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Government's extradition treaty with the US is criticised

THE Government's extradition treaty with the US came under fire last night after computer hacker Gary McKinnon was refused permission to appeal to the Supreme Court against his pending removal to America to face charges of breaking into the Pentagon's military networks.

Condemnation of the High Court decision was led by Mr McKinnon's mother, who said her

son, who has Asperger's Syndrome and insists his hacking was aimed at nothing more than searching for reports of UFO sightings, was being "offered up as a sacrificial lamb" to safeguard the UK's "special political relationship" with America.

Janis Sharp said: "To use my son in this way is despicable and devoid of humanity."

Tory backbencher David Davis

said: "The reason this decision has been arrived at is because the British Government created laws and agreements which, masquerading as anti-terror laws, actually disadvantaged a whole range of British citizens"

The High Court, which has turned down Mr McKinnon's extradition challenges, refused leave to appeal, ruling that the case did not raise "points of law of general

public importance" – a prerequisite of being able to pursue a cause in the new Supreme Court.

His lawyers said they would now consider applying to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

They argue that extraditing him would lead to "disastrous consequences" for his health, including possible psychosis and suicide.