

# Resistance

Colin Roach Centre Bulletin: *Special Policing Issue*

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## BUILDING A WORKING CLASS ALTERNATIVE TO LABOUR AND 'THE LEFT'

In this special bulletin there are numerous examples of the work being undertaken by the members of the Colin Roach Centre, in defending the local community from police violence and crime.

The Colin Roach Centre is the product of years of patient work in Hackney by two organisations - Hackney Community Defence Association and Hackney Trade Union Support Unit. It represents the coming together of community and trade union struggles, breaking down many barriers in the process.

The Colin Roach Centre is not funded by either the council, a charity or a trust. It is funded entirely by local people, either through donations, affiliations from trade unions and/or membership subscriptions. Ten trade union branches are now affiliated - **we would welcome invites to any union meeting to explain our work. Contact us if you're interested.**

We don't think we've got all of the answers and we have members whose politics and experience vary greatly. But we are clear that the way forward is for us to organise *ourselves* within our communities and workplaces - to fight together to improve things - without relying on bureaucrats or politicians. We also think that the only way to build a better system based on people's needs is through a revolution which will replace capitalism. We recognise that others have moved or are moving towards the idea of locally-based solidarity centres. For many of

us, the work of the Republican movement in the north of Ireland-organised around Sinn Fein, has been an inspiration. This work is built around local political "advice" centres. These deal with problems related to benefits, policing, housing but are also linked with a serious political movement which is challenging the British state. It is our view that this is not the only area in which Sinn Fein have demonstrated a greater awareness of how the British state operates! Certainly far greater than those groups in Britain who proclaim their revolutionary pedigree but have learnt nothing from 25 years of War in the north of Ireland.

As a consequence, such groups are not even in a position to analyse how policing operates in this country or to devise any strategies which involve those at the sharp end of policing practices. The Colin Roach Centre is in such a position and that's what makes it unique.

Other groups in Britain -Claimants' groups, anti-motorway campaigning groups and many anarchists, socialists and communists, are all coming together in different ways to unite campaigns within communities. We have been in touch with some of these to share our experiences.

Policing is, of course, only one (major) area of our work - others include supporting strikers, trade unions, building rank and file groups, internationalism including Kurdistan, Bosnia, Turkey, Sudan and Ireland, anti-fascism, lesbian and gay struggle,

immigration, housing, education etc, etc.

The Colin Roach Centre is now one of the only progressive organisations in Hackney (together with the Turkish and Kurdish organisations) with a revolutionary perspective and a growing reputation - as witnessed by the expanding numbers involved with the centre and those becoming members. If you are interested in discussing setting up a similar centre in your area then contact us. Discussions are now taking place within the centre on drawing up an agreed list of policies, a constitution and the creation of a new political organisation - Resistance. If you're interested then contact us and we can send you details. So if you live locally - get involved. *There's lots to do!*

**Arrested?**

**Charged by the  
police?**

**FREE legal advice  
at the  
Colin Roach Centre**

**Mondays 6.30 - 8.00pm**

**You can see solicitors who  
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actions against the  
police.**

**56 Clarence Road  
Hackney E5**

**Tel: 0181 533 7111**

# Policing: Current Work

## The Case of David Ewin

David Ewin was shot dead on February 28th 1995, by an officer from the Metropolitan Police's SO19 firearms unit in Barnes. Two bullets were shot at point blank range through the side window of Ewin's car. No warning was given.

Metropolitan police officer, Paul Condon, praised the officer who killed an unarmed man, as "very brave". The name of the officer responsible for David Ewin's death has not been released. He has not been charged or prosecuted.

This case is the clearest yet of pre-meditated murder by the Metropolitan Police.

### The Campaign

The campaign demands:  
that the police officer who shot dead David Ewin is suspended, pending prosecution for murder.

That Paul Condon retracts his statement of commendation to the officer who murdered David Ewin and offers an apology to David's widow, Sarah and their son.

A public enquiry into the events surrounding the incident.

### What You Can Do

Arrange speakers at your trade union branch, community group or organisation.

Affiliate to the campaign.

Attend the joint picket - Justice for David Ewin Campaign with the Free Malcolm Kennedy / Justice for Patrick Quinn on the first Monday of every month (details over).

## The Case of Kwanele Siziba

Kwanele Siziba died on the 27th April 1994. Kwanele was a visitor from Zimbabwe. She fell to her death from the twelfth floor of her sister's flat in Hackney. On the morning of the 27th, a bailiff and two police officers came to the flat to serve notice of a fine to someone else in the flat. Witnesses report that the behaviour of the officers was very threatening. They were shouting and kicking the door.

Kwanele was admitted to the UK on a temporary visa but extended her visit due to the fact that she broke her wrist. Kwanele had sometimes mentioned Joy Gardner who had died at the hands of the authorities. She had also expressed fear at the way deportations are handled in this country. She was so terrified that this was an immigration raid, she attempted to climb over the balcony, to the floor below.

When Kwanele tragically fell, the police left her body uncovered for hours. The police abused the investigation as an opportunity to check the immigration status of local residents.

### The Campaign

Friends and relatives of Kwanele have set up the Kwanele Siziba Memorial Campaign to demand justice, to keep the memory of Kwanele alive and to ensure that there will be no more victims of the Government's brutal enforcement of immigration controls.

### What You Can Do

Arrange speakers and raise the issue at your trade union branch, community group or organisation

Affiliate to the Memorial Campaign

Get involved in immigration / anti-deportation work

## The Case of Mogous Abay

Mogous Abay died on June 30th 1990. His death and the events leading up to it are real cause for concern. He was found on the ground, three floors below his brother's flat in Holburn. His brother, friends and supporters are convinced that Mogous did not commit suicide and they dispute the pathologist's report that his death was caused by a fall.

Mogous's brother, Alemseged, is convinced that Mogous was murdered. The police claimed that they arrived to find Mogous lying in a pool of blood. However, no witness at the scene saw any blood either on Mogous's body or his clothes. When Alemseged asked for the return of his brother's clothes, the police refused claiming they had burnt them. Neighbours also report that they did not hear any sound which would have indicated a body falling from over 30 feet. Alemseged reports being harassed when he questioned the police version of events. He has continued to argue that Mogous did not commit suicide.

### The Campaign

Earlier this year, financial support was taken away from Alemseged when the Legal Aid Board refused to increase the amount above £10,000, to pay the solicitor and barrister. The Friends of Mogous Abay are appealing for support.

### What You Can Do

Make a donation towards legal costs to allow an appeal to go ahead.

Write a letter arguing for legal aid to be restored.

Arrange speakers at your trade union branch, community group or organisation.

Pick up leaflets to distribute at your workplace.

## The Case of Malcolm Kennedy / Patrick Quinn

Patrick Quinn was killed in Hammersmith police station on Christmas Eve 1990. The police charged Malcolm Kennedy with murder. Kennedy maintains he saw police officers assault Quinn. After four court hearings, Kennedy was eventually convicted of manslaughter in May 1994 and is currently serving a nine year prison sentence.

Hammersmith police officers committed criminal offences and framed an innocent man. Quinn's death was not properly investigated by the police - most of the papers have since disappeared and the police did not bother to interview key witnesses. One police officer, PC Giles, who played a key role in the case, became ill as a result of the incident and did not give evidence. Another officer, Edward Henery, resigned with 17 disciplinary charges outstanding against him. He refused to answer questions put by Kennedy's defence and was fined £500 for contempt of court.

### The Campaign

Hackney Community Defence Association at the CRC and Hammersmith and Fulham Irish Community Forum have joined together to campaign for justice for Patrick Quinn and Malcolm Kennedy. The campaign is calling for a judicial inquiry into the case.

[Hammersmith and Fulham Irish Forum, 44 Coniger Road, London SW6. Tel: 0181 741 0466]

### What You Can Do

Write to Malcolm Kennedy, Prisoner no. MB0292, Blantyre House, Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2NA.

Sign the petition. Copies available from the campaign.

Buy a copy of "Who Killed Patrick Quinn?", £3

Write to your MP / the Home Office expressing your concern about the case.

Raise the issue in your trade union, political organisation, or community group.

Picket Hammersmith police station, the first Monday of every month, 6-7pm.

#### "Who Killed Patrick Quinn? The Framing of Malcolm Kennedy"

A pamphlet by Hackney Community Defence Association 1994 Malcolm Kennedy did not receive a fair trial. The jury was not asked the simple question - "Did he, or didn't he murder Patrick Quinn?" - they had to decide whether it was Kennedy or a police officer who committed the crime. The end result is a miscarriage of justice which will haunt the British criminal justice system in the same way as the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four cases.

Pamphlet available from the Colin Roach Centre, £3

## The Case of Andrew Davey

Andrew Davey was found dead on 22nd July 1995. He was 35 years old and had lived on the Pembury Estate for 8-9 years. In the early hours of the 22nd, he was assaulted about 200 yards from his home. The assault was witnessed by 2 police officers, passing in a car. He was escorted home by other officers. He collapsed on the doorstep and an ambulance was called. He refused medical attention. It was decided that he was very drunk. Paramedics and police left Andy in his flat. A neighbour found Andy at around 1.30pm on the 22nd. He had bled to death from a ruptured spleen. He had two, possibly three broken ribs.

Several questions have arisen about Andy's treatment after the assault:

*Why was Andy not sectioned and made to accept medical treatment? He had been assaulted and was clearly in distress.*

*If Andy was as drunk as the police say, why was he left sitting on his bedroom floor and not placed in the recovery position?*

*How, when there is evidence to show that Andy was assaulted, can the police persist in saying that his death was due to natural causes?*

No date has been given for the inquest into Andy's death. The grief being suffered by his family is made worse by the fact that the police seem totally disinterested in finding out who assaulted Andy Davey, which may or may not have led to his death. Or perhaps the police do know who did it and are now in a position to further destabilise the community by directly controlling these thugs and cowards!

Andy's friends and family would like to thank the Colin Roach Centre for all the help and support it has given over the last few months.

### Defendants' Information Service (DIS)

DIS is a new service which provides information to solicitors. DIS has developed a computer database to process information about criminal cases, police complaints and civil actions against chief police officers.

Information is only available to lawyers who make an enquiry about a case. DIS is registered under the Data Protection Act.

DIS is a non-profit making company which aims to invest in research and community development.

Defendants' Information Services  
PO Box 7459  
London N16 6QQ  
Tel / Fax: 0181 806 4952



## Cops pay up

Due to the policing work done by Hackney Community Defence Association at the Colin Roach Centre, thousands of pounds have recently been awarded by the Metropolitan Police in out of court settlements, to victims of police crime:

Anson King - £70,000

\*R.K - £76,000

\*R.H - £17,500

(\* names withheld as police officers involved may face prosecution).

The Colin Roach Centre presently has a further 20-25 outstanding cases.

### Justice Denied

(a.k.a Justice for Joy) - a video by  
Migrant Media {50 mins 1995}

This film examines how the media carried out a character assassination of Joy Gardner in order to justify the way in which she was killed. Justice Denied asks why senior police officers and the immigration service did not face charges for their involvement in the incident.

Throughout Justice Denied the family and friends of Joy Gardner, Kwanele Siziba and Joseph Nnalue speak out about the climate of fear created after Joy's death, which led to more deaths.

Migrant Media - tel: 0171 254 9701 Fax: 0171 241 2387

## What to do if you get stopped by the police

Stop and search has become the brutal edge of street policing and young people are on the front line. The reality of stop and search is the routine criminalisation and harassment of our communities and the increase in the brutality against youth. *By knowing your rights you are in a stronger position to prevent the police abusing their powers and our community.*

The police can stop and search you *without* arresting you. But they must tell you what they are looking for. *Report any stop and search to the Colin Roach Centre.*

#### On the street if you are stopped and searched:

Stay calm, cooperate and give your right name and address.

Note down all the officers' names and numbers.

The police officer must make a record of

any search, including why it occurred.

A police officer cannot ask you to remove anything more than an outer coat, jacket or gloves in public.

If arrested, shout to a witness to contact the Colin Roach Centre and your friends and relatives.

Remember, under the law, the police are not supposed to sexually, racially or physically abuse you, whether you are under arrest or not.

#### Juveniles: If you are 17 or under:

A parent or guardian or an "appropriate adult" must be present before any questioning can take place.

It is important to have a solicitor present.

#### In the police station:

In the absence of a solicitor-

Do Not accept a caution

Do Not sign or make any written statements

Do Not admit to any offence until you have received legal advice.

Do inform the police that you require the presence of a legal representative. Keep silent until the solicitor arrives. Even then, we would advise people not to make a statement to the police.

### Advice and support sessions At the Colin Roach Centre

#### **Mondays 6.30-8.00pm:**

Free legal advice. You can see solicitors who specialise in Criminal Law and complaints against the police

#### **Every Wednesday 2.00-4.00pm**

#### **Every Saturday 11.30-1.30pm**

For advice and support on workplace issues, anti-fascism, housing etc

If you can get involved in any of the above campaigns or would like more information on anything in this bulletin, please contact the **Colin Roach Centre** at 56 Clarence Rd. E5

or call: **0181 533 7111**

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Please send me more info. about \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a membership form \_\_\_\_\_