

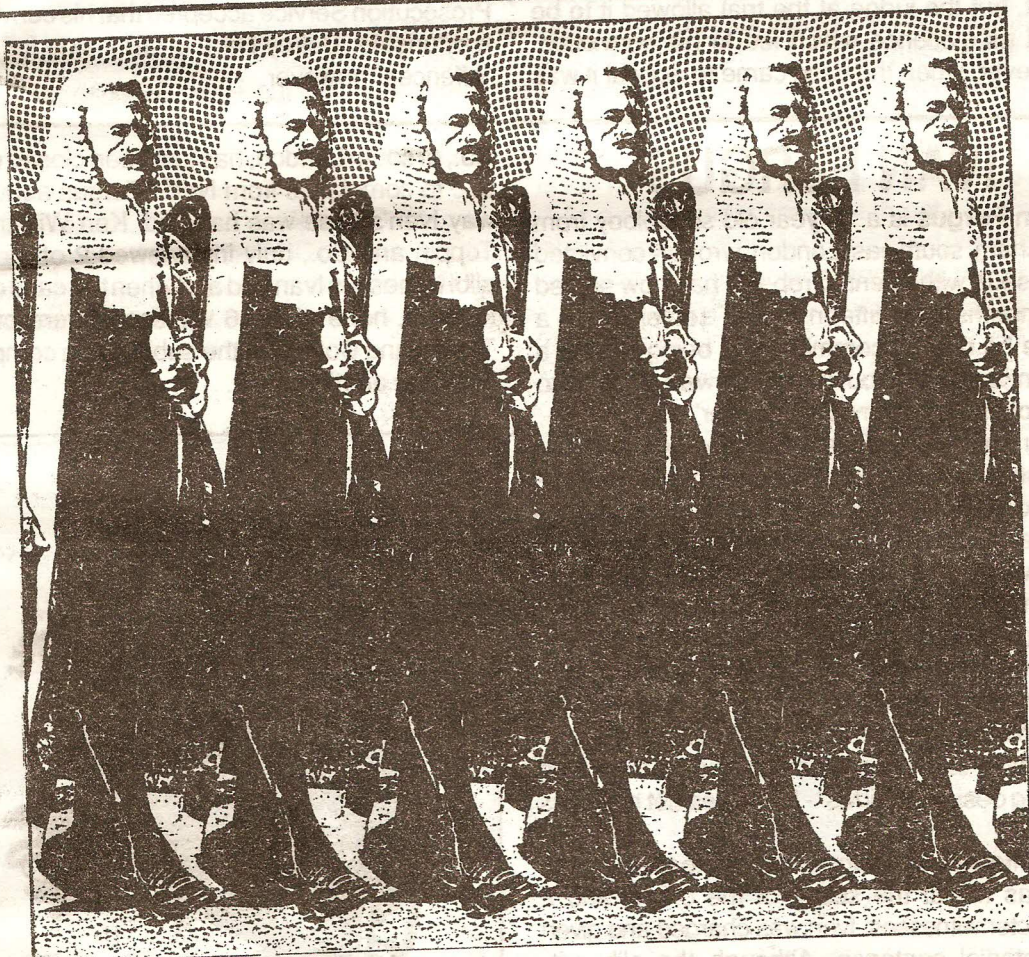
ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS BULLETIN

Nº 4

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FREE TO PRISONERS



Seriously Criminal Squad go free - Page 3

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SUPPORTING CLASS STRUGGLE PRISONERS

ROBERT HAUGHTON FREED

Robert Haughton, who was framed by the West Midlands Police, was freed on the 17th May. Robert, who got 10 years for a shooting incident in Birmingham in 1987, was convicted on an unsigned "admission of guilt" produced by the police after he had been let out on bail. Before this "statement" was "discovered", the evidence was non-existent and Robert was looking likely to be acquitted. He denied making the statement, but the judge at the trial allowed it to be used as evidence which led to his conviction. However, when the case came to appeal it was

thrown out! Robert now intends to "sue the bollocks" off the police - good luck to him.

On the same day that Robert Haughton was freed, the conviction of Delroy Hare, another victim of framing by the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad was quashed by the Court of Appeal.

He was framed for armed robbery but the Crown Prosecution Service accepted that his conviction was unsafe. Delroy Hare is still inside for other "offences" however.

IVAN FERGUS

Ivan Fergus is a 14 year old schoolboy from Peckham, south east London, wrongly convicted of assault with intent to rob. He has now served six months of a fifteen month sentence for a crime he did not commit. He is being held in a Detention Centre, but is now allowed out to go to school as he is a 'model prisoner'.

Ivan was arrested while on his way to school - but he has never understood why he was arrested in the first place. He was convicted solely on the evidence of the victim who picked him out two weeks after the attack. This is despite the victim's description of the attacker not matching that of Ivan. The attacker was described as: "slightly brown complexion" - Ivan has a dark brown complexion, "5'11" tall" - Ivan is 5'7", "stubble on his face" - Ivan has no stubble and has never shaved, and "distinctive haircut...with zig zag design on sides" - Ivan does not have this haircut.

Despite having 4 alibi witnesses to the fact that he was not at the scene of the crime, and 2 character witnesses, Ivan was charged and given a custodial sentence. Although the alibi witnesses had made sworn statements, they were not called to give evidence in court. Ivan's mother, Nellie, is campaigning for Ivan's release. She is now taking legal action against the solicitors involved in the case. Even the police have expressed "surprise" that the case came to court in the first place.

For more information contact: *The Campaign for Justice for Ivan Fergus*, 192 Evelyn Street, London SE8 5DB. Tel: 081-692-1308.

STOP PRESS: Latest news is that the firm of solicitors involved in Ivan's case, Toppin and

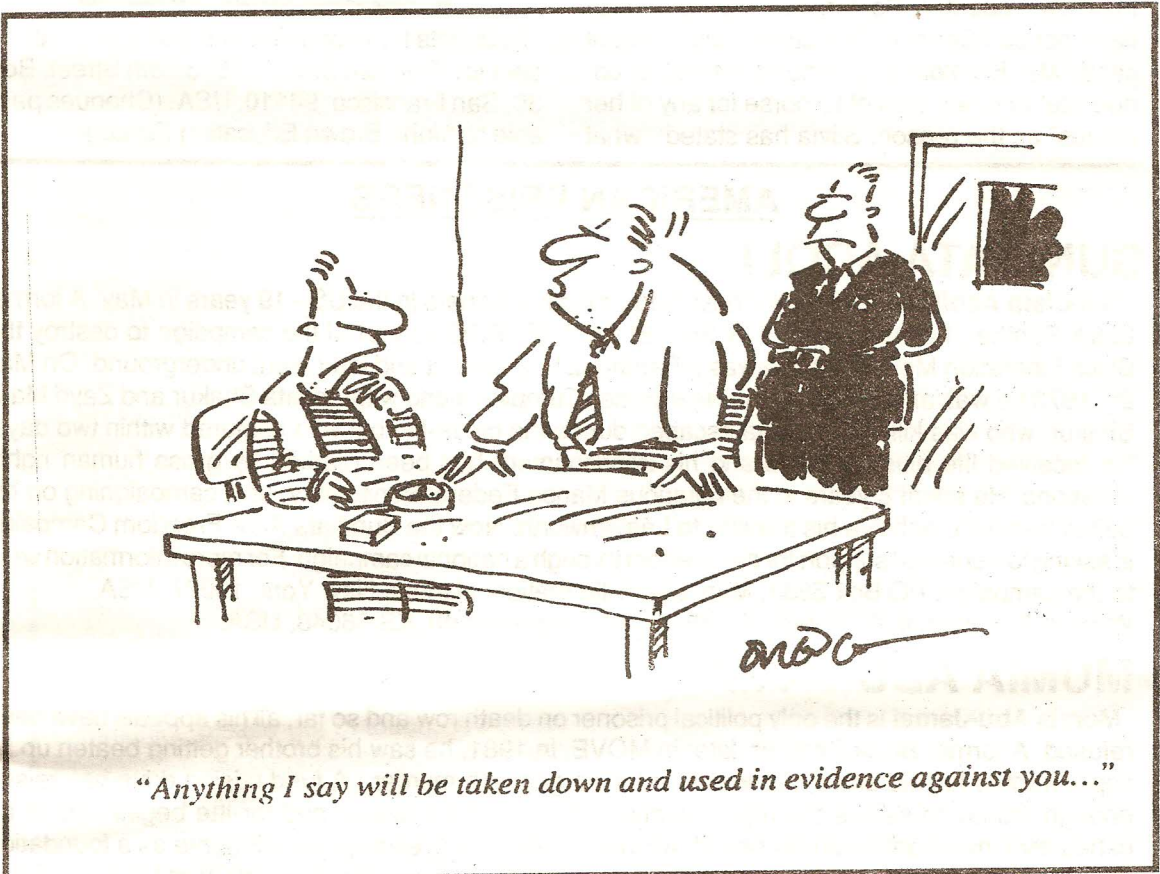
Co., of south London, has just been closed down due to complaints from Nellie Fergus about the way Ivan's case was handled. Ken Williams of Toppin and Co., only interviewed 2 of the four alibi witnesses Ivan had and when the case came to court, none of the 6 witnesses were called. Toppin and Co is also the subject of a complaint involving another case.



NO PROSECUTIONS FOR WEST MIDLANDS CRIME SQUAD - NO SURPRISE

Interestingly, on the same day that Robert Haughton was freed by the Court of Appeal (see article on page 2), the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) was announcing that no officer from the now disbanded West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad would be prosecuted for the fitting up of many innocent working class people. From the Birmingham Six to Robert Haughton, these cops are responsible for the false imprisonment of hundreds of people, only a handful of whom have been freed. In looking into these cases, time and time again you come across the same names - the same cops framing up people who have now been released or who are still serving time.

But it's no surprise that there won't be any prosecutions. The 'Justice System' can't afford to have corrupt officers prosecuted too often. It would open a whole can of worms because not only are thousands of cops corrupt, but the entire legal system they operate in is corrupt. It is designed to keep working class people down - to show us that we don't even need to 'commit crime' or fight back against any of the shit in our lives to be in danger of being sent to prison for a very long time. "You'd better keep quiet, we can do you too, very easily" is the message that framings send out to us all. The DPP's message to the cops is "Carry on Lads." As a class under constant threat, then what is our message to them? The ABC believes we should show that we will not be intimidated, we will stand up for ourselves wherever we are and stick together to see off the whole system that uses prison, police, courts and injustice to keep us "in our place". We don't expect justice under their laws - we have to make it ourselves.



RELEASE SILVIA!

Silvia Baraldini is an Italian citizen and an activist in the United States since the anti-Vietnam war movement. She is now in her 10th year of a 43 year prison sentence for conspiracy for activities in support of the Black Liberation Movement. The charge of conspiracy normally gets no more than 12 years. Her charges include conspiracy to commit a bank robbery that never happened and conspiracy to free Black Panther leader Assata Shakur from prison. For two years, she, Susan Rosenberg and Alejandrina Torres were subject to psychological torture in the Lexington Control Unit. She has been refused repatriation to Italy, in spite of her sister's tragic death in 1990 and her own bout with uterine cancer.

The Italian Government, 90% of the Italian Parliament and a coalition of women's organisations in Italy initiated their request for Silvia's transfer in 1990, under an international treaty with the US called the Strasbourg Convention which allows prisoners to serve out their terms in their own country. So far, the US authorities have not co-operated. The Justice Department cited "Ms. Baraldini's continued refusal to co-operate" and her "lack of remorse for any of her crimes" as the reason. Silvia has stated: "what

the government is interested in, is a public condemnation on my part of the political beliefs which have motivated my life for the past twenty-five years." Silvia has reapplied for a transfer. Silvia's case is being considered by the Justice Department now.



Requests for information and donations can be sent to: "Release Silvia!", 3543 18th Street, Box 30, San Francisco, 94110, USA. (Cheques payable to "John Brown Education Fund.")

AMERICAN PRISONERS

SUNDIATA ACOLI

Sundiata Acoli is one of the longest held political prisoners in the US - 19 years in May. A former Black Panther, he was targeted by the FBI COINTELPRO as part of the campaign to destroy the Black Liberation Movement. He was a Panther 21 defendant and later went underground. On May 2nd, 1973 he was ambushed on the New Jersey Turnpike along with Assata Shakur and Zayd Malik Shakur, who was killed. Sundiata escaped during the cross-fire but was captured within two days. He received life plus 30 years and his imprisonment has been marked by gross human rights violations. He spent 8 years in the notorious Marion Federal Penitentiary, until campaigning on his behalf helped to achieve his transfer to Leavenworth. Now the Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign is asking for renewed support for his freedom through a national campaign. For more information write to the campaign: PO Box 5538, Manhattanville Station, Harlem, New York 10027, USA. Write to Sundiata: #39794-066, PO Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048, USA.

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

Mumia Abu-Jamal is the only political prisoner on death row and so far, all his appeals have been refused. A former Black Panther, later in MOVE. In 1981, he saw his brother getting beaten up by cops, went to his aid and a cop was killed. Charged with murder. A fund raising drive has raised enough money to secure the representation of an excellent lawyer and for the beginnings of an exhaustive investigation on his behalf. An investigation for eyewitnesses will serve as a foundation for a petition for a new hearing or appeal. (*As yet, we do not have any more details of his case*). Send donations to: Black United Fund (make cheques payable to BUF/MA Jamal Fund) 419 South 15th Street, Philadelphia PA 19146, USA. For information contact: Equal Justice, Quixote Center, PO Box 5206, Hyattsville, MD 20782, USA.

Continued Page 5

AMERICAN PRISONERS CONTD.**DHORUBA BIN-WAHAD**

On February 13th, Dhoruba Bin Wahad appeared in the New York Supreme Court for a hearing in which the District Attorney attempted to have him remanded and taken into custody. The hearing had resulted from an Appeals Court ruling against Dhoruba's case in December. Dhoruba, a Black Panther leader, had served 19 years as a result of the FBI COINTELPRO counter-insurgency programme. He was released in 1990 when he and his legal team presented their evidence in court about the injustices and legal misconduct during his original trial. Nearly 400 supporters were in court in February to hear the judge release him - a major setback for the DA's attempt to re-imprison Dhoruba. The next court date was April 16th. (*Again, we have no further details*). For more information: Campaign to Free Black Political Prisoners and POWs in the US, PO Box 339, Kingsbridge Station, Bronx, NY 10463-0339, USA.

FRED HILTON

Friends and supporters of former Black Panther political prisoner Fred Hilton have called for an emergency campaign to raise money for an expensive medication, Interferon, to treat a life-threatening liver infection. Fred completed his sentence and is back in the community. Send contributions, earmarked for Fred Hilton, to the Release Silvia Campaign, (for address see page 4) payable to CRSBI.

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

Every August 10th since 1976, prisoners in Canada and more recently other countries remember those who have died unnatural deaths in prison and act in solidarity with work stoppages and fasting. Meanwhile prisoners supporters and community groups hold demos. This has been gaining momentum in Canada in the past few years. The Prisoners Day Justice Committee in Ontario now produce a radio programme on that day which is received by some prisoners. They have said that this year, besides commemorating those who have been killed or committed suicide and raising issues about tortures, abuses and lack of rights, they would like to see August 10th as a day for "renewed solidarity" between prisoners. Since the 1970's there has been a decline in the solidarity between prisoners, both in Canada and elsewhere. Prison authorities have been working to exploit and widen divisions between prisoners as a means of greater control. The Committee would like to see the Prisoners Justice Day grow into something international which would encourage solidarity between prisoners and supporters/ the community outside, whilst working towards prison abolition.

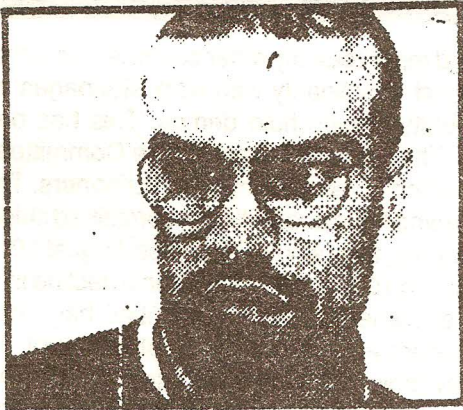
At the ABC Network Conference in May 1992, the ABC in Britain decided to support the Prisoners Justice Day this year and to encourage other prisoner support groups and prisoners to commemorate it. As yet it isn't clear what activities will be held, but if any groups or individuals are interested in getting involved, either in a national or local action at prisons, cop shops or in the community, please get in touch. We'd also like to hear of any ideas or actions by prisoners interested in this commemoration. We should be able to make Prisoners Justice Day an international event which will increase support and awareness of prisoners and their struggles.

Prisoners Justice Day Committee (Toronto): A Space, 183 Bathurst St, Ste.301, Toronto, Ontario M5W 2R7, Canada.

TIM DONAGHY

Tim Donaghy is a black film student who was arrested for his part in the Anti Poll Tax Demonstration in Trafalgar Square, March 31st, 1990. At his trial in February 1991, he was acquitted of Riot, but sentenced to 3 years for Violent Disorder (Section 2 Public Order Act). This was one of the longest sentences to come out of Trafalgar Square. This may have something to do with the fact that as a black man he presents a clear target for the racist judicial system, but also that he "pleaded" self-defence for his actions: justifying them as a response to an attack on the demonstration by the police.

Since being sent down, Tim has repeatedly been refused parole - because he still refuses to admit "guilt" and grovel for his actions and also undoubtedly because of his colour. (Another black poll tax prisoner, Brian Tavares, now free, was the only other Trafalgar Square prisoner refused parole). The Parole Board has always been a way of controlling and punishing prisoners who refuse to show remorse or who resist the system. Tim was also recently refused a reduction in security to Category D, for no good reason.



● **Tim Donaghy**

With remission (third of sentence automatically knocked off), Tim will get out in February '93. However, he and his supporters in the anti poll tax movement have managed to keep him a place at his college to do his final year; but only if he gets out to start this September. The Poll Tax Prisoners Support Group (TSDC) is encouraging people to write to the Home Office, 50 Queen Annes Gate, London SW1 and demand that Tim be granted parole. Send a copy of your letter also to: Parole, PO Box 9, Eccles S.O., Salford M30 7FX.

Tim also welcomes letters from any supporters. Write to him:

Tim Donaghy MW0105, HMP Down View, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Surrey SM2.

For anyone in the South London area, regular benefit cafes for Tim, to raise money for when he gets out, are held on the last Friday of each month at 8pm. 121 Railton Road, London SE24.

The **Poll Tax Prisoners Support Group** has news of anti poll tax prisoners, jailings for non-payment and more info on Tim and others. Contact: 506 Brixton Road, London SW9. Tel: 071 738 7586.

COLCHESTER UPDATE

Of the 4 defendants from the Colchester 15 trial (see last *Bulletin*):

Patrick Tyler is out on bail pending appeal;
Terry Frost NLI 911 has been moved to: HMP Wayland, Griston, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 6RL;
Christine Hammett TUO 063 is now in: HMP Drake Hall, Eccleshall, Staffordshire ST21 6LQ. She has 4 children and received a 9 month sentence. She definitely wants letters of support - the more, the merrier - and she is also short of money, so any contributions would be much appreciated by her.

Andy Hester NL2430: HMP Britannia, Knox Road, Mousehold, Norwich NR1 4LY.

The second trial has now taken place with the results: Dean Mackie found guilty of Section 2 (10-2 jury); acquitted of Riot. Graham Mann found guilty of Riot. 2 others (Gladwell and Tomlinson) pleaded guilty to Section 2. 3 were acquitted. Sentencing will take place on July 21st. All in all, the trials resulted in 8 guilty verdicts and 8 acquittals.

The defence campaign can be contacted: **Terry Peach, AEU Halls, Barrack St, Colchester, Essex.** Tel: **Gillian (0603) 503241** or **John (0255) 506216.**

Albany Prison

The decision of the Home Office to remove Albany Prison from the Dispersal System this summer and relocate its population elsewhere is the final confirmation that the most oppressive and conflict-ridden maximum security prison in England has been decisively junked by the resistance of the prisoners themselves.

Since its creation in 1968 as one of a group of maximum security, dispersal prisons designed to contain and control what the system classified as its most 'dangerous' and 'subversive' prisoners, Albany has existed as a concentrated representation of the dynamics and conflicts of the entire dispersal system. Albany has always been a frontline of struggle: from 1968 onwards, the inexorable drive towards absolute control and obsessive security, the caging-in and locking-down of prisoners there, has been challenged and resisted at every turn by the prisoners themselves to the extent that the prison finally became "unmanageable" and obsolete as an instrument of repression.

The cycle of repression-resistance has a long history at Albany:

1970: additional fences, TV camera, geophonic alarms, new segregation unit. Also first acts of prisoner rebellion: fires were lit and peaceful protests organised.

1971: screws attempted to introduce greater regimentation. This led to 'disturbances' during which several screws were injured.

1972: Albany was at the forefront of nationwide prison demonstrations and publicly targeted by the Prison Officers Association (POA) for increased repression. This took the form of a four day lock-down, during which prisoner's possessions were vandalised and destroyed by screws. The provocation was designed to break the disciplined solidarity of the prisoners and create in its place a 'riotous situation' that would justify officially sanctioned violence against the prisoners. In this, the POA succeeded and the following 'disturbances' resulted in extensive damage to the prison. Prisoners held in the segregation unit after the trouble broke down the dividing walls between their cells.

1973: More security hardware introduced at the

prison, screws and their families picketed the prison demanding greater repression against the prisoners. The POA at Albany had now become the most hardline of all POA branches nationally.

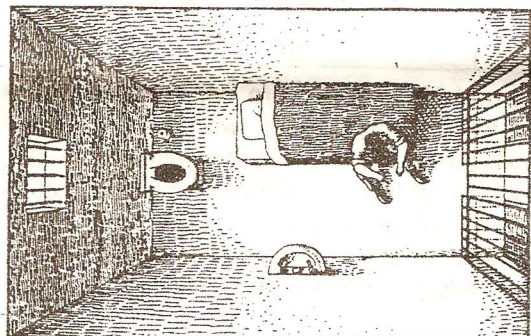
1976: Irish political prisoners were viciously attacked by screws during a peaceful sit-down protest; two were seriously injured, sustaining broken limbs and head injuries. The European Court of Rights subsequently ruled that their human rights had been violated.

1983: Albany erupts in a full-scale 'disturbance' and prisoners stage a well-publicised rooftop protest. Damage to prison estimated at £1 million. Albany now entered its final oppressive phase, becoming a hate-factory and dumping ground for "recalcitrants" and "trouble-makers" - a disproportionate amount of whom were black or Irish. The "controlled unlock" regime at the prison, POA-inspired and instigated, was designed purely and simply to crush resistance and prevent organisation amongst the prisoners; in fact, it had quite the opposite effect.

1985: Five screws hospitalised after a "disturbance" on B Wing.

The lessons of Albany are clear: if prisoners organise and fight for their rights, in the face of whatever repression, they will always ultimately win. The prisoners of Albany are to be congratulated for their success in defeating a prison administration that has yet to learn that no amount of brutality and oppression will keep the lid on when prisoners decide to fight back.

Edited version of article by **John Bowden, B41173, HMP Maidstone, County Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 IUZ.**



STATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On the 2nd March this year, 21 women political prisoners at Maghaberry prison were strip-searched just days before International Women's Day in order to break their spirit and lower morale. Karen Quinn, one of the 21 prisoners, had to be taken to hospital for treatment after the assaults took place.

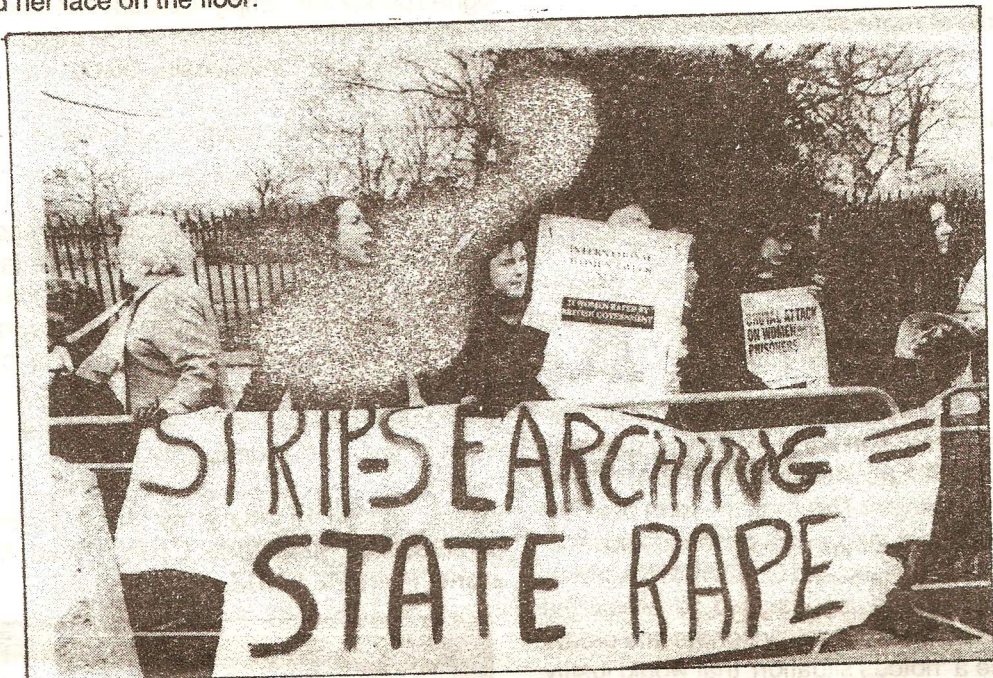
Describing the strip-searching of Karen, her mother, Mrs Enright, said that the assaults took place from 8am to 8pm with the Prison Officers going from one cell to the next, dressed in riot gear and attacking the women. Throughout the day, those waiting to be strip-searched could hear the screams of the other women.

When Karen's turn came, four Prison Officers entered the cell, grabbed her legs and threw her on the ground, holding her arms behind her. The Officer who was stripping her knelt on her head and began pulling her clothes over her face. Feeling that she was being smothered, Karen struggled, at which point the Officer continuously banged her face on the floor.

The strip-searches were carried out by female Prison Officers with male Officers standing at the cell doors watching events. However, male Officers helped break down Bronwyn McGahan's barricaded door and followed this with sexual assault with one Officer running his hands up her leg when she was naked.

The governor has refused to give a reason for the brutal attack on these women beyond the fact that "something was overheard" two days previously. However he waited two days before ordering the strip-searches. Nothing was found. The women are waiting to see whether this attack was the beginning of a renewed attempt to break their spirit.

The women lost 14 days' association and between 7 and 14 days' remission of sentence as a punishment for "refusing to obey a governor's order". In a judicial review, a judge overturned the governor's action, suspending the sentences for six months pending a court case.



Mrs and Mr Enright were not informed that Karen was in hospital until two days after the assault. They made a routine request for a photograph of Karen; permission was granted only to be withdrawn the following day. Three weeks after the attack, Karen still had a black eye yet no photograph had been allowed.

The women are at present working with their solicitors in taking out cases regarding their injuries.

The above article was taken from the May/June 1992 issue of *Troops Out*.

Palestinian Women Prisoners

The Women's Organisation For Political Prisoners (WOFPP) in Israel, is a support group for Palestinian women political prisoners being held in Israeli prisons. These women, who range in age from 12 to 62, are subjected to long detentions without trial, lack of medical care, isolation and psychological and physical torture. The WOFPP collective encourages correspondance with the prisoners to break down some of the isolation. The collective can supply you with information on specific women and on-going campaigns on their behalf.

WOFPP, POB 31811, Tel Aviv, Israel. Tel/Fax: (3) 294-510.

Following is a list of names of just a few of the prisoners being held. These women can be reached at the same prison address: Hasharon Prison, PO Box 7, Evan Yehuda, 40550 Israel. **Rola Abu Daha, Miriam Ziadi, Lamia Maaruf, Ataf Aliyan, Zahara Karaush, Sauad Maragha, Intissas El-Qaq, Fatme Abu Bakra, Fadwa 'Abasi, Rana Tawfik Sha'aban, Amal 'Auda, Nidal Salah, Nada Hamed, Intisa Qdeih, Samiha AbdelHag, Marwa Katmira, Hirbyeh El-Masri, Intissar El-Muttur, Efaf Al-Salaime.**

Source: *Love and Rage*, Nov. '91.



Other Palestinian Women Prisoners:

Nariman Shamasna (17), from Katana, was arrested on 26th August 1991 - she was held in isolation. Jewish minors, situated in surrounding cells continually harassed her.

Rabina Shetai (32), from Jerusalem, suffers from cancer and a thyroid illness. Held in isolation in a small unventilated cell for over a month, and for five months without suitable medical facilities thus endangering her life.

Dalai 'Ali (18), a student from Ras El-'Amad, was arrested on 27th October 1991 and dragged down the stairs of the Damascus Gate. During her interrogation she was severely beaten and made to stand for hours with her hands tied behind her back and a sack over her head.

Abir Abu Rob (18), from Jelabun, sentenced to 5 years for threatening a soldier, sitting in a jeep 3 metres away, with a knife! In the course of her arrest she was shot and injured.

Above taken from a leaflet produced by: *Intifada Action Committee, c/o Box 1, 22 High Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1JJ.*

TROUBLE AT THE WOLDS!

After reporting in the last *Bulletin* how Britain now has its first privately run jail, The Wolds in Humberside, we are pleased to announce that prisoners have already started to disrupt life for Group 4 Security who run the prison - and at less than 3 months after it opened.

Apparently, during the last weekend in June, there was a "seven hour disturbance" causing £5000 worth of damage. At 10pm on the Saturday, prisoners refused to return to their beds, although it is not clear why. According to the prison, prisoners then started to smash televisions and windows. Afterwards, seven prisoners were moved to different parts of the prison and police are considering whether charges of "malicious damage" should be brought against any of

the inmates. Nice to know that whether privately run or not, prisoners still have the will to fight back.

BASQUE PRISONERS

We have received news that three Basque prisoners were recently in court due to their refusing military service. Unfortunately, we do not have many details, but of the three, one was freed on appeal, one was given 13 months and another, **Jean-Francois Lefort**, was due to be sentenced on July 16th but we don't know the outcome as yet.

Write or send telegrams demanding that these judgements be set aside:

Monsieur Le President de la Court D'Appel,
Place Le Petit,
86000 Poitiers,
France.

Contact ABC France:
145, rue Amelot, 75011
Paris; France.

Robert Brown

Robert Brown is a prisoner who has been behind bars for 15 years for a crime he says he did not commit. He is refusing bail as he sees this as an acceptance of guilt - he wants his name cleared.

In court, there was no evidence to place Robert at the scene of the crime. Evidence that he was near the victim was completely unreliable. There was a "confession" that fitted the facts as the police knew them at the time, even though it did not fit those "facts" when it came to court.

THE FACTS?

On Friday January 29th, 1977, Annie Walsh was found brutally murdered in her flat in Charles Barry Crescent, Hulme, Manchester. The most important prosecution witness said that she had seen Annie on her way home with a man on the night of the murder. On the first ID parade, she picked out someone totally unconnected with the case. She then decided the man had a beard; there was no positive ID on the second parade. It was on the third ID parade, where all the men were clean-shaven, that Robert was picked out. The witness also changed her mind about the man's accent - originally she had said he had an Irish accent. Robert is Scottish. Robert did not have any gloves as she had described; his clothes were shown in court as being 'like' those being worn by the man she said she saw.

Blood-stained jeans (not proven to belong to Robert) were exhibited in court. Apparently, forensics couldn't sort out the difference between Annie and Robert's blood! No blood was found on Robert's shoes- there should have been, in this case, if he had been the murderer. Another witness said they saw Robert covered in "wet blood" many hours after the murder. This would have been scientifically impossible.

THE CONFESSION

Robert's 'confession' took place over 32 hours and seven interrogation sessions. He retracted this 'confession' later, saying it had been beaten out of him and that the police had written it themselves. Robert felt strongly enough about this to give evidence in court, even though he knew the prosecution would take every opportunity to present him in a bad light.

The 'confession' also contained a number of factual errors: it stated that he and Annie had shared tea and biscuits before the murder, but no biscuit remains were found in Annie's stomach. It also stated that Robert admitted to stealing a plastic bag from Annie, but the bag was found at the scene of the crime. Also, he was supposed to have robbed Annie, but her purse containing £213 was found by the plastic bag, untouched. The murder weapon police claimed was used was never found.

George Skerit, (Annie's next door neighbour) said he saw Annie come in on her own on the night of the murder.

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

The evidence in Annie's flat pointed to the murderer being there already - perhaps trying to rob the meter, as there were scratches on it. There was no back exit, the only exit would have been past Annie. Splashes of blood were found on the meter, perhaps from a blow to the back of the head.

FREE ROBERT BROWN! REOPEN THE CASE OF ANNIE WALSH

Robert has been in 20 jails since 1989, but his spirits are still good and he is determined to fight on and prove his innocence. In 1989, whilst in Norwich Prison, he was interviewed by the Prison Head of "Lifers Division" who said "In my opinion you committed the crime but you do not know you have done it"- a suggestion of psychosis. After 10 years of numerous psychiatrists submitting reports to the Home Office, not one of them came up with this diagnosis.

Letters of support to: **Robert Brown 895839**
HMP Gartree,
Market Harborough
Leicester LE16 7RP.

The above was taken from a leaflet produced by *Birmingham ABC*.

Baliffs seize Police property!

On 2nd June this year, baliffs seized police property worth £63,000 at their South Yorkshire headquarters in the latest chapter in a story which began outside the Cortonwood pit during the 1984-85 miners' strike.

The seizure of goods was for unpaid lawyers' costs awarded against the police by the High Court on July 9th last year. The costs - then £50,000 - were awarded when roadsweeper Ernest Cusworth won £60,000 damages from the police who injured him during the strike. As the 54 year-old left his home early on 12th November 1984, he was charged by riot police who beat him and kicked him unconcious. At the High Court hearing last year, police claimed that Ernest - 5ft 4in and 9stone - lunged at the riot police pulling a 17stone copper on top of himself. The jury unanimously decided to award damages

and costs against the police.

Owing to the 11 month delay in payment, the legal costs increased to £63,000. Police cars and other equipment were seized on the orders of the court. However, this seizure of goods produced a remarkable effect: the police rushed a cheque to the solicitors immediately. The goods remained impounded until the cheque cleared and a further payment of £1000 is to be demanded for the cost of the seizure operation.

This is the only time you'll see bailiffs being used for working class gain rather than loss!

Article from: *Yorkshire Miner*, Issue #142, June 1992.

BOOK REVIEW

'ONE OFF' (Felo de se)

Andrzy S.Jakubucyk and Paul D.Ross, HMP Hull. £3

'One Off' is a 40 page booklet written by two inmates of Hull Prison and describes some of the realities of prison experience. It draws on a range of criminological statistics and 'professional research studies' as well as the experiences of a number of inmates.

Among the things that are looked at are prison suicides, the treatment of "mentally disordered" prisoners, the use of physical restraints, drugs and special cells designed to subdue prisoners, and disinformation to the public. It outlines some of the authoritarian and dehumanising aspects of the system; from petty rules like compulsory daily shaving (in Wakefield), to the absurd and dangerous practice of removing inmates who have attempted suicide to even more psychologically bleak 'strip-cell' conditions, apparently for their own safety (sic).

There is a thorough look at the operation of the prison disciplinary system, particularly at how any criticism or resistance is silenced. The so called "catch all" Rule 21 may be used to punish prisoners who "in any way offend against good order and discipline". And there's always Rule 43b, where prisoners may be segregated, in some cases for years, again in the interests of "good order and discipline". Passing reference is made to prison privatisation, which the authors surprisingly seem to favour. They argue that privatisation would end the antiquated customs and practices that have prevailed for years and perhaps allow for specialist provision, such as for the mentally ill, drawing on the NHS for resources. The issue is not dealt with in any depth and it seems to me to miss the point in that it is precisely these specialist and therefore costly treatments that are not taken on by private firms as their purpose is to make a profit regardless of the effect on inmates' lives. Also, generally privatisation means an overall lessening of provisions - but in the name of streamlining and efficiency.

That gripe aside, 'One Off' is well worth a read and it helps bring many aspects of prison life out from behind the cloak of official secrecy and mystification. The authors conclude: "In short, as the ultimate instrument of social control, the prison experience serves no purpose whatsoever, beyond containment. What it does ensure is the complete criminalisation of all those who undergo it, and that will always be the case so long as the practices (in many cases 'criminal' practices) that exist within prisons.....are permitted to flourish".

Copies available directly from: Paul D.Ross, Hull Special Unit, HMP Hull, Hedon Rd, Hull HU9 5LS.

ROBERT TAYLOR

Robert Taylor, serving 12 years for an armed robbery he did not commit, had his appeal **REFUSED** by three Court of Appeal Judges on the 21st May this year. Robert was framed 17 times by Manchester Police between 1980 and 1987 in what amounted to a vendetta by certain cops. Each time he was acquitted after dodgy dealings came to light. In January 1989 he was arrested and charged with armed robbery of a rainwear shop in Manchester on 23rd December 1988. One of the robbers, Karl Hodson, nicked at the scene, was heavily pressurised into implicating Robert by Detective Constables Morris and Smythe (the latter had been involved in 7 previous attempts to fit Robert up). Initial descriptions of the robber who got away didn't fit Robert but in a rigged ID parade in January '89, two witnesses had Robert pointed out to them by DC Morris, but afterwards Robert complained that no witnesses had actually picked him out.

Throughout 1989 Karl Hodson, at that time withdrawing from heroin, was bribed and threatened into making 31 statements against Robert besides going 'grass' on him for the robbery. In return, he was promised supergrass status and protection for himself and his family. Robert went on the run in the summer of '89 and protested his innocence. However it seems that Hodson was prepared to change his story at the trial and let Robert off the hook. Made aware of this, the cops "allowed him to escape" a week before Robert's trial. At the trial, Robert's barrister and solicitor persuaded him not to bring up the dodgy ID parade and not to go for an adjournment while Hodson was recaptured. As a result, Robert got 12 years for armed robbery and a firearms offence. Hodson was rearrested a week later.

At the appeal Hodson testified that he had been pressurised by the police and had been given smack as a reward at one point. He says he was persuaded that Robert Taylor was after him and so he needed protection. However, he was inevitably portrayed as a lying prisoner anxious to get rid of the 'grass' label, which discredited him in court. He also added that DC Morris had told him that he'd rigged the ID parade by indicating Robert to witnesses and that Morris had allowed him to escape to avoid him being around for the trial.

DC Morris gave evidence to refute this. The writer of this article has seen many bent cops, but Morris was very shifty in the witness box and stuck to his flimsy story.

There seems to be clear evidence that Robert was framed. But his appeal was lost. This was partly to do with Hodson being discredited, partly because the ID parade/Hodson's evidence was not raised at the original trial, partly because Robert's barrister was not forceful in questioning police and their witnesses (thinking of his career maybe?) and partly due to judges sticking with the legal system that is designed to favour the pillars of society and loaded against ordinary folk.

Members of Robert's family said after the result that they were "disgusted" and felt the law to be corrupt in this case. This is undoubtedly true. It leaves a sick taste in your mouth to see an innocent man going out of the courtroom to serve another 5 years because of lying coppers. What justice is there in a British court? Ask Robert Taylor.

Robert was recently on the run after visiting his sick wife; however, he was recaptured and is now at:

Robert Taylor, HMP Full Sutton,
Moor Lane, Full Sutton, York, YO4 1PS

Write to Robert: he needs your support.

You could also write to the Home Office to protest against the decision: Home Office Prison Department, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1.

or write to: Justice Farquarson at the Court of Appeal, Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London WC1.

NEW ABC GROUPS

Two new groups have been set up:
Newcastle ABC, PO Box 1QF, Newcastle
NE99 1QF.

And:
Nottingham ABC, Box 10, 72 Radford Road,
Hyson Green, Nottingham NG7.

Latest News from Greece

On February 18th this year, the trial of Dimitris Voglis and Kostas Andreadis was indefinitely postponed - both are accused of having destroyed a dozen police cars using explosives, in 1990. Kostas Andreadis was tortured by the cops and forced to "confess" and indict Dimitris Voglis as his co-perpetrator. They were both imprisoned but were finally released after a long hungerstrike (refusing water as well) and after a wave of protests in Greece and abroad. (Mainly by the ABC and other Anarchist groups). Kostas has filed a legal suit against his torturers.

Dimitris is very well known to the authorities as an Anarchist. On May 10th, 1989, he was sentenced to 25 days for "having insulted" 4 cops who were beating up a young boy in a Thessaloniki street. In fact, the truth was that Dimitris had been picked up and beaten by 4 coppers who then sent him to hospital where he tried to stop them beating up a young boy. Dimitris is now suing these cops, though of course the case has not yet come to trial.

Some months after this incident, Dimitris was rearrested, this time for illegal radio broadcasting. On December 12th, 1991, he was sentenced to 2 years for this but the court decided to set him free after he appealed his sentence.

On February 21st this year, the appeal trial of V.Xanthis (8 years), V.Kapnisis (7 years), N.Yougostamos (6 years), I.Papadimitriou (5 years) and Irene Koutsogeorga (5 years) started. All were arrested on the students' demonstration of October 25th, 1991, and they were sentenced for criminal damage, grievous bodily harm, use of explosives etc. Theodore Haldouplis, who was arrested on the same day had to go to hospital due to police ill-treatment and, his trial being postponed, he remained free. The other five were dispersed to different prisons throughout the country. We are currently awaiting the results of this appeal.

Another set of cases going to appeal were those of the 28 people arrested during the occupation of the Polytechnic on October 25th last year (see *Bulletin N°2*). The appeal opened on April 13th and, again, we are awaiting an update.

REPORT ON PABLO SERRANO DAY OF ACTION

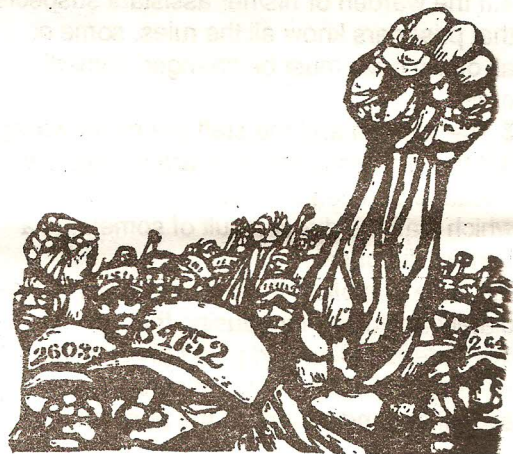
Although we have not had any news directly from **Pablo Serrano**, a Spanish anarchist prisoner, we do have an update on the Day of Action for him, which was held on May 29th earlier this year.

A demonstration was held outside the Home Office in London, but was somewhat hampered by pouring rain! Nevertheless, it received a fairly good reception with all leaflets being given out.

In Zaragoza, where Pablo is held, the CNT (Spanish workers' union), the Libertarian Youth and other organisations held a march to the local prison demanding Pablo's release along with all political prisoners. The demo was several hundred strong and there were no arrests, although there was a very strong police presence. At the prison a statement was read out about the abuse of human rights and the constant torture inside prisons.

Rallies were also held in several other Spanish towns including Bilbao, Valencia, Seville, Barcelona and Madrid, where leafletings took place

demanding the release of Pablo. We hope he has heard of these events and that they help boost his spirits. More importantly, it may have an effect on the authorities' decision when to release Pablo - any news will be in the next *Bulletin*.



Strangeways Update

In the last *ABC Bulletin* we had news that four defendants from the first Strangeways Riot Trial had been found guilty of Riot. We now have more information on this.

Paul Taylor got 10 years (maximum sentence) for Riot.

James Miller; 7 1/2 years for Riot.

Tiny (Sydney) Doran; 4 years for Riot.

John Spencer; 8 years for Riot.

Spencer and **Andrew Nelson** both also received 18 months for contempt of court (threatening the jury). Andrew, together with **Alan Lord**, **Martin McLatchie** and **Brian Parke** were acquitted of Riot. **Nick Webb** pleaded guilty early on (sentence unknown).

It seems that John Spencer made a long and detailed statement to Manchester Police about the Strangeways Uprising, which formed the basis of the evidence at the trial, though Spencer later claimed to have retracted it, and said that it was forced out of him. He is currently on Rule 43 and not a popular man, we hear. However, the only prisoners from this Trial whose whereabouts we know are:

Andrew Nelson AK3869, HMP Preston, 2 Ribbleton Lane, Preston, PR1 5AB. He has appealed against his 18 month 'contempt' sentence.

Alan Lord K80382, HMP Full Sutton, Moor Lane, Full Sutton, York YO4 1PS.

Alan is being tried again in the second Strangeways trial, for GBH and affray. They are clearly out to nail Alan as he has escaped once since the "riot." Andrew Nelson has also been charged with "conspiracy to riot" and his trial will be heard with the others - 'Group 2'. This second trial will start on October 5th (pre-trial review 15th June). There are at least 40 more prisoners still to come up. The ABC is trying to track down any of these so we can give them effective support. They deserve it, for taking on and destroying a brutal prison and shaking the prison system. Anyone who knows the whereabouts of any of these prisoners, please let us know.

Stop Press: According to information just received, Paul Taylor is in Durham and on hunger strike in protest against his sentence - he is also putting in an Appeal.

Paul Taylor AN0564, HMP Durham, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HU.

RULES FOR CONVICTS

1. The warden always makes the rules.
2. The rules are subject to change without notice.
3. No prisoner can possibly know all the rules.
4. If the warden or his/her assistant suspects that prisoners know all the rules, some or all of the rules must be changed immediately.
5. The warden and the staff are never wrong.
6. If the warden or the staff are wrong, it was because of a flagrant misunderstanding, which was the direct result of something a convict did or said wrong.
7. If Rule 6 applies, the prisoner must immediately apologise for causing the misunderstanding and plead guilty to any write-up, no matter how ludicrous the allegation, and accept all the punishments.

8. The warden and the staff can change their minds at any time.

9. The prisoner is never permitted to change his/her mind without prior, written, consent.

10. The warden and the staff have a right to be angry or upset at any time.

11. The prisoner must always remain calm unless the warden or the staff wants him/her to be angry or upset.

12. The prisoner is required by the warden and the staff to always be ignorant and worthless, incapable of doing anything right.

13. If a prison escape occurs or if any staff member is having a bad day, all rules are null and void.

14. Any attempt to document or prove the existence of the rules will result in 30 days in solitary.

Taken from: *Convictions*, POB 1749, Carvallis OR, 97339-1749, USA.

JOHN KAMARA

John Kamara is yet another victim of a "miscarriage of justice". He is actively supported by *Conviction* (address back page) amongst others.

On 13th March 1981, a horrific crime took place in a betting shop in Toxteth, Liverpool. Three armed robbers tied up the manager and stabbed him repeatedly to 'encourage' him to give them the combination to the safe. At first he refused, but later gave in to their demands. They escaped with the cash proceeds. The manager, meanwhile, died from his injuries.

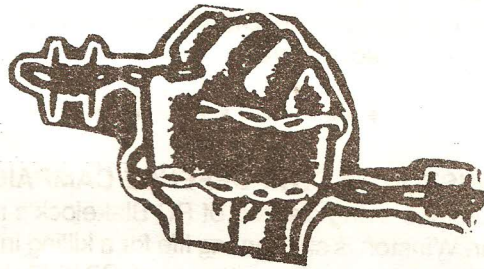
Within three days of the crime, the police had already made an arrest. Ray Gilbert made a statement admitting his guilt and implicating John Kamara as one of his accomplices; however he soon retracted this and named others as accomplices. John Kamara was arrested and subsequently interviewed. He protested his innocence vigorously. He has consistently done so ever since.

Ray Gilbert never maintained a consistent account of events: at the trial he first proclaimed his innocence, then midway through the trial changed his plea to guilty. In December 1981 John Kamara was given life for murder with a six year sentence to run concurrently for his alleged involvement in the armed robbery.

By 1983, Ray Gilbert had again decided he was innocent but, along with John Kamara, his application for leave to appeal was refused. Nevertheless, Gilbert was irrelevant to the case against John Kamara as he could not be convicted on the evidence of a co-defendant. It needed other evidence to corroborate the retracted statements of Ray Gilbert. This raises the question of the definition of corroboration. There was no forensic evidence linking John Kamara with either the victim or the scene of the crime. In fact, there was no tangible evidence at all. The case against John Kamara stood on three "verbalised" confessions that three witnesses were alleged to have made while John was on remand. The jury were told that these three "witnesses" - Tommy Pickett, Mick Read and Joseph Jones did not know each other and had no reason to lie. Both claims were untrue. In 1981, Tommy Pickett was arrested on suspicion of raping an 87-year old woman. Also arrested with him were Mick Read and Joseph Jones' partner. Pickett was subsequently convicted and served a five year sentence. By 1987 he had been paroled but returned to prison for beating up a 90-year old woman. Yet

all this vital information was not forwarded to the defence at the time of the trial, or even for his appeal. The non-disclosure of such evidence alone should prove sufficient grounds for appeal, let alone the credibility of these "witnesses".

However, in 1987, Tommy Pickett wrote to John Kamara telling him about the connection between the three. (John had not known previously). This evidence would have all but destroyed the prosecution case. John then asked his solicitor to go and interview Tommy Pickett. He was instructed to forward the letters (from Tommy) to the police. In August 1987, Douglas Hurd, the then Home Secretary, reopened John Kamara's case. The junior Home Office Minister, John Patten, however, felt that these letters were not convincing enough evidence and referred the matter to the Chief Constable of Merseyside - the same force that convicted John in the first place.



Following a visit from the police, Tommy Pickett then retracted his retraction. Other witnesses wrote to John claiming they had been visited by the police who had warned them it was futile to help him. Weeks turned into months, and months years. The police were unable to trace any crucial witnesses. "They are not interested in my case" said John. To date, the investigation has lasted four and a half years.

Justice has been delayed and delayed and delayed. John was offered parole, which if he accepted would be admitting his guilt. He refused the offer with contempt. Meanwhile, John insists "One day, I will win this case". It is the very least he deserves.

**John Kamara H10109, HMP Wakefield,
Love Lane, Wakefield WF2 9AG.**

Taken from 'Caribbean Times'.

WEST MIDLANDS LIBERTY (NCCL)

c/o 27 Montague Road, Birmingham B21 9DF. West Midlands Liberty supports and campaigns for framed prisoners from the West Midlands, mostly victims of the infamous West Midlands Seriously Criminal Squad. The support they can give is limited as they are obviously snowed under, but they are willing to give help and advice wherever they can.



PRISONERS LEGAL NEWS

(not to be confused with Prisoners News Service!)

Produced by prisoners in Florida, mostly concerned with prisoners' legal battles against prison authorities etc. Write to Paul Wright #930783, PO Box 777, Monroe, WA 98272, USA. Or: Ed Mead #251397, at the same address. Prisoners Legal News is also available in Britain: send a donation to Oxford ABC, Box ZZ, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford.



WINSTON SILCOTT DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

Despite being cleared of PC Blakelock's murder, Winston is still serving life for a killing in self defence. He can be written to at: B74053, HMP Gartree, Leicester Road, Market Harborough, Leicester LE16 7RP. His appeal is coming up.

Winston's support group, doing invaluable work to clear him, is based at: Selby Centre,

Selby Road, London N17 .081 365 0448



ABC POSTERS

Due to cost of postage etc, we are unfortunately having to put the price of our 'Remember - we're still here' posters up to 50p each. They're still a bargain though! Plenty still in stock - let us know if you want some to sell.



AFA PRISONERS UPDATE

All the best to David Phelan who is no longer inside. Meanwhile Tony David and Mark Malin

are still doing time for their part in hospitalising Nazi leader Nicci Crane (a skinhead with a nasty past of racist attacks); of course, all the best to Tony and Mark too.

Tony is up for parole in July, though he has been turned down once already. Tony and Mark would both welcome letters and visits; any mail should be sent c/o the Welfare Officer at the address below. Also donations are always needed as AFA sends them in money each month. Cheques/POs should be made payable 'The Welfare Officer' and sent to the below address.

London AFA, BM1734, London WC1N 3XX.



Birmingham ABC, c/o Box 3, 190 Alum Rock Road, Saltley, Birmingham B8.

Bolton ABC, c/o Manchester address.

Bradford ABC, c/o 1 in 12 Club, 31 Manor Row, Bradford BD1.

Essex ABC, c/o Neil, Dept N, PO Box 1327, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

Leeds ABC, Box JAG, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1.

London ABC, c/o 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, London SE24.

Manchester ABC, Box 8, 1 Newton St, Manchester M1.

Newcastle ABC, PO Box 1QF, Newcastle NE99 1QF.

Norwich ABC, PO Box 73, Norwich NR1 2EB.

Nottingham ABC, Box 10, 72 Radford Rd, Hyson Green, Nottingham NG7.

Oxford ABC, Box ZZ, 34 Cowley Rd, Oxford.

Preston ABC, PO Box 172, Preston, Lancs.

Sheffield ABC, Black Star, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY.

South Wales ABC, PO Box 368, Cardiff CF2 1SQ.

SCOTLAND
Edinburgh ABC, c/o Shrinking, PO Box 610, Edinburgh EH15 1UG.

IRELAND
Derry ABC, c/o Organise, PO Box 5, Derry BT48 6PD.

For international contacts, get in touch with your nearest group.

Conviction, (organisation that supports/publicises framed prisoners)
PO Box 522, Sheffield, S1 3FF.

LONDON ABC c/o 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Rd, London SE24

SUPPORTING CLASS STRUGGLE PRISONERS

We live in a society where a tiny minority own the wealth, the land, run the big companies and live in luxury on the backs of working people who produce everything. They try to control our lives and keep us in line by every means possible - schools, the media, the DSS, drugs, Disneyland. If we obey orders, work hard, don't answer back, we can live a reasonable life - until the next recession. We can help our bosses keep others down, like the police or baliffs do and get our rewards: power, wealth, security.

But for those of us not willing to work to keep our rulers in luxury, or those who try to take back any of the wealth that we have made, there is the justice system. Strike for a decent wage, steal to stay alive, resist the control and abuse in our lives, or break the bosses laws in any way and we face police, courts and prison.

Prison is the bottom line in control - their ultimate weapon. Prison means isolation, bloody punishments, divided families. It drives people to despair and suicide. The whole system is designed to split us up and isolate people who could set an example to the rest of our class. Likewise, if we step outside so-called "normal" behaviour, such as women who refuse to accept the feminine role of wife and



mother, anyone whose sexuality is so-called "deviant", we may be stigmatised, tranquilised and ultimately imprisoned.

On the outside, fear of prison is built up to stop us from fighting back against the injustice in our lives and myths are created about prisoners to divide us from them. Most people are inside for trying to survive. In Britain 94% of recorded crimes are against property. About one third are inside for non-payment of fines or taxes. Thousands are on remand. Many others are guilty of nothing more than being working class, Irish, black, framed by the police (such as the Tottenham 3 or Birmingham 6) - this gives the impression that the police are "cracking crime" and to remind us who is in control.

Most prisoners are working class people, just like the rest of us. They are not all the mad beasts the tory papers would have us believe. The press hype up stories of "violent crime" to give the existence of prison some justification and to divide us from prisoners. But the fact is that only a tiny percentage of crimes are violent or anti-social. It is also true that such crime is not prevented by prisons. The system we live in encourages competition, power relationships and self-interest. This system is also anti-social; while it remains intact there will always be violence. Calling the shoplifter, the person on the picket line and the rapist all 'criminals' as if there were no difference between them, uses most people's horror of anti-social violence against the vast majority whose offences are to do with property and resistance.

It should be up to us, in our communities, to deal with anti-social elements in our own ways; we don't need THEIR so called justice system to control us in the name of fighting crime.

You'll rarely see the bosses in court - no matter how many laws they might break or deaths they might cause. The rules are there for their protection. Even if they do end up in court, like the Guinness bosses, they can swindle millions and get suspended sentences or let out of prison after a few days. **WE GET 25 YEARS.**

**THE REAL CRIMINALS ARE
THE RICH WHO RUN THE
SYSTEM AT OUR EXPENSE**

FIGHTING BACK

Just as the class war goes on in our daily lives, it carries on inside prisons too. Many prisoners resist the prison system - in their own cases, individually, or hundreds together as at Strangeways and throughout prisons in April 1990; fighting back with joy and rage to tear down the walls that surround them. Their battles inspire ours and ours theirs - it's no coincidence that the Strangeways Uprising followed a day after the Poll Tax Riot in Trafalgar Square; a banner on the roof read "No Poll Tax Here".

WE'RE OUT HERE FOR THEM

At any time, any working class person can end up inside. We must support prisoners in their day-to-day fight for better conditions just as we support strikes and all forms of ongoing struggle. But we know you can't reform capitalism out of existence: we need a social revolution that will tear down the prisons along with the rest of the framework of repression. We can control our own lives.



THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

The Anarchist Black Cross aims at practical solidarity with prisoners. We support anarchist and revolutionary prisoners and those incarcerated for their political actions or beliefs. We support people framed up by the police. We support prisoners organising and resisting on the inside. We welcome contact from prisoners, their relatives and anyone interested in getting involved in our work. We actively support people with letters, contact, material aid, pickets and publicity. Ultimately we work for a class-based movement that will destroy prisons along with capitalism, in a revolution to create a real classless society. People working together without exploitation, hatred or terror, for a world community based on co-operation.

Birmingham ABC, c/o Box 3, 190 Alum Rock Road, Sattley, Birmingham B8.

Bolton ABC, PO Box 47, Bolton BL2 1QA.

Bradford ABC, c/o 1 in 12 Club, 31 Manor Row, Bradford BD1.

Essex ABC, c/o Neil, Dept N, PO Box 1327, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

Leamington Spa ABC, Box 1, 22 High St, Leamington Spa CV31.

Leeds ABC, Box JAG, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1.

London ABC, c/o 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, London SE24.

Manchester ABC, Box 8, 1 Newton St, Manchester M1.

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Sheffield ABC, Black Star, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY.

South Wales ABC, PO Box 368, Cardiff CF2 1SQ.

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh ABC, c/o Shrinking, PO Box 610, Edinburgh EH15 1UG.

IRELAND

Derry ABC, c/o Organise, PO Box 5, Derry BT48 6PD.

I would like to receive further copies of
(Please Tick)

ABC Bulletin

This (Introductory) leaflet

Notes for framed prisoners

I enclose a donation of

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

LONDON ABC c/o 121 Railton Rd, London SE24