

Dear Campaigners

When the Birmingham Six were finally released from prison after 16 years after being deliberately stitched up and brutally beaten up by West Midlands Police, two appeals later after years of campaigning, films and books being written about the case they were finally exonerated and released in 1991.

"JUSTICE? THOSE PEOPLE IN THERE DON'T KNOW HOW TO SPELL THE WORD"

Paddy Joe Hill

Those were the words Paddy said on the steps of the Court of Appeal about the judiciary at the time. What our families witnessed on Monday 31st October led us to finally shout out in court after Lord Justice Thomas handed down his judgement on the first batch of cases being heard since the Jogee ruling, "Shame on you" and "No Justice No Peace". The Outside Campaigners have always been respectful but the judgement was so wrong it was clearly showing what contempt the court has for us and the JENGBA Inside campaigners.

Everyone was on tenterhooks as to when the judgement was going to be handed down. And interestingly enough, Counsel (the QC's representing the appellants) were told the week before but told it was embargoed even to the instructing lawyers. This meant families and appellants were not told the specific date. However, Michael Hall's family had directly instructed his QC Chris Sallon, Michael's sister Sarah called Mr Sallon to find out if he knew when yet. She was told 31st and so 4 days before this incredibly important decision was to be handed down JENGBA put it on our Facebook page. That is how the other families found out and called their called lawyers to see if it was true. We notified the Press who obviously expressed an interest because of the Supreme Court's ruling. So even though the court was packed we still should have had more of a JENGBA presence outside as we had BBC, ITV, Sky News as well as The Guardian, The Times, The Telegraph, Five Live, and lots of radio stations there. Even though we got a lot of, mostly sympathetic, press in the morning news it was the same day the Ministry of Injustice decided they are not going to do a full Inquiry into the brutal beatings and wrongly imprisonment of the Orgreave Miners – guess when - 32 years ago! Don't for one moment think that was a coincidence. The

fact that the Court of Appeal came up with this quite appalling judgements was conveniently buried by outrage and government U turn on the Orgreave decision was a deliberate decision to keep the truth of joint enterprise imprisonment firmly in the dark.

You all must know by now the Judgement was a knock back for all – because it was deemed that they did not meet the 'substantial injustice' test cited in Paragraph 100 of the Supreme Court ruling. We have sent the Judgement into prisoners we know will read and share but if you want to see a copy let us know. It will be posted on the website. It doesn't make much sense, they are mainly hiding behind the concept that the juries would have still come to the same decision even though the whole court process was wrongfully interpreted. We have our brilliant lawyers looking into ways to move forward legally, and we will keep you posted on any developments but please be assured JENGBA are not giving up on this matter.

To tell you the truth – I was not really surprised by what they did – even though when we attended the hearings the Judges themselves expressed concern that these secondary parties could not have foreseen what might have been the intention of someone else. As I mentioned before in Michael Hall's case Lady Hallett said she could not go beyond 'violent disorder here' but leave him with a conviction of murder. The shouts of disgrace were kicked off by Dean Winston's brother Jermaine followed by "Atrocious!" from Deb Madden and echoed by others as families rushed from the courtroom in tears.

Now I am angry as I am sure you all must be. I am angry because we had spent a year nearly since the Supreme Court hearing October 2015 thinking that we were making progress. JENGBA have still campaigned in the House of Commons, marches, meetings, Universities and other Justice campaigns but we were complacent thinking that they would finally do the right thing. Indeed the Supreme Court Justices said if the "common law was wrong it was up to the Judges to put it right". How have they done that?! Leaving people who have not murdered anyone, had no intention or foresight that murder would occur still convicted of murder. The way forward for us now is not *asking* for them to do the right thing – it is *demanding* it.

You all know this was never going to be about JUSTICE – it was always going to be a public policy decision. JENGBA was invited to a criminology conference by Liverpool University on "Joint Enterprise after Jogee", Lord Justice Toulson was the keynote

speaker. In the Q & A I asked why the Supreme Court had included paragraph 100 on 'substantial Injustice' and he said because otherwise the commentators (press etc.) would have all been saying 'killers would be let free'. Well they did say that anyway – in papers that you should not be subscribing too – especially the Sun. JENGBA will never talk to the Sun in solidarity with Justice for the 94 Liverpool fans who died at Hillsborough.

The first person Jan and I phoned after doing lots of press on 31st was Paddy Hill. He was as angry as he has always been at the state of our justice system that has not changed in the intervening years since Birmingham 6 and Guildford 4 wrongful convictions. So no more sitting on our laurels – we will not get justice by going cap in hand to those who are supposed to administer it. We need to join together with other important Justice campaigns and demand the government take action.

We will not give up and neither should you but it has to be a two way fight and your supporters have to come on the marches with banners, attend meetings, write to MP's and religious leaders and do everything they can to help JENGBA continue to raise its profile. Remember the commentators at the COA were on side and couldn't understand why they hadn't done for the appellants what the Supreme Court did for Jogee. If you have any ideas let us know – the next newsletter will be packed with activism that will show we are not going anywhere until our loved ones are given the right to justice and a fair trial.

In solidarity and sadness but ready fight alongside you all.

Gloria

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON JIMMY McGOVERN

We all witnessed a further injustice at the Court of Appeal last week. I find it hard to believe that the appeals against the wrongful convictions, based on a law which took a wrong turn 32 years ago, were knocked back.

You must be angry and bitter but now is the time, more than ever, to gather together in solidarity. You've got **JENGBA** and your families outside who I know will never give up and hopefully neither will you.

In solidarity,
Jimmy

31st October 2016

Dear JENGBA

Today's decision is heart-breaking, please don't give up. Enclosed cards and 2 books of stamps. Hope it can go towards small way of cheering up loved ones at Christmas. Agnes, Mum of Paul Croxton HMP Full Sutton. 30year Life

Angola 3

The remaining 2 of the Angola 3 spoke at Manchester Metropolitan University on 4th November to a packed theatre. The session started with a documentary film telling their harrowing story of spending decades of brutality in solitary confinement in a US prison in Angola. The film is scheduled to air on Channel 4 at some point so look out for it.

I was lucky enough to join them for dinner afterwards and the message they send to all of you is to **stay strong and never give up.**



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Saturday 12th November RebLaw UK Conference 'Black Lives Matters and Criminal Law' University of Law Moorgate

Friday 18th November 2016 Support Kev Thakrar from 12.30pm – 2.30pm at HM Inspectorate of Prisons, 6th Floor, Victory House, Kingsway, London WC2B 6EX

23rd November Haldane Society of Lawyers University of Law Bloomsbury 6pm

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