



Irregular bulletin of Brighton  
Anarchist Black Cross  
prisoner support group

**AUGUST '11**  
**Free!**

**SOLIDARITY**

[www.brightonabc.org.uk](http://www.brightonabc.org.uk)

ABC, PO Box 74, Brighton BN1 4ZQ

# ANTI-FASCIST ACTIVISTS IMPRISONED

Six of our friends were recently imprisoned for anti-fascist activities. Due to the nature of the case we cannot yet go into specific details about the incident at this time, but a full report will follow.

The prison addresses of our comrades are below; please write and send them your support. They can receive stamps (or a s.a.e. for you reply), stationary (though not pens) and books (though only from a recognised distributor such as Amazon). Money should be sent in the form of postal orders made out to 'The Governor', with the prisoner's name and number of the rear.

Please remember when writing that all letters will be read by the screws, so don't say anything that could incriminate yourself or someone else. Two prisoners are as yet unsentenced; so please bear this in mind too. For more advice about writing to prisoners check the Brighton ABC 'Writing to Prisoners' web page.

Andy Baker (21 months)  
A5768CE  
HMP Wormwood Scrubs, PO Box 757,  
Du Cane Rd., London, W12 OAE

Thomas Blak (Unsentenced)  
A5728CE  
HMP Wormwood Scrubs,  
PO Box 757,  
Du Cane Rd., London, W12 OAE

Sean Cregan (21 months)  
A5769CE  
HMP Wormwood Scrubs,  
PO Box 757,  
Du Cane Rd., London, W12 OAE

Phil De Sousa (21 months)  
A5766CE  
HMP Wormwood Scrubs,  
PO Box 757,  
Du Cane Rd., London, W12 OAE

Ravinder Gill (21 months)  
A5770CE  
HMP Wormwood Scrubs,  
PO Box 757,  
Du Cane Rd., London, W12 OAE

Austen Jackson (Unsentenced)  
A5729CE  
HMP Wormwood Scrubs,  
PO Box 757,  
Du Cane Rd., London,  
W12 OAE.



Some of the six are likely to be moved in the near future so please check the supporters blog for updates: <http://antifascistprisonersupportuk.wordpress.com/>

## JOCK PALFREEMAN'S FINAL APPEAL REJECTED

24 year old Jock Palfreeman is serving a 20-year sentence for stabbing a Bulgarian man, who died after a fight in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia in 2007, which began when Jock went to the aid of two gypsies being beaten by a large group of local fascists who then turned on him. Jock was left with nowhere to run and had no choice but to defend himself. The country's highest court rejected his appeal against the original verdict and sentence. Lawyers for the Palfreeman family now say they may look to taking the matter to the European Courts.



A prominent Bulgarian lawyer said that the Jock's best strategy may now be to concentrate on trying to get him sent back to serve his sentence in Australia rather than relying on Strasbourg to correct what was a faulty investigation and one-sided trial. A trial in Strasbourg would take five years and even if Jock won its verdict it would be far from certain to have any impact in Bulgaria.

But an immediate obstacle is that the 24-year-old first has to come up with \$300,000. Under Bulgarian law foreign prisoners cannot be considered for a transfer to their home countries until they have paid any outstanding sums of compensation awarded against them, and Jock has been hit by an unusually stiff compensation bill.

Write letters of support to:  
Jock Palfreeman,  
Sofia Central Prison  
21 General Stoletov Boulevard  
Sofia 1309  
Bulgaria.

More details here: <http://www.freejock.com>

## CLIMATE ACTIVIST SENTENCED TO 2 YEARS IN PRISON

Tim DeChristopher, the climate activist known as Bidder No 70 who posed as an oil industry bidder in an attempt to protect public lands from an oil and gas lease sale in Utah, has been sentenced to two years in prison and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine. "Mr. DeChristopher had many other lawful ways to express his disapproval with the oil and gas leasing process," said U.S. District Court Judge Dee Benson at the hearing. But of course Tim's disapproval, and that of millions of others, had not been heard by tone deaf policy makers content to wish away the reality of our role in climate change instead of acting.

"At the time I went in with a very direct action kind of mindset thinking that if I can cause enough delay, stop this action and keep oil in the ground, then that would be worth it." He had come straight from writing one of his finals, unshaven and in an old down jacket. "I certainly didn't look like anyone who was there," he said. "I didn't pretend to be an oil executive or anything." Officials from the federal Bureau of Land Management asked if he wanted to bid. DeChristopher said yes, still thinking at that point that he just wanted to shout something or cause a disruption. But by the time the auction was over, DeChristopher had driven up prices on some parcels and made winning bids on 14 pieces of land – some of it near national parks. The Obama administration later cancelled most of the sales, because of doubts about Bush's leasing plan, but the court case against Tim DeChristopher still went ahead.

He is currently being held at the Davis County Jail in Utah, awaiting transfer to the Federal Prison Camp.

Write letters of support to:

Tim DeChristopher, #2011 - 06916  
c/o Davis County Correctional Facility,  
PO Box 130, Farmington, UT 84025, USA.

# COSTA, BILLIE & SILVIA SENTENCED

Costa Ragusa, Billy Bernasconi and Silvia Guerini, three anarchist involved in the Italian environmentalist group Il Silvestre and ALF/ELF campaigns, were sentenced at the Federal Criminal Court in Bellinzona, Switzerland on charges of "conspiracy to commit arson" and "illegal trafficking of explosives" following their arrests in April last year after an attempted attack on a Swiss IBM nanotechnology lab.

Another charge of "illegal transport of explosives" fell apart as there was no solid evidence to corroborate any smuggling from Italy. Nevertheless, the three were sentenced to longer prison terms than those requested by the prosecutor.



Costa, 34, was sentenced to three years and eight months in prison, the longest sentence after the prosecution had labelled him the 'criminal mastermind' behind the planned attack.

Billy, 26, was sentenced to three years and six months in prison, plus 22 days from a prior sentence and Silvia, 29, was sentenced to three years and four months in prison. Each of the three sentences will be reduced by one year and three months, the amount of time the three had spent in pretrial detention.

You can write to them at:

Silvia Guerini c/o Regionalgefängnis Biel,  
Spitalstrasse 20, 2502 Biel/Bienne,  
Switzerland

Luca Bernasconi c/o Regionalgefängnis  
Bern, Genfergasse 22, 3001 Bern,  
Switzerland

Costantino Ragusa c/o Regionalgefängnis,  
ThunAllmendstr. 34, 3600 Thun,  
Switzerland

but please be careful what you write as all mail is censored.

# STUDENT & ANTI-CUTS PROTEST PRISONERS

Amongst ongoing prosecutions for individuals participating in the student and worker uprisings against cuts over the last year, several protesters have been heavily handedly sentenced and need our support.

Ed Woollard, an 18-year old student who was sentenced to 32 months for violent disorder after throwing a fire extinguisher during the occupation of the Tory HQ at Millbank in December 2010. No one was injured and he later admitted he got carried away and regretted the act, but both media and courts disproportionately condemned him.

Email him at [writetoedwoollard@gmail.com](mailto:writetoedwoollard@gmail.com), or write c/o Chris Rawlinson, Student Union, Brockenhurst College, Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7ZE. (please include a stamped addressed envelope). See also his support website: <http://support4edwoollard.wordpress.com/> for more info or to leave a message.

Francis Fernie, a young York student was sentenced to 12 months for outrageously minor misconduct such as throwing some flimsy sticks. His supporters are facilitating support by letters or email; if you would like to write to him contact:

[frank@freefrankfernie](mailto:frank@freefrankfernie) explaining who you are and why you would like to contact him; they will then send you Frank's PI number and address. See also <http://www.freefrankfernie.info/> for flyers, a call for donations to help friends and family visit him, and more information.

Both the long-running and committed Legal Defence

and Monitoring Group

(<http://ldmg.org.uk/>) and

the newer Green and Black Cross (<http://www.greenandblackcross.org/>)

are monitoring cases, so do also


support them in their valuable work.



# CALIFORNIAN PRISONS HUNGER STRIKE ENDS

A hunger strike that had begun in the Security Housing Units at Pelican Bay supermax prison on July 1 and which spread across 13 of the 30 Californian State prisons, involving up to 6,600 prisoners at its height, has ended with a series of concessions from the Californian Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and an agreement to hold further negotiations on their core demands.

Secure Housing Units (SHU) - soundproofed concrete cells with no window or natural light - are one of the most restrictive forms of solitary confinement perpetrated in American prisons. Your only contact with the outside world is the prison guard who push your meal tray through a knee-high slot three times a day or who comes to take you for your hour's exercise in the 'dog pound', a small covered-over yard where you can't even see the sky, or when you're handcuffed and taken to the end of the outside corridor for a twice-weekly shower. No TV, nor radio or reading materials in your stark grey concrete cell, and you're lucky if you are given the rare privilege of a family visit - behind glass communicating via a phone of course.

Supposedly designed to combat gang culture within prisons, you can end up in the SHU for something as simple as having a tattoo or because you had contact with someone deemed to have 'gang affiliations'. And the only way you can get out of the SHU is by 'proving' that you no longer have any 'gang affiliations'. And how do you prove this negative? By naming other prisoners, even if you or they actually have no 'gang affiliations'. NB. The Anarchist  is considered to be a gang symbol in US prisons!

Following their decision to resume eating, the hunger strikers have given the CDCR what amounts to a temporary respite, a grace period of 2-3 weeks from July 20, to

give the CDCR's top administrators the opportunity to come up with some substantive changes in response to their five core demands. If they don't follow through they plan to go back on hunger strike. *"It's very important that our supporters know where we stand, and that CDCR knows that we're not going to go for any B.S. We remain as serious about our stand now as we were at the start, and meant what we said re indefinite hunger strike peaceful protest until our demands are met. I repeat - we're simply giving CDCR a brief grace period in response to their request for the opportunity to get [it] right in a timely fashion! We'll see where things stand soon enough!"*



The prisoners' demands:

1. Eliminate group punishments.
2. Abolish the debriefing policy and modify active/inactive gang status criteria.
3. Comply with the recommendations of the US Commission on Safety and Abuse in Prisons (2006) regarding an end to long-term solitary confinement.
4. Provide adequate food.
5. Expand and provide constructive programs and privileges for indefinite SHU inmates.

See the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity coalition blog for details of how you can support the growing campaign against the use of solitary confinement and the struggle against the SHU:  
<http://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/>

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See our website for the latest  
info on class struggle prisoners-



www.  
brightonabc.org.uk

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