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The Fall frontman Mark E Smith has offered his verdict on the riots which swept across the country this year.

Strange times for The Fall. But then, isn't life in The Fall always strange? The band recently released their new album 'Ersatz GB' and completed a nationwide tour which saw them play both

masterful and chaotic shows. Hitting Edinburgh, Mark E Smith departed from the stage after the opening song, only returning after 40 minutes to blast through 'Mr Pharmacist'.

However in the main, reviews from the recent shows have been generous. Mark E Smith is leading a stable line up, with The Fall's current incarnation having been in place for three albums. Giving a series of interviews, the frontman's barbed, surreal wit has come to the fore with a recent Q&A resulting in some bizarre statements about the summer riots.

Speaking to the BBC, Mark E Smith was asked about disturbances and claimed he "agrees with Colonel Gaddafi" about the riots. "Too much laptops, too much Nescafe, that is what he (Colonel Gaddafi) said, you know," argued the frontman.

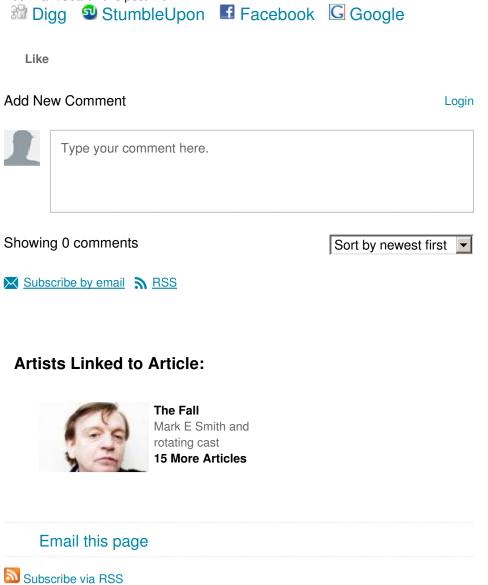
Continuing, Mark E Smith described the riots as "biblical". "It's quite biblical actually, it was predicted in the bible, you know" he said. "People are just protesting about what they don't really know anything about. What makes

me laugh is that they always seem very well dressed. They don't seem very ragged, do they."

Recently, the legendary post-punk frontman was criticised after admitting to Uncut that he had killed "a couple" of squirrels eating his fence. Animal rights group Peta2 hit out at Mark E Smith, issuing a statement (via NME: "Nothing says inferiority complex like a fully grown man harming a defenceless animal who weighs only a few ounces and whose only defence is to run away."

"Animals have the same capacity to feel fear and pain that humans do, of course, and they should have the right not to be cruelly attacked and killed by a has-been singer. PETA strongly advises that Mark seek help for his anger issues before anyone else gets hurt and hopes the court throws the book at him."

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