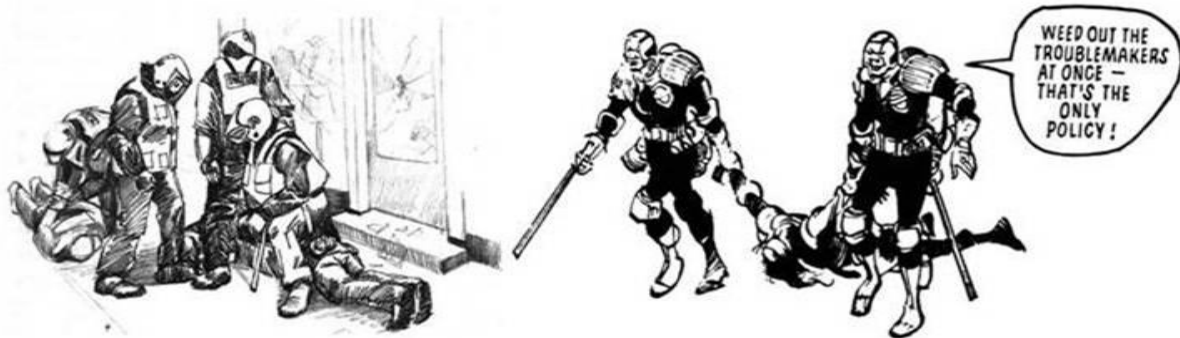


Title Statue of Judgement: Estonia's *Bronze Soldier* from a Dreddful perspective
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Abstract (250 words)

In the year 2117 a riot erupted in Mega-City One just as the finishing touches were being put to the *Statue of Judgement*. Dwarfing the damaged and neglected Statue of Liberty, this colossal effigy of a Judge houses the Public Surveillance Unit. It monitors the city's 400 million disenfranchised residents, issuing instructions to armour-suited Judges who patrol the streets, delivering justice at the end of their titanium daysticks.



In April 2007 similar disturbances occurred in the Estonian capital, Tallinn. The catalyst was the *Bronze Soldier*, a Soviet-era war memorial erected in 1947 in the city centre. Sixty years later the elected government of an independent Estonia shifted it to the peripheral setting of a military cemetery. This action exposed deep-seated, historically-informed and ethnically based schisms in Estonian society. Two nights of rioting, arrests and one death ensued before baton-wielding, armour-suited police officers brought the situation under control.

Events in Tallinn formed the basis of Kristina Norman's *After-War*, Estonia's contribution to the 2009 Venice Biennale. Through video works, archival footage and installation, Norman recounted the history of the Bronze Soldier. At the centre of the display was the *Gold Soldier*, suspended horizontally between video screens showing the inauguration, desacralization and reinvestiture of the monument. Norman also published an explanatory book. This features sketches, the style of which bears a striking similarity to the cartoon universe of Mega-City One. This, plus the superhero connotations of the Bronze/Gold Soldier, will be used to explore the migration of ideas between sculpture and comic art.