

# Help us not US, says mum of Hacker

THE mother of computer hacker Gary McKinnon yesterday criticised the Home Secretary for linking her son to the September 11 terror attacks and the deaths of nearly 3,000 US citizens.

Janis Sharp said Alan Johnson was "doing America's job" when he should be "standing up for British citizens".

She said her 43-year-old son, a UFO obsessive who suffers from Asperger's Syndrome (AS) and is wanted for trial on charges of hacking into US military networks, could "easily" be tried in the UK if the Government wanted to intervene to stop his extradition.

Mr Johnson yesterday said it would be illegal for him to intervene, saying Mr McKinnon was accused of hacking into computers "shortly after the attacks of 9/11 which killed nearly 3,000 US citizens".

Ms Sharp told reporters: "I was very disappointed because not only is he (Mr Johnson) trying not to stand up for Gary's rights, he actually is trying to incriminate him by talking about 9/11 and all the people who died and then mentioning Gary's name.

"I don't expect him to actually be doing America's job, I expect him to be standing up for British citizens."

She admitted her son's actions in looking for files relating to UFOs had been "very stupid" and "ludicrous", but repeated her call for him to be tried in the UK.

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