



JENGBA

Newsletter

You're not Alone

Issue 53

SPECIAL EDITION

May-July 2020

Dear Inside Campaigners

This will be brief as I truly have no words to try and understand what you are all going through. One campaigner told his mum that if they locked animals up like this for 23 and half hours a day, people would be outraged. But for humans, no let's be honest prisoners, it is permitted because it is mainly hidden. But the purpose of this newsletter is to try and reconnect you with **JENGBA**, our fight, our passion and now our anger.

We will be trying to send in as much information in the coming months as possible, and please if you have experienced negative mental health issues because of the current regime in HMP please do contact us or Dean Kingham at Swain & Co. We know some prisons have been trying their best in what are unprecedented circumstances, but we don't know the full picture because no one in the media is talking about it. If you want to share your experience of the last four months please do and we can be your voice on the outside.

We are also getting a support pack together with template letters to MPs, with paper, envelopes and stamps – if you think you might be able to utilise this let us know either by writing to the office or by letting your outside campaigner know. There is an incredible amount of love for each and every one of you right now – please don't forget that and all that is going on in the world right now means that this is the perfect time to highlight prisons, why people are sent there and why racist laws such as joint enterprise means that slavery was never abolished in the UK, it has and always will be there within our prison system. Please stay strong and know this fight will only grow stronger until we get justice.

With hugs and solidarity as always, Gloria

Here's a message from Jan

Hopefully, you will all take comfort from the messages from your loved ones in this special edition of our newsletter. Some of you won't have one directed to you personally so please don't think for one moment we aren't thinking about every single one of you.

Read each message as if it were your own. Choose your favourite one and make it your own.

You will be missing the visits and not all of you will be able to use the phone as often. Some of you will be suffering 23-hour lockdown more than others, especially those of you that may have already had that taste of freedom. To have it snatched away will have you feeling the emotions you felt when you were first convicted. I'm not only gutted for all of you I'm actually angry with the way the Government has handled things.

Please take strength in knowing it is normal to feel the way you do. Emotional memories can be very powerful, and they can take us to places of turmoil when we least expect it. It is normal to revisit old emotions in times of crisis. Recognise that memories are just that, memories, not reality. Your reality right now is lockdown and lockdown will end. And when it does you can once again pick up the fight for freedom as a much stronger and more resilient person than you ever were before. But for right now your mental health and wellbeing is paramount. Exercise makes us feel better so do some, sit ups, burpees, star jumps crank your music up and bounce around that cell.

Tell yourself every morning as you wake up that you can do this. Before you go to sleep remind yourself of how far you have come. And if it doesn't feel like you've come very far, buckle up my friend, get on the ride and let's start moving. Why not write me a letter, tell me how you feel, explain to me what is happening where you are, the regime, the food, the staff, everything.

If you can't do that then write me a story or a poem or even a song taken from the radio. Draw me a picture and we'll put it in a frame and hang it on the office wall. We could Tweet them if you want us to and tell people who you are, who drew that picture, who wrote those words or sang that song.

I need you to know that you are not being forgotten. No one gets forgotten. Me and Glo and the entire **JENGBA** family are nothing without all of you. JENGBA exists because of you each one of you.

The coronavirus pandemic and prison policy

Dr David Scott, Senior Lecturer in Criminology at The Open University and Professor Joe Sim from the School of Justice Studies at Liverpool John Moores University, highlight the impact of COVID-19 within prisons in the UK and the government's failure to act responsibly. This article was published on 11 May, 2020.

On April 4th, the government announced that more than 4,000 prisoners from the near 82,000 inside, were to be released under emergency measures as part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Two days later, on the April 6th, the Prison Governors Association had issued a press release stating it expected the government would release less than half of this original number. Even this estimate may prove optimistic.

On April 27th, it was revealed that only 33 prisoners had been released, including 18 pregnant women or women who were imprisoned with their children in mother and baby units. This figure was less than 1% of the original number proposed for release. There are at least a further 500 prisoners who have been approved for release or are awaiting a final decision, and the government also announced in early May plans to release a further 450 prisoners early. At the time of writing, it has been confirmed that nineteen prisoner and six prison staff deaths have been directly or indirectly linked to COVID-19 and that there have been outbreaks of the disease in 75 prisons. Although the official figures indicate that there are 324 laboratory confirmed cases, Public Health England (estimate that there are a further 1,783 probable/possible infections in prisons in England and Wales.

According to the government's COVID-19 advisers, the most effective way to contain the virus is to reduce the overcrowded prison population by around 15,000 prisoners and adopt a 'compartmentalisation' strategy based on single-cell accommodation, cohorting prisoners with symptoms together and adopting shielding measures for 2,000 'extremely vulnerable' prisoners. It is believed following this model completely would reduce the estimated number of prisoner deaths from as high as 2,300 to as low as 100. Yet the government has interpreted this advice very narrowly.

Rather than aiming to reduce the prison population, the government has adopted an authoritarian approach to the crisis. This has included 23-hour lockdowns; re-opening Medway Secure Training Centre for adult prisoners and building 500 'temporary, single occupancy cells' in nine prisons across the country, including at HMP Littlehey, which has already had a clustering of 3 COVID-19 related deaths in recent weeks.

Given the abject situation in male, local prisons - overcrowding and appalling conditions - and the high levels of distress and trauma, especially in women's prisons, why has the government not pursued a radical decarceration strategy? The answer is straightforward. Like their predecessors, Boris Johnson's government is ideologically chained to the delusional belief that a

high imprisonment rate equals less crime, at least for the poor and the powerless. Imprisoning the rich and powerful for the harms they commit is not (and has never been) on the state's agenda.

However, in a country with the highest rate of imprisonment in Western Europe, imprisoning the poor and powerless has neither prevented conventional 'crime', deterred individuals from committing crime (as the shocking levels of overwhelmingly male-generated domestic and sexual violence indicate) nor generated feelings of security and safety in the wider population, who are, in George Orwell's words, living in a 'fear-haunted world.'

Even in the middle of such a devastating crisis as this pandemic, and despite the mountain of evidence that points to the lamentable failure of prisons to fulfil its stated goals, a golden chance to radically alter penal policy, has been ignored by the government. The idea of an early release programme contradicts every punitive bone in the government's law and order body. For Ministers, the 'social dynamite' detained in prisons, need to be detained for fear of a crime explosion while those regarded as 'social junk', such as the elderly, can be left to wait for death to come brutally calling in a fragmented care home system whose apathy towards, and neglect by, the government, and, indeed, by the wider society, during the crisis, has been shameful. Systemic indifference is as deadly a killer as a serrated kitchen knife.

For the few prisoners who have been released, mainly pregnant women, there are two other questions to be asked. First, and most obviously, why were these women in prison. For that, we need to look at the harsh sentencing culture which underpins the discourse of law and order and the punishment of women who step outside of the dominant discourses of acceptable femininity. Second, what policies and structures are in place to protect them from the virus? Will they be able to maintain social distancing? Will they be able to access antenatal and postnatal care? Therefore, even if a fraction of the prisoners who should be freed are released, there are a number of troubling questions to be asked and answered. However, like other areas in this crisis, the silence is deafening.

Not to treat prisoners as human beings, and rise above the degradation that a law and order mentality inevitably brings, risks prisons becoming virus hotspots.

Finally, the traumatic impact of being locked up 23 hours a day for prisoners, and their families, has received little attention compared with the physical impact of the virus. Even if the lockdown is lifted inside and outside, the psychological repercussions will be felt long after it is implemented.

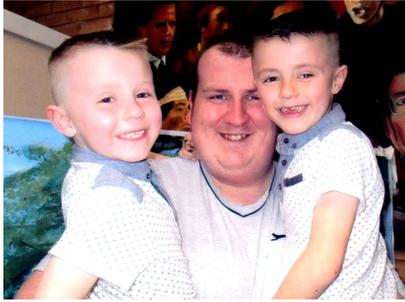
Not to treat prisoners as human beings, and rise above the degradation that a law and order mentality inevitably brings, risks prisons becoming virus hotspots. If that happens, then the intransigent hostility of Ministers towards releasing large numbers of prisoners, will be an unforgivable indictment of a government where political expediency, rather than basic humanity, remains the driving force behind its policies whatever the human cost.

MESSAGES FROM LOVED ONES

To Trewen from all his Family

Since Trewen's conviction all of our lives have come to a full stop, his sisters have postponed marriages, children's christenings, family parties and we just get through Christmas for the children's sake.

Not having you at home Trewen has left a big hole in everyone's heart, especially Jaydan and PJ who spent every day with their Uncle Trewen.



Your family will fight for justice for you Trewen until we get you home. Until then stay safe and stay strong. NJNP

Zoe Warren

Our darling Daughter Zoe, Your whole family misses you every minute of every day. There's a huge Zoe-shaped hole in our lives and as we look to a brighter future we fight on to bring you home where you belong Love always & forever Mam, Dad, Zara & the whole family xxxxxxx



Elroy Otway

12 years on and the fight continues Elroy Otway I will never give up fighting for you. Free our loved ones.



Stay strong and stay safe!!



Mikel Mulqueen

We all miss you and love you soo much, we still cannot believe you're doing someone else's time. We think of you in whatever we do.

Love and miss you from Mum, Kishel&Kamayah, Kai, Jahziah, Cheyanne and Iyana xxxxxx

Kyefer

As you always tell me baby boy God gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers! No words for how proud I am to call u mine! YNWA ever on this path We have laughed, cried and picked ourselves up from the floor but one thing is for sure we get back up and we keep fighting! The sun still shines for me and that's because I have you my baby boy, u truly are my inspiration to face each day .you so got this! Kerrigan Says she loves you all the world and Harley said your the best in the world #not a girl lol



Ricardo Williams

We're all still out here fighting for you, never out of our hearts or minds. Stay strong and stay safe.



CallumSmith

Callum we love and miss you so so much and we are so truly proud of you, not just how you have adapted to this evil hand you have been dealt but how strong you have been through this pandemic! Dad would be so proud to have such an amazing strong son. Keep staying strong and positive Callum. Lots and lots of hugs and kisses from Mum, Danielle and Jordan
Xxxxxxxx



For Jordan Cunliffe, my close friend's son. Hello Jordan, just so you know, you are in my daily prayers and on my healing tree. Never give up hope. Stay strong. Stay well and sending you many blessings. Much love
Alex the Poet (alexandra swarbrick)



Emma Hall
Hope you and Stanley are good!
Love Yvonne xx



Matthew Brankin - We love & miss you so much . From all your family

Durrell Ford



We miss you Durrell Ford our best boy and will never give up on you. Love from all the family.

My Son

I am sorry I have not been able to talk to you. Everytime I do I remember I can't just come over and cook for you or hug you. Sometimes this mum gets down. I know I have my freedom and can do all things you can't, but what does that mean when you are there and I can't free you. I look at all the angels, I look for the solutions, what I can't bear to face is the overwhelming truth that this I just can't control, the past I can't erase and overnight I can't show you that both of us have changed. It is not good or bad, evil or pure and I know I am not your nemesis for you I would sacrifice my all. I am not a stupid person although many have told me so, nor are you my dear son, we are just in a different flow. In this river together and neither of us will drown if we are honest in this task. I will hold your head above the water when your legs are tired and you feel you can't go on.

I need you to pray for me now, I am not feeling very strong. It's temporary I promise you, I will get back up, I always do. Please don't feel you're alone, this old lady needs a rest and get back her fight. **AC xxx**

Emma Hall

Sending lots of love and hugs to Emma and Stanley the budgie from Nana and family and Sally and Charlotte X

Alex Henry



We miss you so much and cannot wait to give you a real hug again, best son and little bro ever, love Mum and Charlotte xxx



Dean Winston

We love you Deanie, we will never stop fighting for you xxx

Jord

Hello Uncle Jordan I can't wait to meet you, love from baby Ronni x





Joey McGill

To my bro Joey, still missing u can't wait till ur home. Gonna buy a house for us both to live in when ur home. So I can look after u. Love lil bro Dan x o x o

Billy Paton

Love you
Daddy

xxxx



Kieren George Not long now son.

Brendan McConville

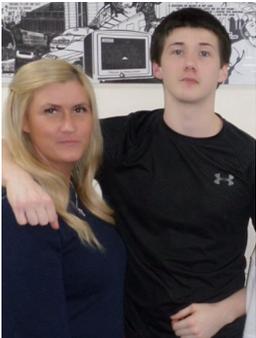
Wishing my husband Brendan McConville a happy birthday for the 19th May, I love you. Brendan is one of the Craigavon Two, convicted under the Joint Enterprise doctrine and convicted to 25 year's although the Judge could not ascribe a role. Justice for the Craigavon Two



Gordon McPherson

We are all thinking about you, not being able to visit has been horrible for all of the family. Love and miss you Bro. Love Mum Big Sis Tina, Bro Tyrell, Niece Shelby

Daughter Cara,
Son Gordel
#freegee



Joseph McGill

Hey Joseph (Joey) It feels like only yesterday I first held u in my arms. Wow, how proud I felt to be ur mum. Been nearly 7yrs now you've been away for. You were 13 when u went away and now ur nearly 21. Wow...

U still make me so proud to be ur mum. You're so strong and brave I don't know how u do it. But u do. Thank u for being my son. I can't wait till the day you're home, this pandemic has been tuff on everyone. Been over 3 months now not hugged u and I miss that. But please stay strong remember I love u we love u everyone loves u. Big big hugs your Mum xx

Durrell Goodall

We all love and miss you, stay strong, see you soon xx (from Zaiden, Mum, Darren and the boys xx)



Jake Looby

Thinking of you every day. Stay safe and take care.

Love you, Mum



Marvis Smith

Always know we love and miss you. I will never give up the fight for your

Paul Clarke, HMP Long Lartin

"No weapons that form against me shall prosper".

Evon & Cassandra Clarke

Hello to Our Inside Campaigners

Just wanted to remind you all that we are not giving up and never will, so I thought I would pop down to 'The Royal Courts of Justice' and take some photos yesterday.

“We Will Be Back” was our message and we will be and by our I mean OUR message because the **JENGBA** family is all of us, you on the inside and us on the outside.

We are **JENGBA**

So many things are going to change in this country when we get through this horrible time and I feel certain it will change for the better.

Everything will be re-evaluated, this time has shown people we cannot go on as we were, a fairer society must be built and this must mean for justice too. This is what we the **JENGBA** family will fight hard for. Joint Enterprise is the biggest miscarriage of justice scandal in this country and it cannot continue.

We will fight the Injustice Virus!

The red **JENGBA** army is coming and think who you are most scared of in your life.... yes your mother, well that's most of the red army alongside middle aged battle axes and all Justice warriors then you can imagine the power and determination we have !!!

We are not going away and are maintaining a strong presence on social media, they know we are here !

Please stay safe, look after each other, let us know if anyone is struggling or needs any help and support either inside or outside and we would love to hear from you with ideas and inspiration or what you are doing and hopefully will try and print some in the next newsletter.

Stay strong, stay well, Deb Madden

supporting
Kujtim Spahiu
Timi - Albani

COVID RESTRICTIONS

Dean Kingham @ Swain and Co Solicitors is looking at the COVID restrictions in place since March. He has already served two letter before claims for two **JENGBA** guys and is of the view that, given the relaxation of the restrictions is prison dependent, individual letter before claims are needed for the prison. He has served one on HMP Whitemoor and HMP Belmarsh. He will shortly serve one on HMP The Mount. The letter before claim is focusing on the solitary confinement, lack of PPE for prisoners, the lack of social distancing, the lack of testing of prisoners and staff, the lack of visits and the lack of meaningful contact with family e.g. via virtual visits. He is well aware of the issues and is doing what he can to assist.

Please write to him directly at Swain and Co Solicitors, Compass House, North Street, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 1UW if you want assistance and have particular issues. When you write to him please set out the specific issues you are facing in the prison you are in. The more information the better!



4 years ago I was so proud to join these kids as they marched in London for their brothers, cousins and loved ones.

They handed a petition in to Number 10.
If they can keep fighting then
so should all of us, their **JENGBA** family.

Cath x

Thank you Jack

Hope you're all coping with the Covid19 virus and the consequential extra lockdown that it brings!?

I don't have any campaign news to share with you today. I'm leaving that to the others this time. But that does not mean I have nothing important to tell you. As the title clearly gives the game away, I will crack on.

Like all of you convicted under the joint enterprise (JE) doctrine I too sat alone in my single cell convincing myself that **JENGBA** would indeed get me out. They had to, right? One thing certainly cannot be denied is the fact that they were (are) definitely the only people fighting for our liberty. And, didn't they just go out and do that? They got the Supreme Court to publicly admit their mistake and they set the path for us all to receive our right to a fair trial which we clearly did not get at our original trials.

Despite all our dealings with the great British criminal justice system none of us could have (ironic), foreseen exactly how far their abuse of power would go. Yes, Substantial Injustice. This is where we are 'for now'.

My point is that to achieve all **JENGBA** did, to beg, steal and borrow so to speak. What I'm saying is without money **JENGBA** obviously can't do much. And nobody is queuing up to give us any funds either. However, I am delighted to inform you that the Jack Merritt family have donated £2000 so that **JENGBA** can carry on the mighty fight for justice. For those of you who knew Jack Merritt you will not be surprised that Jack's parents, Anne and David have donated such a generous amount. Or, that they too champion the cause, just as Jack did.

For those who don't know who Jack is, he was my friend, a normal 25 year old lad from an average middle class family, who just happened to be pretty smart. He did his first degree in law at Manchester University and then went on to do a Master's Degree at Cambridge University. I met Jack as part of a collaborative prisoner-Cambridge student course. It basically meant that we got to do an actual degree module with them (ten students and ten prisoners). We would mix in groups of 5 or 6 and discuss the subject in order to give our opinions. Jack was always making his voice heard. He was fun, confident, caring (I mean really caring), supportive and a genuine guy who listened to us. Jack changed in the short time that I knew him. When we initially spoke, Jack was all set on doing commercial law and earning tons of money. Following his ten-week course with us prisoners, he did a 360 degree turn and took up work with the course we were on. He produced his own course on law, specifically on prisoners' legal rights. He could have covered anything else, but he did this because

he knew it would benefit us. Jack wanted to empower us. He wanted us to see a better way, to have a better, fulfilling life. When I was released Jack was there for me, whenever I ever needed him. I just had to pick up the phone.

If you haven't worked out who Jack Merritt was yet, he was the young man that was murdered by a terrorist he had helped and supported whilst in prison. The London bridge terror attack last year, it happened inside Fishmonger Hall, where people, ex-cons, serving cons, professors, probation, all types of people who were connected by the Learning Together Initiative had come together to celebrate its success so far and to discuss how to improve it further.

Only for one idiot to decide "you know what, I am going to kill as many people as I can." He knew Jack Merritt. He knew Jack was the one good guy out there that genuinely wanted to help the marginalised, the suppressed. Khan must have viewed himself to be one of these people to feel the need to do what he did, so it makes no sense to kill the ones that truly cared.

Prisoners have lost a real genuine person who always put himself there, he wanted to be a part of the much needed change both inside and out for men, women and children unlucky enough to find themselves caught up in the chaos of the criminal justice system.

I have waffled on but I think Jack's short life needs to be remembered by all of us. He's not here anymore so he can't help to fight joint enterprise, but he would if he was still with us. The love outside for Jack and his principles have meant that money has been raised and £2,000 has generously been donated to **JENGBA** in Jack's name. His family tell me he often spoke of Joint Enterprise and the work **JENGBA** does. **JENGBA** have already purchased a couple of much needed laptops which will allow work to continue.

I still feel the love and passion from Jack without him physically being here. That was the power of the man. Jack's goal was to empower prisoners. From now on for all our sakes (especially yours and your families) start to write to MPs, Judges, Members of the House of Lords, journalists, even famous people, your family can google their agents address so it's not impossible to get a letter to anyone. Come on empower yourselves, help us out here, to fight this fight. We need you all as much as you need **JENGBA**. Come on. It's up to you.

And finally. I think it would be nice if we could get some letters of gratitude to pass on to Jack's family for their unwavering support through the most difficult times of their lives.

All the best

John Crilly

The Rhyming Guide to Joint Enterprise

By *Potent Whisper*, written for **JENGBA**

They say you judge a man by people that he walks with
The company he keeps, the people that he talks with
But we say you judge a man by the things he does
We judge him by his actions and so should every judge

Imagine if I judged you now based on what your friend did
Imagine he stabbed a man to death but you get arrested
Imagine if you weren't even there at the time
But suddenly it's you getting sent down for life

Even if he said that his intention was to hurt them
Even if your friend admits he killed the other person
You still go to prison for a thing you didn't do
Imagine that...
Well no, don't, cos actually it's true

And it's called 'Joint Enterprise'

Joint enterprise is a very dangerous law
It's caused a lot of misery for thousands in the courts
Many of you reading this have heard the term before
But if you haven't then I'll break it down, and I'll try to keep it short

So picture this...
You're in the park, it's dark, you're with your friends
Suddenly you all see a guy who's not from ends
One of your mates recognise his face
And you don't recognise his face
But your friend gets a knife and stabs him dead

You don't know why he stabbed him, or that he would even do that
In fact as he went towards the guy you had to move back
You were so surprised and yeah you knew what he was like
But you never knew your guy would pull a knife - you wouldn't do that

When the police arrive, you're taken to the station
They don't know who did it, now you've a situation
They're doing you for murder and that's life inside a cell
Because well, quite simply, you were there as well

And "maybe you knew about the knife that he was packing
Maybe you encouraged him, maybe you were clapping
And even if you hadn't been there when he was stabbed
It wouldn't matter cos you might have known what your friend was planning

But you were there. And you said you moved back when he grabbed his knife
Because you wanted him to kill the boy, you wanted him to die
Yeah you knew what he was gonna do, you moved so he could do it
Oh, you didn't know? Well you're guilty 'til you prove it"

That's joint enterprise.

Now after hearing that, I think I know what you'll be thinking

How can a law like this exist right here in Britain?
What type of justice puts the innocent in prison?

I thought a person can't be guilty
til it's proved they did it

And I'm not the only one with that exact view
Even the Supreme Court is saying that too
In 2016 they ruled the law had been abused
And that it's being mis-applied, which of course we know is true

Now you might think that this ruling was amazing news
Now we can free the people serving time for crimes they didn't do!
No. It turns out their appeals have been refused
And there's proof that the same law is still being abused

If my son got stabbed, I'd want justice
And of course the families - they want justice
It's just that Joint Enterprise is lazy justice
Innocent people in prison isn't justice

Joint enterprise should be abolished. Now.
Mandatory sentencing, stop it. Now.
Innocent prisoners want it now.
And all MP's need to promise. Now.

Cos they say you judge a man by people that he walks with
The company he keeps, the people that he talks with
But we say you judge a man by the things he does
We judge him by his actions, so why doesn't the judge?

Message from JENGBA's friend and Patron, Jimmy McGovern

Dear All,

When this lockdown kicked off we were just about to start filming a three part drama series set in a men's prison. I'm hoping we can resume when the lockdown is lifted but I'll keep you all posted.

I know you're cooped up even more than usual so this must be a really difficult time for you all but everyone at JENGBA is thinking of you. Good luck.
Jimmy.

JENGBA

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