**Defend the Right to Protest** 

## Justice for Alfie Meadows & Zak King

Ifie Meadows and Zak King took part in the student protest on the 9th December 2010, along with thousands of others to oppose the trebling of tuition fees, the scrapping of EMA and

Affie sustained a serious head injury following a bidy, by a police baton

the attack on public education. They were met with police kettles, horse charges, and batoning. Alfie suffered a serious head injury and had to undergo emergency brain surgery to save his life.

Like many other students Zak and Alfie were also arrested and dragged through the courts on excessive charges. The aim was to punish the students with prison sentences. In one case a college student was sentenced to 12 months for waving a flimsy placard stick.

However the victimisation has failed in many cases, with juries acquiting the majority of students who pleaded not guilty. The trials also exposed police brutality.

Alfie and Zak are the last remaining students to face trial. Their first trial was in March 2012, which resulted in a hung jury. A retrial then began on the 29th October, but was aborted due to repeated delays. It is now scheduled to take place on 11th February 2013 – two years and 3 months since the 9th December demonstration!

## **Power and punishment**

The experience of being subjected to long delays in the run up to trials with a serious charge hanging over them, amounts to further punishment of Alfie and Zak.

Alfie has already suffered the trauma of life threatening injuries. Zak had to watch his younger brother get dragged through the courts on similar charges only to be found not guilty.

This ongoing victimisation and punishment must end now. We call on fellow students and the wide trade union movement to join our campaign to demand justice for Alfie and Zak.

## Protest at the retrial

11 February, 9am @ Woolwich Crown Court,

2 Belmarsh Rd, London SE28 0EY Off Western Way, Near Plumstead **★** 

## What can you do:

- Send a message of solidarity to Alfie and Zak at info@defendtherighttoprotest
- Pass the emergency motion in support of Alfie and Zak at your student/trade union meeting (see our website)
- Invite someone from the DtRtP to come and speak about the case and campaign
- Join supporters in the public gallery of the court during the trial. It is likely to run for 2-3 weeks.

Join us at www.defendtherighttoprotest.org • info@defendtherighttoprotest.org

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