



ISSUE 26: December 2013

Dear Fellow JENGBA Campaigners
Well 2013 is almost over, and once again JENGBA has spent the year fighting for justice. We are still being contacted by families whose loved ones are on remand and we have, when possible, supported those families by attending Court with them and following their trial. This has confirmed that the DPP Guidance that we fought so hard for is simply being ignored. The Crown Prosecutors claim they look carefully at any case presented by the police before they proceed with a prosecution, based on real evidence. This is a fallacy. The last case that JENGBA have been able to support was that of the three Brennan brothers. One shooting of an innocent man, one shooter who held his hands up and said he was responsible, yet 12 men are being prosecuted. We met the DPP and fought for the test to prosecute children be raised higher but even that is still being ignored. It is worse now than it has ever been – a court clerk at the Old Bailey said "I've been doing this job for 20 years and I have never seen so many people getting sentenced for being in the wrong place at the wrong time; it's called joint enterprise." It is not a deterrent; the public are still extremely ignorant about JE, which most of you would have been until you were charged with it, but I think we can be fairly sure that there is no other common law doctrine that carries mandatory sentencing and this must and will be challenged.

We continue to have meetings with MPs, the CCRC, other political campaign groups, the Hillsborough Campaign, numerous Unions, we have attended marches and rallies to spread the JENGBA word. We will ensure our supporters grow in numbers as more and more people hear the truth.

JENGBA also attended the AGM of the Howard League whose keynote speaker was Alex Marshall the Chief Executive of the College of Policing. He mentioned that they give Guidance to the Police in relation to DPP guidelines. I asked him to look at the Guidance and ensure that police do not use JE to ensure promotion up the ranks. He said police did not get promoted if they get convictions but a lawyer in a later question backed me up, saying not only was joint enterprise an appalling doctrine but also police are getting promotions on the backs of convictions.

2014 is going to be an immense year for our campaign with Jimmy McGovern's film kickstarting the public awareness needed to support our fight to show that innocent people are serving mandatory sentences.

We are still pushing the Justice Select Committee who have assured us that there will be another inquiry as promised – they are awaiting JE data for 2013 and in the meantime have appointed one of their members as joint enterprise Special Rapporteur. This is an important role and will ensure that joint enterprise stays high on their agenda.

We are planning marches in London and Manchester in March/April next year, check our next newsletter for more info.

Continued overleaf.....

A MESSAGE FROM COLIN

Dear Everyone at JENGBA,
And your families! I'm the producer of Jimmy McGovern's film 'Common'. We all start 2014 in the knowledge our film will be transmitted to the Nation in the Spring! It will have preview screenings in Liverpool and London, and as soon as we know a definite broadcast date we'll let you know, and I'm certain the film will at least give you hope that the hearts and minds of the British public will be influenced by it and hopefully it will be a catalyst for change.

At the very least we need to put Joint Enterprise in the spotlight, to get it talked about and for everyone to realise even in some small part the total injustice it represents. Please rest assured you have many people fighting your corner, and all of the cast involved in the film were moved by your plight and pledged their support. Ironically that included Sir Michael Gambon, who played the Judge!!

Have the best Christmas you can, but do it in the knowledge that a light of hope continually burns with all your supporters. All the very best to each and every one of you.

Colin Mc Keown, LA Productions

JOINT ENTERPRISE IS A COURT FULL OF LIES

The press around Jimmy's film will be an incredible asset to the campaign and, if your loved ones are willing to go public on your case, ask them to contact us because we need to be proactive about the media attention and not reactive. It is an incredible opportunity to educate an otherwise ignorant public of the abuse that is joint enterprise.

I would like to thank all of you who have allowed me to visit this past year. It is tough visiting lots of prisons because when I hear your heartbreaking stories I know how wrong it is that you are in prison. These visits are important as they inform the campaign and fuel our desire for justice. When we give oral evidence next time to the Justice Select Committee we will carry your warmth, humour, humanity, kindness and determination to get justice with us.

In solidarity to all and to all your families.

Gloria

Jan's Column

A quick email to Andrew Mitchell, (the Plebgate MP) resulted in a swift response and a meeting at the House of Commons on 26th November. I travelled to London to attend with Gloria Morrison. Unfortunately when we arrived Mr Mitchell had other important business to attend to. Disappointed was not the word as we felt this meeting was very important due to Andrew Mitchell's own experiences with the police and JENGBA's desire to gain further support from MPs concerned with real Justice for ordinary people.

Just before we left the building Gloria received a call on her mobile, it turned out that Mr Mitchell did not want us to leave before meeting us. It was a swift chat but from it came the promise of another meeting, and one where a more in-depth discussion would take place. Gloria and I left feeling positive, it wasn't the day we had had planned but it was another step in the right direction.

Union Support

Since the campaign began we have been drumming up support from the Unions. It isn't always easy to make it to Union conferences or meetings or to keep a consistent line of contact going. However, since I met some great people at the "Wigan Diggers Festival" last September I have been asked to give presentations for Wigan Unison and the BFAWU Bakers Union. This is my local area so I have taken it on board that it is now up to me to keep them in the loop with the campaign and to meet with them at any given opportunity.

After giving a presentation for the Wigan Unison committee I was over the moon when they sent a donation to JENGBA to help fund this month's newsletter so a great big thank you to them.

Those who attended my presentation for the Bakers Union on Saturday 7th December offered huge support because they are fully aware that my plight as the mother of a wrongly convicted son could quite easily become their own. One man told me my presence that day was very poignant, as his son will be in Court in the New Year on a Joint Enterprise charge that he has nothing to do with. It was also acknowledged by those

in attendance how JE had implications on all of them as workers, especially if they should have a dispute like the one they recently had.

I handed out JENGBA bangles and our petition and left with a huge bottle of wine, an invitation to their Christmas party and the offer of their full support for our campaign in the future.

Jan Cunliffe

A VISIT TO THE OLD BAILEY

Having been a JENGBA volunteer for some time and having been to several courts around London I gladly went to the Old Bailey to support a family whose loved ones had been charged with Joint Enterprise.

Having only ever seen The Old Bailey on the TV before I was disappointed to be directed to an old stairwell at the side of the court, there an orderly queue formed to get in, they don't open the doors till 10am when most court rooms have already started, and it takes at least 15 minutes to get through the queue. I had already been warned no mobiles were allowed but was disappointed when my gum and sweets were taken from me, never mind at least I'm in through security! Up more stairs (so you've got to be fit) I find the court I need to get to, I'm met by more security staff who were just as happy (not) as the first set at the entrance and was asked 'why was I here?', I was VERY tempted to say 'because it's a public gallery, and I'm the public!'. Worried I would be ejected if I dared to say anything like that I showed them my JENGBA card and was met with 'so you're not family then?'

I then asked where the ladies are and was directed to where they were but was told they close at 12:55 and don't reopen till 2:05, I'm confused now as the courts sit till 1:00 and reopen after lunch at 2.00, so maybe they don't want anyone to actually use them?

Eventually I get into court but am told where I HAVE to sit? The seating arrangement is gallery style so there's no way you could catch the eye of a barrister or get a message to them unless you were really good at paper aeroplanes. I needed to speak to one of them so when court broke for lunch I ended up running round to the front of the court where I was met by even more happy/polite security staff! Putting on an authoritarian voice I stated 'I have come to see counsel' and just walked through, with any other type of approach I don't think you would get through!

Going to court for everyone involved on both sides is one of life's most stressful events and having your case heard at THIS court will only exacerbate your stress levels tenfold!!!! Sadly, someone pointed out to me that the way you get treated at the Old Bailey as a visitor prepares you for prison visits. A sobering thought.

Yvonne B

We're on the move again! The organisation that have kindly provided us office space the last few months has had to downsize so we are back to our kitchen tables for the time being. But we are always contactable.

If you need any further info or want to write to us:

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