

Joint Enterprise

Not Guilty by Association

JENGBA

Newsletter

You're not Alone

Issue 44

Christmas 2017

Dear Fellow **JENGBA** Campaigners

Seasons greetings to all from your outside **JENGBA** family and our supporters. We've been busy as ever chipping away at the injustice of incriminating people convicted under the "wrong" law. Thank you all of you and your families and friends who contacted your MP to invite them to our relaunch on 15th November at the House of Commons. Enclosed with this newsletter is the information handed out on the day kindly printed for us by the Bakers, Food and Alliance Workers Union whose president Ian Hodson also attended. Don't worry we are still keeping wrongful convictions under JE at the forefront of the campaign, the aim of our relaunch was to shout loud that JENGBA are not going away despite the Supreme Court "substantial injustice" or the Court of Appeal's shocking and frankly cruel decision in R v Johnson in 2016 and R v Grant-Murray & R v McGill 2017. Do they really believe we would give up just because they hold all the power and can deliver injustice with impunity?

The relaunch was an outstanding success; a totally packed room so much so that the stewards started to refuse people entry as they said people couldn't stand, we had to do quite a bit of cajoling to get people in and the committee room had a capacity for 120. We are under no illusions that this must be difficult for you to comprehend because prison is so soul destroying but our persistence is paying off and we are winning! The number of MPs who attended proves this, as they all agree with us that JE was and is just wrong. Nearly every one of them spoke from the floor or joined the panel including Bob Neill, Chair of the Justice Select Committee and David Lammy whose recent report on racism in the criminal justice system also flagged up concerns regarding joint enterprise. Lucy Powell MP for Manchester Central was on the panel and had witnessed first-hand, in Moss Side, what joint enterprise charging can do to a community's further distrust of CJS. She has taken up the cause for the families convicted in June (11 in total 5 murder 6 manslaughter). Those families also travelled from Manchester to attend our relaunch.

The shadow Justice Secretary Richard Burgon couldn't attend in person but sent a letter of support which is reproduced in full later on in the newsletter.

Myself and the McInerney family met Jeremy Corbyn at the Unison annual event and he apologised for not being informed of the relaunch as he told us he would have sent a message of support.

The consensus in the room was one of solidarity and when David Scott spoke about Child Lifers, the look of shock on MPs' faces just goes to show how far they need to go to realise how bad the British Criminal Justice System is! But we will keep educating them - the problem is we want action now and everyone knows it!



JENGBA's relaunch at the House of Commons

The next London JENGBA meeting is on Tuesday 12th December (details on website) where we will formulate a strategy for 2018.

Next national event will be on Monday the 18th December, peaceful protests in London and Manchester. Please urge your supporters to attend. Also if you haven't written to your MP do so today. Your voice is a support for all those wrongfully convicted using joint enterprise.

With much love at this difficult time of year for our Inside Campaigners.

Gloria

CHRISTMAS PEACEFUL PROTESTS

Please get your families to join us!

MONDAY, 18TH DECEMBER 2017

1-3pm

LONDON—outside the Supreme Court

MANCHESTER— Piccadilly Gardens

INSIDE—EVERYBODY **JOIN US AT 2pm** TO SING FIELDS OF GOLD (with our own words, below)

They have wrongfully imprisoned my child,
when they know they're not guilty.

They have used a law, they now say is wrong
and they took my child away.

Do they just expect us to walk away, when we
know they're not guilty.

Our love runs too deep, we will battle on, til we
bring our children home.

When you see your child, their eyes filled with
tears, they know they're not guilty

We cannot accept, they will serve those years
and we'll fight to right this wrong.

We will struggle on, we just won't give up...until
the cage is opened
We will never stop, we will always fight, til we
bring our children home

I never make promises lightly and there've
been some I've broken, but I swear in the days
still left we will bring our children home, we will
bring our children home.

There our children sit in their prison cells, when
they know they're not guilty

Why has this not changed, when they know it's
wrong and send our children home.

We'll not compromise with those courtroom
lies, when we know they're not guilty

We'll not turn away, we are here to stay, til we
bring our children home

til we bring our children home, til we bring our
children home.

JENGBA win again!

We were very proud to be announced winners of the Children and Young People Now Awards 2017 in the Youth Justice category. We had some strong competition and send our congratulations to all the shortlisted organisations and of course the winners of the other awards.

We are the only country in Western Europe to imprison children for life and we have to play our part in stopping that happening. Big shout out to Glo who made this point as she and Lisa accepted the Award!



WINNERS! Gloria Morrison and Lisa McInerney accept the Youth Justice Award on behalf of **JENGBA** families



Above: Glo with Birmingham **JENGBA** families keeping up the campaign for justice

Why **JENGBa** is a Trade union issue

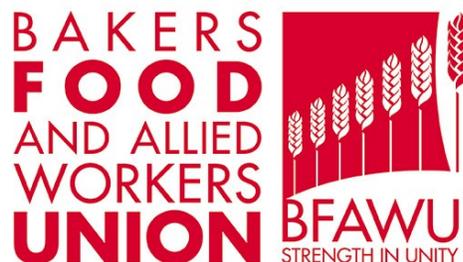
When justice is based, not on innocence or guilt but which part of the community you are from, then it's an equality issue. When it's based on race, it's a discrimination issue and when it only applies to the children of the working classes, it's a class issue.

Boris Johnson and David Cameron can trash restaurants and set fire to toilets as part of the 'Bullingdon Club' and it's seen as 'jolly japes' by young lads, letting off a bit of steam. When a well-heeled celebrity chef is caught stealing wine and cheese from a supermarket, an apology and a slap on wrist is enough, because his childhood was 'tough'. When members of the royal family are shown to have had connections to prominent paedophiles, they aren't even taken down to the local police station to make a statement. When a media oligarch's organisation is shown to have hacked people's phones, all we get is an inquiry and a few 'lackeys' taking the fall. However, when a young man from a poor estate steals bottles of water during London riots, the book is thrown at him and he is thrown into prison. Serious miscarriages of justice regularly involve people from less privileged backgrounds. What we see often in terms of justice, is total inequality and a two-tier legal system. The wealthy enjoy power and influence and have the financial capital to afford the best representation that money can buy. The rest of us have to cobble together the best we can and hope for the best. This isn't justice.

It's a basic human right to be treated fairly and equally and not to be discriminated against. Fair play, equality and justice are fundamental aims of the Trade Union Movement, but it doesn't just begin and end at the workplace clock machine. If we fail to support those in our communities who find themselves at a legal disadvantage and at the wrong end of the justice system, based on their income or social status, then we are not fit for purpose. Look at the history books and you will find Trade Unions at the heart of just about every struggle for social justice and change. If we don't use our collective strength as a Labour Movement to address the issues of marginalisation within our justice system and change it, things will never change. The wealthy and privileged in our society are quite happy with the status quo. If we don't challenge it, who will?

The BFAWU is proud to support the JENGBa campaign to fight for a first class justice system that ensures we are all treated equally under the law, regardless of race, or class.

Ian Hodson
National President
Bakers', Food & Allied Workers Union
Twitter: @ianbfawu



JENGBA SEND OUR THANKS TO IAN AND ALL HIS MEMBERS FOR ESPECIALLY SUPPORTING OUR RELAUNCH AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, IT WAS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED .

SPECIAL THANKS ALSO TO ISLINGTON UNISON'S BLACK MEMBERS GROUP



JENGBa families meet Jeremy Corbyn at a Unison event, the day after our relaunch

Statement from Richard Burgon MP, Shadow Justice Secretary

Dear friends,

Labour proudly stood at the election promising a society that works “for the many not the few”. Key to that is creating a justice system that works for the many not the few. One that does not institutionally discriminate against any community.

But sadly, in far too many cases – as our manifesto stated: “The justice system can be bewildering and intimidating.” And all too often “Justice has become the preserve of the rich.” That should never be the case.

Today the JENGBA campaign is relaunching with a broader mission statement to campaign on issues across the criminal justice system.

Amongst those is a desire for a wider public debate about the UK being one of the few European countries which imposes life sentences on children. Where such practices take place, they should be the product of an informed public debate. But far too often these issues are not known about – or where they are they are only seen through the prism of the right wing press. I support your attempt to shine a spotlight on such practices, so that as a democratic society we can decide if that is really the best way forward.

I especially want to give support to two of your new campaigning aims.

Firstly the need to eradicate racism in the justice system. My colleague David Lammy is to be commended for his recent report on tackling this. His conclusion that there is a greater disproportionality in the number of black people in prisons in England and Wales than in the USA will shock many including even long-time anti-racist campaigners. I am especially concerned that the proportion of BAME young offenders in custody rose by two-thirds over the last decade. This discrimination must end and end quickly. You can count on my continuing support in campaigning to ensure it does.

Secondly, your call for action to tackle the injustice of IPP prisoners is very important. It is an issue that I have been raising in parliament recently. This practice was –to its shame –introduced by a Labour government. But the Conservatives are now failing to solve it. It needs to do so urgently. As well as involving an obvious injustice in far too many cases, the number of those on IPP sentences is placing an unnecessary load on a prison system teetering on the edge. The overwhelming majority serving these IPP sentences have already surpassed their minimum sentence tariff. Where offenders no longer pose a danger to society, they must be released so that prisons are used for those who really need to be there.

The great civil rights campaigner Martin Luther King famously said that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." But less well known are his words that "Every step toward the goal of justice requires ...the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

I wish you luck in your campaigning for a fairer justice system.

Best
Richard

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at www.jointenterprise.co