

VIEW FROM THE SHELF - if you can afford the season ticket.

July 1993, a mass protest meeting in the 703 Sports Centre. Was it against the Council Tax, unemployment, or VAT on fuel? No, 500 angry Spurs supporters had turned up to voice their anger at the sacking of Chief Executive Terry Venables by Alan "Sky" Sugar.

Whilst the meeting, called at very short notice by the Tottenham Independent Supporters Association (TISA) was a positive expression of supporters solidarity, it was a strange experience to be sat there, taking sides in a dispute between two Tory business men over who controlled a multi-million pound enterprise.

The independent supporters campaigns that exist at many clubs and nationally have made an impact - most notably the defeat of Thatcher's identity card scheme and the keeping of terracing at second & third division grounds. A handful of clubs now even have a token fan on the board - but this is a token presence, not real fan power.

Whether it's Venables, Sugar or David Dein at Arsenal, the money men run and rule football for their benefit, not ours. High ticket prices (the cheapest seat for a non-member at Spurs is £12; no reductions for children; no standing) make the game unaffordable for thousands of supporters. The introduction of all seater stadiums from next season will mean still higher prices.

Football is big business and whilst the paying supporter nominally pays the players' wages, increasingly the real money is to be made from TV deals, merchandising and dodgy land deals. Alan Sugar's purchase of Spurs two years ago had nothing to do with a love of football (the man could not spot an offside trap if it was rammed down his throat) but everything to do with his ownership of Amstrad, the satellite dish company.

Football was and is a game played and watched by working class people. But if it is to survive as our game, it has to be reclaimed from the money men who are sucking it dry. There are no easy answers to how this can happen. Independent supporters organisations are at least a start because they give fans a voice which the football owners have been forced to listen to.

TOTTENHAM SQUATTERS GROUP
We meet every Friday between 2pm & 4pm at 72 West Green Road, N15. If you need information or help about squatting, or want to get involved with the group, or the campaign against the changes in the squatting legislation then drop in any Friday.

WOMEN'S DIRECTORY
Haringey Women's group are starting to put together a directory of services and resources for women in Haringey with the aim of producing a handbook. They want the directory to be useful to all women living and working in Haringey, and need your help and ideas to collect information and put the directory together. If you can help contact them at P.O.Box 2474, 44 Tottenham Lane, N8.

TOTTENHAM Community Action

BOX 12, 72 WEST GREEN ROAD, N15. 802-9804 SPRING 1994 ISSUE 3

Hands Off Our Post Office

The Post Office bosses want to close Bruce Grove main Post Office. They claim that they have to do this because it is too small to cope with the demand. **THIS IS A LIE.** They want to close it to make more money, even though they already make millions of pounds profit every year out of us.

They want a local supermarket or newsagent to take over the services. This will mean more queues, less staff, worse service and loads of inconvenience for us. Whoever tries to take over the service will either stop supplying things that don't make them enough money, or will start charging us for things that are free at the moment. Could people be charged for cashing their benefits? The other reason supermarkets etc want to take over the service is so we go into their shop and buy loads of other things from them as well.

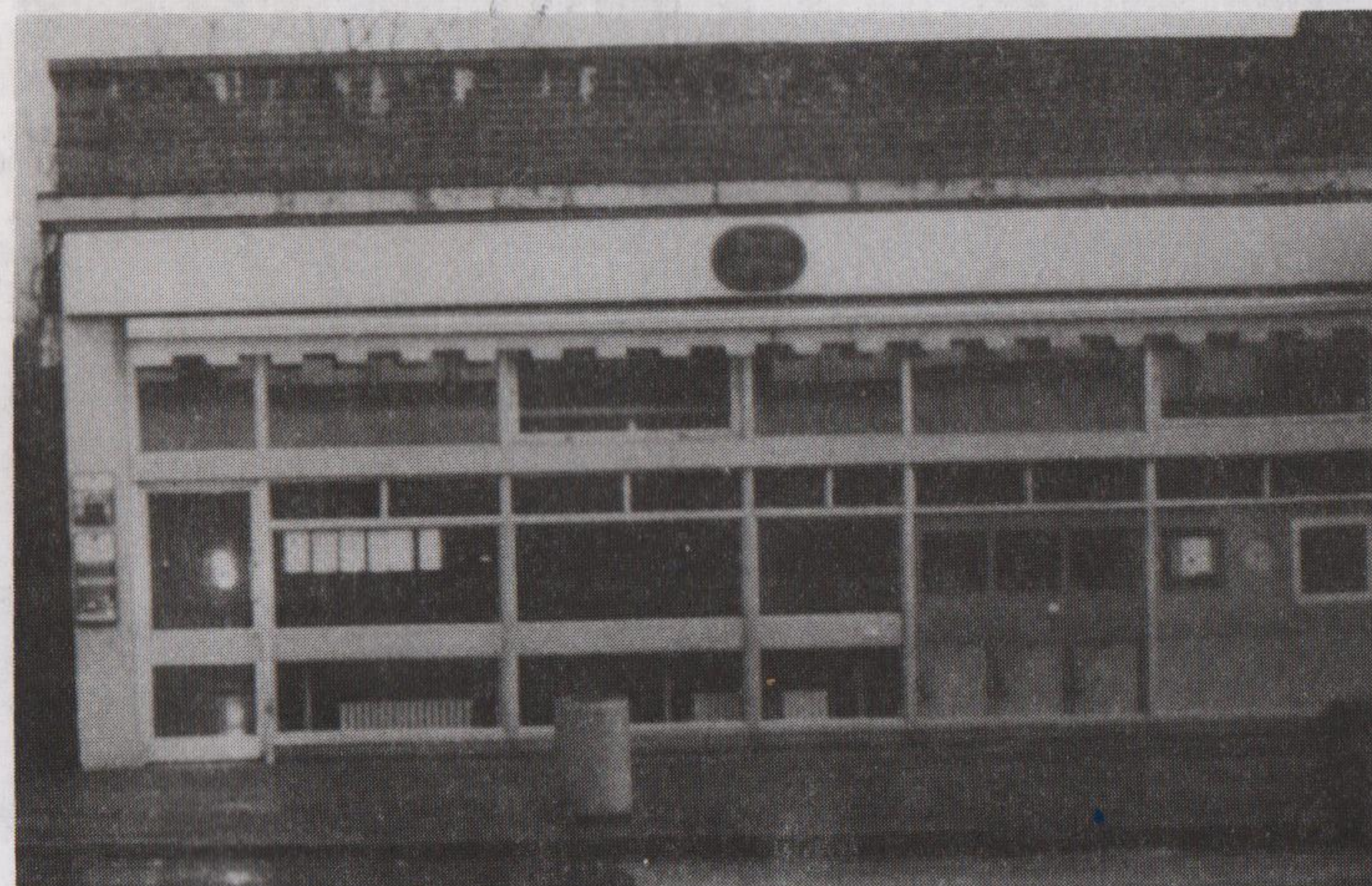
Local people don't want this; the workers don't want it; Haringey Council have voted against it; and even Bernie Grant has spoken against it.

Although we will ALL be worse off if it closes, it is pensioners, the disabled, and parents who will be hardest hit.

The Post Office bosses intend to close it in mid 1994. We must stop this stupid idea. Already local resident Sybil James has collected over 5,000 signatures demanding the Post Office stays open. But we ALL need to get involved and do more. The bloke who seems to be making all the decisions is Harvey Skipsey and he can be contacted at POST OFFICE COUNTERS, VERULAM POINT, STATION WAY, ST. ALBANS, AL1 5HE. Let him know how you feel. If you can't afford a stamp leave it at the Post Office for him.

But letter writing will not be enough. **SO, WE WARN ANY SUPERMARKET, NEWSAGENT, OR BUSINESS THAT IS THINKING OF TAKING OVER FROM OUR POST OFFICE THAT WE WILL GET LOCAL PEOPLE TO REFUSE TO BUY ANYTHING FROM YOU - EVER.** We will boycott you and put you out of business in Tottenham. Every time YOU use a supermarket, newsagent, etc, tell them you will stop using them if they take

over ANY service from the Post Office. Let us know their replies. The more of us that are involved the better - so if you want to help contact us at the address on the back page.



NO FUEL TAX

Tax the Rich Not the Poor

From 1st April 1994 the government intends to add 8% V.A.T. to all our fuel bills (gas, electric, heating fuel, etc). Next year it goes up to 17.5%. This will mean £17.50 on every £100 you spend on any fuel.

People on low incomes, especially the old, already have to decide whether to buy food or have heating. This extra cost (at least 10 times the rate of inflation) will mean people will have to keep the heating off even longer and will cook less and less hot meals. The government have tried to call this a green tax. We call it a DEATH tax as more and more people will die of Hypothermia (death by freezing) because they can't afford heating. If the government have mucked up the economy and need more money then tax the rich (they can afford it) not the poor. Don't be fooled by the governments talk of rebates - these will only help a very, very few people and will be worth nothing to most of us.

For all their fine words the Labour & Liberal parties have done nothing to stop this. Like the Poll tax it's up to us - the people it will hurt the most - to stop it happening. There is a huge amount of opposition to this tax around the country. A number of groups are already campaigning against this tax. In Haringey we intend to fight this tax on fuel, but like the campaign against the Poll Tax it needs people to get involved and help run it. If you have any ideas about how to beat this tax and/or want to get involved in a campaign then call us. Otherwise the government will get its way and friends & relatives of our will die next winter.

HOSPITAL OCCUPIED

University College Hospital (UCH) has recently been occupied by striking workers (nurses, porters, etc) because the government is threatening to cut jobs, reduce the service to patients, and close all or part of the hospital. Many other hospitals in London are in a similar position including North Middlesex and St. Ann's. We need large campaigns to keep our hospitals. For more information about UCH contact "UCH Community Action Committee, c/o BM-CRL, London, WC1N



HELP HELP HELP
It costs us over £500 to produce this issue of Tottenham Community Action. We distribute them free to homes in Tottenham. If you can help with cash send cheques to "Tottenham Solidarity Group". If you can help distribute them fill in the slip below.

WHO & WHAT WE ARE WHO & WHAT WE ARE WHO & WHAT WE ARE WHO & WHAT WE ARE

Tottenham COMMUNITY ACTION is the newsletter of Tottenham Solidarity Group. We are local people who were involved in the anti-Poll Tax campaign in Tottenham, who see the need to fight other attacks on our community. We are not connected to any political group or party. Although the fight against the Poll Tax is not over (the Council is still trying, unsuccessfully, to intimidate us with bailiffs and the threat of jail), other issues that affect our lives and environment also need changing - and NOW. This newsletter is one way we hope to inform local people about these issues. We hold regular meetings which are open to any resident who feels as we do. For more information leave a message for us on 081-802-9804.

Please return this slip to: Tottenham Solidarity Group, BOX 12, 72 West Green Road, London, N15.

- I donate £..... towards the cost of the next issue of Tottenham Community Action (cheques to: "TSG")
- I would like to get involved with Tottenham Solidarity Group and/or Haringey Women's Group
- I can distribute _____ copies of this newsheet at my playgroup / child's school/ street/ estate/ workplace/ other (please state)

Name :

Address & Phone no:

Local Activists Take On Fast Food Giant

Last October 500+ people marched through central London in support of 2 Tottenham residents who are defending themselves against McDonalds in a major High Court libel trial. It starts on 18th April and likely to last for two or three months.

Helen Steel & Dave Morris, (along with hundreds of other groups & individuals) were told by McDonalds in 1990 to stop handing out leaflets critical of the US multinational. Helen & Dave decided to fight this censorship all the way. Since then half a million leaflets have been distributed to the public in defiance of the libel laws!

SO WHAT'S THE BEEF?

The McDonalds Hamburger Corporation is the largest retail property owner and food service organisation in the world, with annual sales of nearly \$20 billion. Behind the slick advertising and the glossy image is the reality - a profiteering racket. They; exploit workers; con customers with over priced mass produced unhealthy "food"; spend £million's yearly on devious adverts and promotions to get us into their stores; destroy the environment with their packaging, waste & cattle ranching; and imprison and murder millions of animals every year.

THE LEGAL COVER UP

There have already been 3 years of pre-trial legal proceedings and wrangles. Libel laws are complex, oppressive and expensive to fight. No legal aid is available. The defendants have had to represent and finance themselves in order to publicise the truth about McDonalds' business. There are 70 defence witnesses including 30 ex-staff and 16 others from

overseas.

The court has broken its own rules by allowing McDonalds to withhold from the defendants a huge number of company documents, and other relevant information. On December 21st 1993 THE COURT SAID THE DEFENDANTS COULD NOT HAVE A JURY TRIAL, as the matter was "too complex" for the public to understand. In fact the opposite is true, the jury would have been likely to be outraged that the case was ever brought at all. It looks like the trial will be a huge cover up and legal sham.

In the light of this the "McLibel 2" have applied to appeal against the denial of these rights and the McLibel Support Campaign is calling for people everywhere to protest against the Corporation and to defend free speech. **They have called the following actions:**

SATURDAY 26th FEBRUARY LEAFLET AT MCDONALDS IN TOTTENHAM HIGH ROAD. NOON TO 2PM. A day of action involving leafleting at local McDonald's stores nationwide. In last October's day of action over 150 stores were targeted.

WINSTON SILCOTT - HOW MUCH LONGER ?

Winston Silcott is serving life for the killing IN SELF DEFENCE of Anthony Smith in 1984. Smith had attacked Winston with a knife in a nightclub after threatening him previously. Because the P.C. Blakelock case came up before the Smith trial Winston was already labelled a murderer in the press and the eyes of the court. He is fighting to have the conviction overturned. Winston and his family are asking people to;

- ✦ write to the Home Secretary and demand that he reopens the case.
- ✦ organise meetings and events to keep the case in the news. They can provide speakers.
- ✦ send money to help the campaign.
- ✦ write to Winston and let him know you're supporting his fight for freedom.

It's only our pressure that brought about the freeing of the Birmingham 6, Guildford 4, etc - so lets keep pushing for Winston. Contact the Winston Silcott Defence Campaign, c/o The Selby Centre, Selby Road, London, N17. 081-365-0448. Information from ABC

STOP
multinationals
promoting
and pushing
unhealthy
synthetic 'food'



organise now for a better world
PEOPLE AND NATURE - NOT PROFITS

MONDAY 18th APRIL 1994 DEMONSTRATE AT THE HIGH COURT, THE STRAND, LONDON, WC2. FROM 9.30AM. Nearest tube Holborn. Bring banners, etc.

THE SATURDAY AFTER THE VERDICT - NATIONWIDE LOCAL PROTESTS.

APPEAL

The defendants need to raise thousands of pounds in order to pay the fares of their witnesses. Any help you can give, or for more information about the case write to: **McLibel Support Campaign, c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1 or phone 071-837-7557.**

DRIVE OUT THE FASCISTS AND RACISTS !

On Sunday 14th November, a 40 year old man Charles Oppong, was brutally attacked by racists on Tottenham High Road. He was waiting at a bus stop on his way to work in Enfield. Two white men approached him shouting racist abuse and then immediately stabbed Charles in the chest, piercing his liver. Even the police have admitted that the attack was "unprovoked & motiveless" and have said that they are treating it as a racist attack. No arrests have been made. On Wednesday 17th November a 100 strong demonstration, called at very short notice, took place at the scene of the attack.

BNP ENCOURAGE ATTACKS

Last year saw a general marked rise in fascist activity and racist attacks. As the fascist british national party (BNP) tries to extend its influence it is vital that active racists and fascists are not allowed to gain a foothold here.

It is clear that wherever fascists organise, and are given a space to put forward their divisive, anti-working class ideas, racists will become more

24 HOUR EVICTION THREAT FOR TENANTS

The government have now announced their new anti-squatters legislation. In their zeal to create even more homeless people they have failed to realise that it could backfire on private and council tenants. The housing charity CHAR predicts that wrongful evictions and harassment of tenants will result from these proposed changes.

WHAT IS THIS NEW LEGISLATION ?

Owners of property can get a court order by "ex-parte proceedings." "Ex-parte" means "in the absence of the occupier" be they squatters or tenants. The court order is then "served" on the occupiers giving them 24 hours to leave. Failure to leave within 24 hours will be a criminal offence punishable by 6 months in jail or a £5,000 fine. It is only when the occupier has been removed and lost their home that they can challenge their own eviction in court.

The Police Federation has already stated that it does not wish to become the lead agency in disputes over rights of occupancy.

confident and violent attacks will increase. The murders of Rolan Adams, Rohit Duggal and Stephen Lawrence and the attempted murder of Quaddas Ali make this link all too clear.

NO PLATFORM MEANS NO PLATFORM

It was good to see the BNP run for their lives from their "paper sale" in September when they were confronted by a determined group of militant anti-fascists. In terms of confidence the BNP seem to have suffered a well publicised and timely defeat.

It's clear that wherever they rear their heads, fascists must be met by strong, combative and community based opposition which will deny them a platform for their ideas. Such an aim can only be achieved through practical, co-ordinated monitoring of fascist activity. We cannot rely on the police, politicians or the state to do anything for us. The police are clearly part of the



problem. Calls for bans against the fascists only give the state more power which it will use against US.

AN ALTERNATIVE

The BNP are trying to cash in on people's disillusionment with "mainstream" politics. Political parties have nothing to offer us except the chance to vote in another boss to tell us what to do. The fascists know this and offer an "easy" answer - blaming different sections of society for the problems that the bosses and politicians have created. In the end the most effective way to defeat the fascists is to show ordinary people that there is an alternative to both mainstream politics and the politics of fascism. This can only come about in practical solidarity as a class, showing that we have the power to take on our real enemies - the government, big business and the ruling class - who live off our backs and want to keep us divided. If we are strong and united in our communities, as a class, racists and fascists will be unable to organise. For more information contact either:

Haringey Anti Fascist Group, Box 29, 136 Kingsland High Street, London, E8 ; or Anti Fascist Action, BM 1734, London, WC1N 3XX.



Public sector tenants are just as much at risk. Council's and Housing Associations "mistakenly" take proceedings thinking tenants are squatters. The protection of a court hearing prior to eviction has allowed errors to be rectified. Michael Howard (the Home Secretary) arrogantly believes such protection is not needed. Tenants therefore face a real possibility of being evicted either by Council administrative mix-up's or by unscrupulous landlords.

As is stands squatters already have no rights in court and the existing laws are sufficient for evicting them quickly. These new draconian measures will only place legal tenants in jeopardy causing them a great deal of hassle. You can help stop these ideas becoming law by;

- ✓ Lobby your tenants or residents association
- ✓ resist and challenge all evictions in every possible way
- ✓ write to Councillors and M.P.s demanding that they openly oppose these new plans.
- ✓ tell others what they plan.
- ✓ hold a meeting on the subject. We can arrange a speaker.

For more information contact us or SQUASH, c/o 2 St. Paul's Road, London, N1. Phone: 071-226-8938.

HOW WILL THIS NEW LEGISLATION EFFECT TENANTS ?

If you are a tenant with a dispute against your landlord you could be thrown onto the streets by a court hearing you are not allowed to attend. Such "ex-parte" proceedings directly contravene Article 10 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. This states that everybody is entitled to a full and fair public hearing at court. This will INCREASE the temptation for landlords to say tenants are squatters in order to gain a quick repossession.