeman-land> - This page explains that the 'Freeman on the Land' movement's arguments lack legal basis, and individuals who withhold payment may face enforcement actions, including potential imprisonment.
5. <https://www.inmateaid.com/information/freeman-on-the-land> - This article outlines the beliefs of 'freemen on the land,' including their view that statute law applies only with individual consent, and discusses the legal implications of such beliefs.
6. <https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Council-tax/Freeman-of-the-Land> - This resource states that the 'Freeman on the Land' movement's beliefs are not recognized in UK law, and individuals cannot choose which laws to follow, with potential legal consequences for non-compliance.
7. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/podcasts/the-beltel/freeman-of-the-land-defence-still-being-heard-despite-ni-judge-saying-its-a-false-philosophy/a1153889387.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data