fear of being denounced and then deported is a frequently cited barrier for access to health care.¹⁵

Perhaps because GPs in the UK are self-employed it has not been suggested that they denounce patients to the authorities. However in Italy a law making it a duty for all doctors to denounce undocumented migrants seeking treatment was passed in the Chamber of Deputies by the Berlusconi government in 2009.¹⁵ Because the various Italian doctors unions cooperated for once and threatened to go on strike this law was defeated in the Senate. In Germany, entitlement to care for undocumented migrants is effectively barred by the obligation to denounce imposed by German legislation on public institutions including the social welfare centres that have competencies on public health issues.¹¹

A further threat, not as yet enshrined in any European law, as far as I am aware, is criminalisation. Criminalisation is where helping undocumented migrants in a specified way — such as providing health care — is made a criminal offence. (Providing employment has already been criminalised in the UK, [Immigration and Nationality Act 2006]). However, many years ago in Pinochet's Chile it was illegal to treat opponents of the regime. A British doctor, Sheila Cassidy was imprisoned and tortured for this offence and has written a moving account of this.¹⁶ Similar action is being taken today in Bahrain against doctors who helped protestors in the 'Arab Spring' pro-democracy demonstration.¹⁷

Denunciation as a basis of public policy is very corrosive of trust. It was depicted in a storyline in *Coronation Street* in 2007, and perhaps more memorably, by Arthur Miller in *A View From the Bridge*.¹⁸ The sad truth is that most of us can denounce somebody in a moment of spite and regret the action once it is too late.

I hope this piece may serve as a warning to UK doctors to look at the situation beyond our own borders and resolve not to be led down the two dangerous paths of denunciation and criminalisation, but to support policies that enable access to health care by all migrants. Migration is an increasing phenomenon in our modern world and migrants can bring great benefits to the host society if they are properly integrated.

Gervase Vernon,

GP and Medical Examiner at 'Freedom from Torture' formerly 'Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture'.

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ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Gervase Vernon

John Tasker House Surgery, 56 New St, Dunmow, Essex CM6 3LU, UK.

E-mail: gervase@jth.demon.co.uk

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The European Doctors Orchestra and Michael Lasserson

I hope Mike Lasserson was watching over us at the Sage, Gatehead, last November. There we were — a 90-strong amateur orchestra furiously rehearsing Shostakovich's 5th Symphony — brought to a resounding silence just seconds later not by the baton of a powerful conductor, but by being asked to remember Mike. It was a profoundly moving moment for those of us who had known him.

The European Doctors Orchestra was created in 2004 by Mike, a London-based GP, and a few other medical musicians, growing rapidly in stature from a sketchy idea to an established symphony orchestra, with players from all over Europe. We have travelled as far as Bucharest and Budapest, meeting twice yearly in different countries for intense and long weekends of music making. The only requirement for players is to work hard and play hard. On Friday mornings we are reticent and retiring; by Sunday afternoon we are performing with creative confidence.

Mike was diagnosed in early 2011 with metastatic mucosal melanoma. We played without him in Oslo in May while he underwent palliative treatment, and he died in July. While grateful patients will remember his quiet care, a whole orchestra ensures his musical legacy lives on (www.europeandoctorsorchestra.com).

Abi Berger,

Associate Editor, *BMJ*.

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ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Abi Berger

BMJ Group, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK.

E-mail: aberger@bmj.com