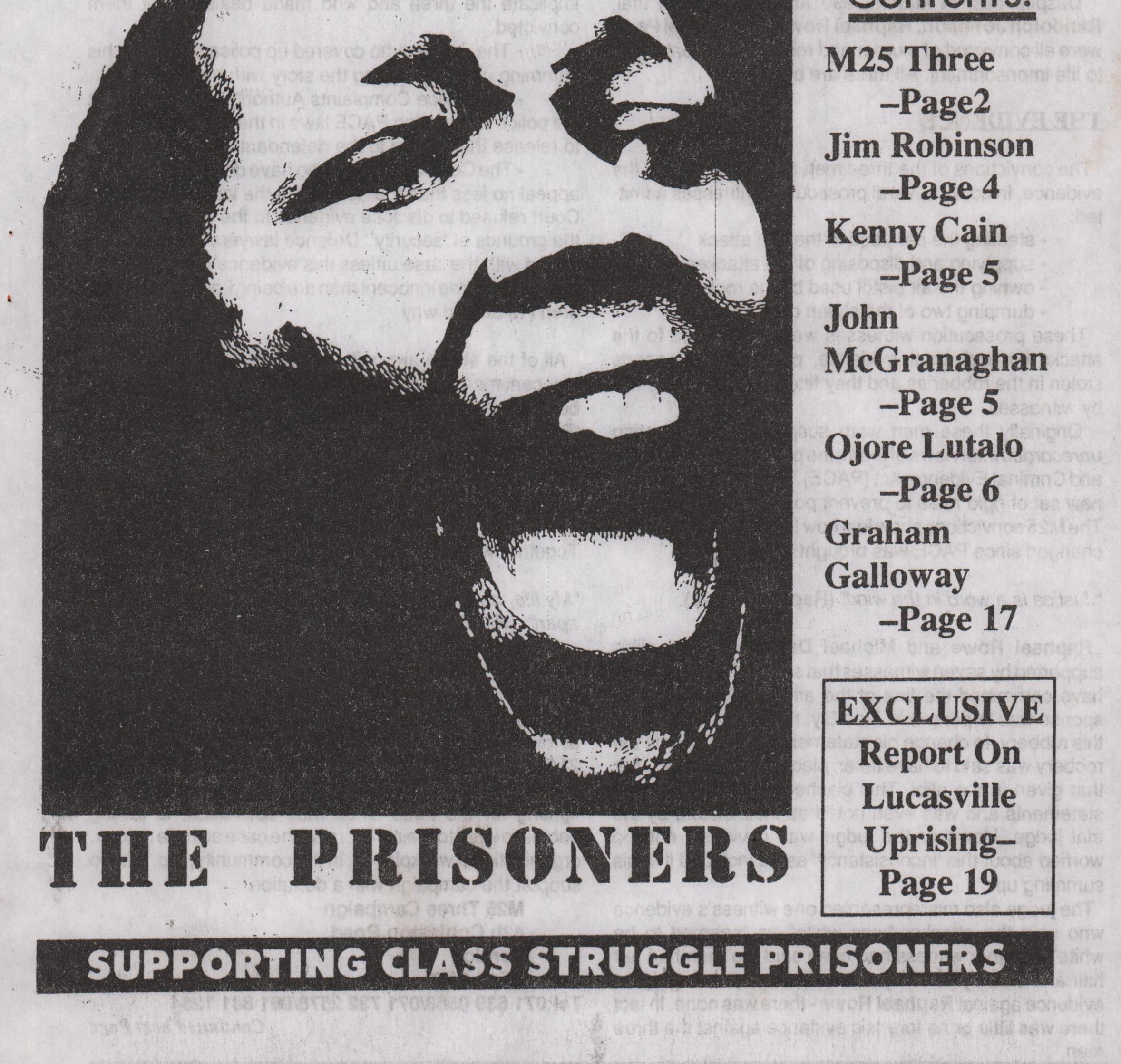


Contents:



PRISONER UPDATES

M25 THREE

On the night of 15/16th December 1988, three masked men conducted a series of violent attacks just off the M25 motorway. At the end of the attacks, they had killed one man, wounded another, robbed two houses and stolen four cars. They were immediately labelled the "M25 Gang" by the press and a £25000 reward was put up for their capture.

"Two white men and a black man committed this" (Randolph Johnson)

The victims of the robberies stated that at least one of the robbers was white. Cars used in the robberies were seen dumped by 2 white men. The police announced that they were hunting "two white men and a black man". Despite this, in March 1990 after a six week trial, Randolph Johnson, Raphael Rowe and Michael Paris were all convicted of murder and robbery and sentenced to life imprisonment. All three are black.

"When is a person a human being and not judged by the colour of his skin?' (Michael Davis)

The transcripts of the police interviews show that from the start the police had aimed to convict the three, despite the fact that some prosecution witnesses had been involved in the actions of December 1988. The cops knew who they wanted behind bars. Once again three black men fitted the frame.

THE GUILTY

In this case, other than the men who actually committed the deeds of December 1988, the other guilty ones are: - The police who lied and 'persuaded' witnesses to implicate the three and who made deals to get them convicted.

THE EVIDENCE

1 :

men.

The convictions of the three men flew in the face of the evidence. In court, several prosecution witnesses admitted:

- stealing the car used in the first attack
- supplying and disposing of the attackers' masks
- owning the air pistol used by the robbers
- dumping two of the stolen cars

These prosecution witnesses were also linked to the attacks by fingerprint evidence, possession of goods stolen in the robberies and they fitted descriptions given by witnesses.

Originally these men were suspects. In conducting unrecorded interviews of them, the police broke the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE), much trumpeted as a new set of rigid rules to prevent police fitting people up. The M25 convictions show just how little things have really changed since PACE was brought in.

- The Judge, who covered up police trickery in his summing up while spicing the story with his own views.

- The Police Complaints Authority who found that the police had broken PACE laws in the case yet refused to release their report to the defendants.

- The Court of Appeal, who have delayed the mens' appeal no less than four times. On the last occasion the Court refused to disclose evidence to the defendants on the grounds of 'security'. Defence lawyers refused to go ahead with the case unless this evidence was released. So now the three innocent men are being kept in prison but aren't to be told why.

All of the above are guilty of conspiring to keep three innocent men behind bars. However, they are believed to be front men for a shadowy criminal conspiracy known as "British Justice", believed to be responsible for thousands of people's lives being destroyed. It intimidates and isolates.

It is only by standing together - whether inside or out that we can expose and ultimately prevent frame ups. Together we'll crack it.

"Justice is a word in the wind" (Raphael Rowe).

Raphael Rowe and Michael Davis both had alibis supported by seven witnesses that showed they could not have committed the first of the attacks. The police response was to persuade Alan Ely, the surviving victim of this robbery, to change his statement so that the time the robbery was said to have taken place was moved to after that given in the alibi. This clashed with other witness statements and was even noted as inconsistent by the trial judge. However the judge was obviously not too worried about this 'inconsistency' as he included it in his summing up.

The judge also misrepresented one witness's evidence who said the attacker "was white" as "seemed to be white". Another witness had even said the man had fair hair and blue eyes! The judge said there was fingerprint evidence against Raphael Rowe - there was none. In fact there was little or no forensic evidence against the three

"My life, my family's life have been barehandedly torn apart". (Raphael Rowe)

It is vital that Raphael Rowe, Randolph Johnson and Michael Davis receive as much support as possible. Their appeal date has been set for June 21st. It is vital that as many people turn out for the picket organised for the 21st. It starts at 9am at the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, London WC1. The M25 Campaign which has been fighting for the three since their conviction, is asking people to write to their MPs, raise the case at trade unions, organisations, workplaces, in the community, etc. Also to support the campaign with a donation.

M25 Three Campaign **42b Copleston Road** London **SE154AD** Tel:071 639 0568/071 732 2578/081 881 1254

Continued next Page

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PRISONER UPDATES

Write to the M25 Three and show them your support:

Raphael Rowe

MP3660

HMP Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7RP

Michael Davis MP3661 HMP Wormwood Scrubs, Du Cane Rd, London W12

Randolph Johnson MP3903 HMP Long Lartin, S.Littleton, Evesham, Worcester WR11 5TZ

Robert Taylor

Robert Taylor was fitted up by Manchester Police for armed robbery and had his appeal turned down last year. He has now been moved to Frankland prison. He is being tried for escaping from prison after his appeal was refused. More information is available from Manchester ABC, by sending an SAE.

Write to:

Robert Taylor, AK3468, HMP Frankland, PO Box 40, Finchale Rd, Brasside, Durham DH1 5YD.

DTDADATAXI MIDAKA



On the 5th May, framed prisoners in Long Lartin jail went on a three day hunger strike to draw attention to their cases and to show that theirs were not isolated miscarriages of "justice" but part of standard procedure and to show solidarity amongst all framed prisoners.

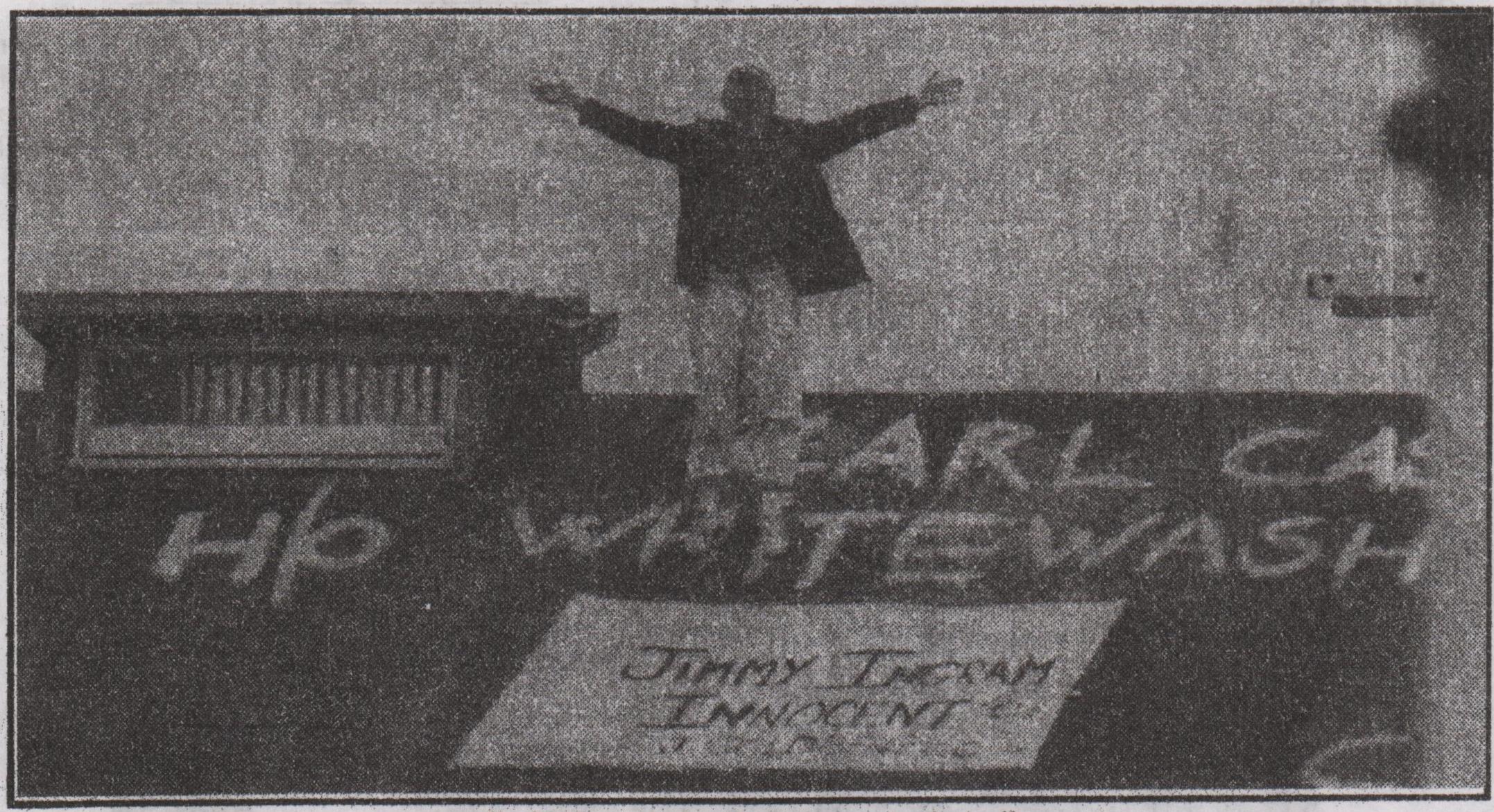
To support the prisoner's hunger strike, innocence, an umbrella group of defence campaigns and supporters called for a picket of the Home Office on May 5th to demand that an independent body be set up to review miscarriages of justice. Over 200 people turned up from all over the country; family campaigns, prisoner support organisations and anti-racist groups amongst others. It was an excellent demo with a good atmosphere. Voices were raised in anger to let the Home Office know that their class justice will not go unchallenged and to demand the immediate release of prisoners. A list of framed prisoners was read out and there was a great feeling of solidarity amongst all, with speakers from defence campaigns and others who had themselves been released on appeal such as Judith Ward and Billy Power. This was then followed by a march to the Houses of Parliament. A meeting was held in the House of Commons to talk to various MPs about the setting up of the independent review body.

This demo was felt to be a very important step forward for those involved in prison struggles - the solidarity shown and the refusal to allow framed prisoners to be forgotten. We need more demonstrations like this and more people to be involved in prison struggles and support work.

Contact:

INNOCENCE 46 Atherfold Road Clapham London SW4

PRISONER UPDATES Jim Robinson - Up On The Roof



Jim Robinson during his rooftop protest in April

On Saturday 17th April, campaigners and family held a demonstration outside Gartree prison, where Jim Robinson of the "Carl Bridgewater 4" was still protesting on the roof after 54 days. Jim had braved snowstorms and freezing temperatures and aggravated arthiritis in his hands, sleeping in a makeshift plastic shelter on the roof. With the fifth enquiry since the original verdicts failing to return the case to the Court of Appeal on February 3rd this year, Jim had had enough and took to the roof stating in a recent interview "They either forcibly remove me, we get Home Office guarantees re a Royal Commission and an Independent Hearing, or I'll stay here until I'm in a body bag".

Those 14 years since the conviction in 1978 have seen Michael Hickey, another of the Three, spend 89 nights on the roof of Gartree over the winter of '83-'84, enduring temperatures of -14C and getting frostbite in the process. Vincent Hickey has gone on four hunger strikes, one lasting 44 days, and a month long roof-top protest. Pat Molloy, a fourth man jailed, died in prison in 1981. There was never any forensic evidence linking the four men to Yew Tree Farm where newspaperboy Carl Bridgewater was shot in '78; no fingerprints; no witnesses; no murder weapon; no stolen goods found, and not even the vehicles the Crown supposed the Four had used. The only evidence against the men, like in so many other cases, were confessions made to (guess who) the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad - confessions that were made under 'persuasion' and have since been retracted. Over the years, a number of the prosecution witnesses have been discredited; Tex Ritter, who claimed Jim Robinson had confessed to him on remand was found to be a "pathological liar" by

the Appeal Court, while Helen Johnston who said she overheard Jim and Pat Molloy talking about the murder, was jailed for deception, having changed her story several times. On the other hand, important alibi statements for the men's defence were dismissed by appeal judges on several occasions without any reasons being given.

More recently a dossier of new evidence was collated, containing testimonies from four experts on language analysis, all concluding that the original statement allegedly made by Pat Molloy which incriminated the men, was a fake. Family and supporters remain stoical in the face of the recent setback of an Appeal being refused. They have been campaigning for 14 years and have seen hopes raised and dashed. Ann Whelan, mother of Michael Hickey, says "This case will never go away. And it will never go away for a simple reason. The truth is that these men are innocent". Write letters of support to: JIM ROBINSON - HMP Winson Green, West Green Road, Birmingham B18 4A5. MICHAEL HICKEY - Ashworth North Hospital, Maghill, Liverpool L31 1HW. VINCENT HICKEY - C15440, HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5NX. Contact: BRIDGEWATER 4 SUPPORT CAMPAIGN, Houndsfield Lane, Wythell, Birmingham B47 6LS. STOP PRESS: Jim Robinson was recaptured after 80 days on the roof. He was seized while asleep, along with Jimmy Ingram who had joined him in his protest. ALSO: Following a forensic expert announcing that the Home Office had ignored his conclusion that Pat Molloy's confession was fabricated and the foreman of the jury saying he believed the Four were innocent, the case is being referred to the Court of Appeal.

KENNY CAIN

Kenny Cain is a 39 year old deaf anarchist prisoner who was sentenced in April '91 to two years for burglary and affray. He also received 18 months for assaulting his exlover; claiming that they were both drunk and that he hit her with a broom on her shoulder twice, "but not serious", He received 3 1/2 years. Whilst on the run in Holland for 6 months, he spent some time living in a "class war" squat and this experience changed his way of thinking and he became an anarchist.

We would like to make it clear that whilst we in no way condone the assault, we are prepared to support him because of the prejudice he suffers due to his deafness and because of his committment to change his life.

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He has been moved at least once and has been refused parole. He also lost 120 days remission for an assault on a senior officer. He is very isolated due to his deafness. He has had no contact with family or friends.

John McGranaghan -A Case Of Self Defence

PRISONER UPDATES

John McGranaghan was originally fitted up in 1981 for multiple rape. He was convicted of three brutal rapes and was given a life sentence. However he always protested his innocence and constantly fought to clear his name. He went on the roof of several prisons to highlight his innocence, as well as being involved in collective protests about conditions in the special units at Hull and Lincoln Prisons. For 10 years he fought to clear his name, with not only the screws against him but due to a reputation as a 'sex offender', attempts to set other consagainst him too. Five years after his conviction, forensic evidence showed that he could not have committed the third rape as the blood type of the attacker was different to John's. As the rapes were certainly committed by the same man, this eventually led, after many obstructions by the courts, to John being freed on appeal in October 1991. Earlier in the year however he was attacked by screws in Gartree Prison and defended himself. For this he was eventually charged with Grevious Bodily Harm. You might have thought that since the appeal court had freed John and admitted that he had been imprisoned for something he had not done that they might not have pressed the charge for GBH. He has already had one stress-related heart attack since his release. But for the cops and the courts anyone who gets off is one that got away and someone to try and fit up again at the next opportunity. The case wasn't dropped. John's case came up at Leicester Crown Court on the 5th April this year. He was persuaded by his solicitor to plead guilty and was given a two-year sentence, suspended for 18 months. The fact that it was suspended is a subtle admission that this case was a simple attempt at revenge. After the trial it turned out that there was evidence that the solicitor had concealed from John, which might have produced a different result.....a typical case of defence solicitors scratching the back of the prosecution and covering up for the prison system. Hopefully John will be able to live his life now without any more attempts at harassment and revenge. We wish him all the best.

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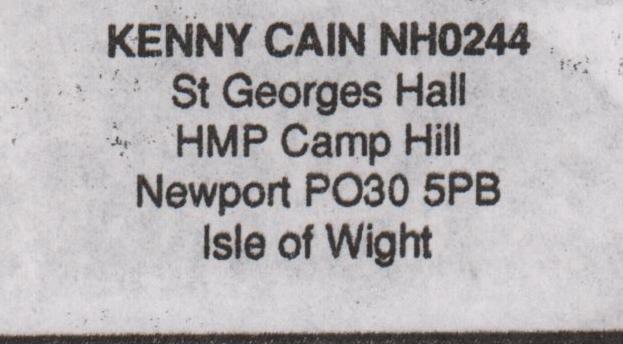
the warders (hill, ding some of the originary them.

Prejudices are often compounded in prison; prison officers and prisoners don't know sign language and they make little effort to communicate with him. He is often treated as stupid and ignored. He is left feeling frustrated, lonely and angry. For deaf people deprived of company with other deaf people, or those with whom they can communicate, communication is limited to physically mundane things and bodily needs. He is denied many basic rights and the authorities simply won't accomodate his needs. He is unable to use the telephone because the prison will not fit a minicom keyboard. They also refuse to fit emergency flashing light alarms. They will not adapt the TV for oracle or teletext which would have enabled him to have read subtitles. And he cannot, of course, make use of things such as radios, cassettes, musical instruments or course groups, all of which help to make prison life a bit more bearable.

There is a general misconception about both lip reading and hearing aids. Lip reading is guess work - you don't read each word but look for key words to give you the gist. Speech needs to be clear and slow and not everyone can learn to lip read. Hearing aids will not restore hearing to normal levels - they merely amplify sound, leaving the deaf person to interpret what little sound they may be able to hear. Deaf prisoners are effectively punished for their deafness and kept in a 'communications-solitary confinement'. Kenny would appreciate letters of support. His expected date of release is September '93.



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PRISONER UPDATES

: BITACHTANK



Ojore Lutalo is a new afrikan Prisoner of War in Trenton prison, New Jersey, who became involved in the Black Liberation Movement and has spent most of his life inside since the early '70s. As he says: "I became involved in the struggle, the war against the fascist state since 1970. I've been an anarchist since 1975 without any regrets. Prior to my involvement in the struggle, I was just another apolitical lumpen here in America." Ojore was inspired by the underground activities of the Black Liberation Army, who in the early '70s fought back against police genocide of black communities by assassinating cops. He was jailed in 1975 for armed robbery, and became an anarchist around this time thanks to the new afrikan anarchist prisoner Kuwasi Balagoon. In 1980, Ojore was paroled but was re-arrested in 1982 after an armed attack on a drug dealer. "The overall strategy behind assaulting drug dealers is to secure monies to finance ones activities and to rid oppressed communities of drug dealers". Ojore was sentenced to 20-40 years and since 1986 has been held in solitary confinement in Trenton's Management Control Unit, where most of the 70 odd prisoners have been isolated for fear of their radical political ideas spreading amongst the prison population. Ojore is one of five Trenton prisoners who are acting with three radical papers to bring a civil suit against the New Jersey Department of Corrections who have issued a directive banning several radical magazines from New Jersey prisons. The suit was filed in february '93. The periodicals banned include the anarchist paper Love and Rage, an autonomous bulletin Arm the Spirit, Black Panther Community News and the Prison News Service. The prisoners contend that the papers are being banned in violation of their constitutional rights since they do not endanger prison security. Below we reprint a short article sent to us by Ojore. We hope that people will write to him, he welcomes letters.

selves) could be referring to the prisoners as 'residents' as if we were on vacation or something else in that regard!

Penologists control the prisons and it's their goal to distort the reality of prisons and prisoners by identifying prisons as 'correctional facilities' as opposed to 'prisons' and 'penitentiaries', while identifying prisoners as 'inmates' or 'residents' as opposed to 'prisoners' in their endeavours to lull the general public into thinking that conditions in captivity are humane and that the warders operating the prisons (spelt concentration camps) are caring human beings and the captive audience being detained (they use the word inmates) are being rehabilitated and not actually being punished as the supporters of the prisoners out there in the communities at large are asserting! Prison wardens are now referred to as superintendants or administrators as opposed to 'wardens'! Prison security guards are in fact referred to as 'correction officers' as opposed to 'security guards' because such titles sound more humane and less threatening....Again, by giving prisons and prisoners a less radical label, they (the functionaries who operate these concentration camps and their supporters) hope people out there in the communities at large will forget about all of the inhuman conditions of prisons "

OJORE N.LUTALO CN-861059860, TRENTON, NEWJERSEY, NEVUJERSET, M.C.U.08625

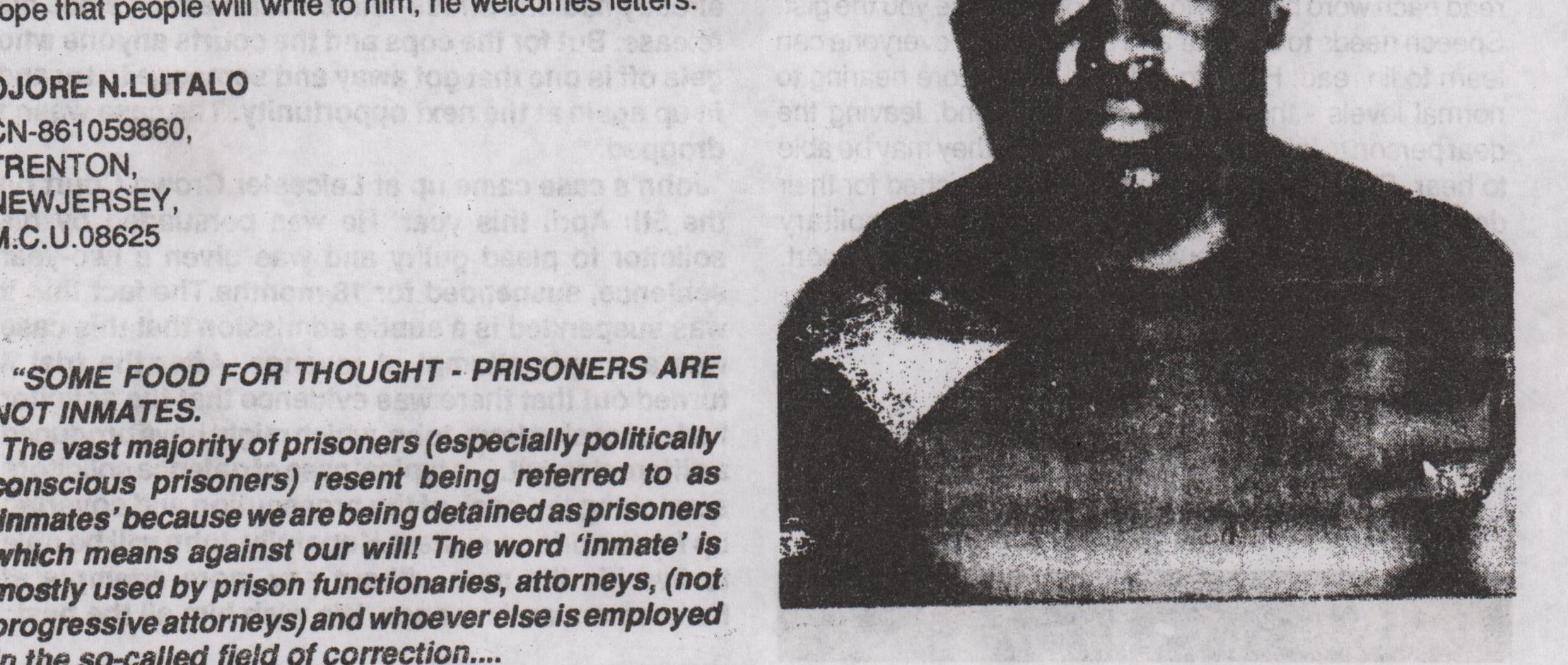
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John's case came up at Lafoes

The vast majority of prisoners (especially politically conscious prisoners) resent being referred to as 'inmates' because we are being detained as prisoners which means against our will! The word 'inmate' is mostly used by prison functionaries, attorneys, (not progressive attorneys) and whoever else is employed in the so-called field of correction

It's very important to acknowledge how languages become sterilised and de-radicalised and that soon, the warders (including some of the prisoners them-



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LAW LORDS SPLIT -BUT SPANNER MEN JAILED

The Spanner Judgement, which has just been published by the Law Lords, represents a serious attack on all adults' sexual civil liberties. The law has been changed. Every mark, cut, bruise, love bite left on your body as a result of consenting sex is now to be considered as an act of Criminal Assault.

In the Spanner Case, 16 gay men were convicted of various charges of assault for what was actually consenting sex. Five of these appealed to the Law Lords. At this moment in time, two men (of 5 appellants) are in prison - spending 23 hours a day in Solitary, for 7-12 weeks. The Spanner case is about all adults' right to enjoy and explore their bodies and their sexuality. The right to give or withold consent and to have that consent recognised. In this case, throughout the three years of investigation, the court appearances and the two appeals, the consent of those involved was dismissed as "immaterial". But alongside the Spanner Case, a campaign -Countdown on Spanner - has emerged. This is a mixed campaign of heterosexuals, bisexuals, lesbians and gay men, most of whom are Sado Masochists. Uniquely, they have lobbied Law Lords, fought a high profile media campaign and have successfully challenged the traditional left/liberal views and myths surrounding Sado Masochism. The Campaign, rather than be daunted by the failure to win the Law Lords appeal, have now launched a fundraising campaign to support the Appeal to the European Court. They have also claimed a victory the Law Commission's decision to investigate the whole issue of consenting sex, assault and control of the body.

PRISONER UPDATES KENNY CARTER

Kenny Carter was framed for the murder of Darren Brook in Durham prison in 1990, with whom he was sharing a cell while inside for robbery. All the evidence points to suicide, but to cover up British prisons' appalling suicide record, Kenny was fitted up for Darren's death. Since then he has been protesting against this and as a result has constantly been beaten up, harassed and moved from one high security prison to another.

Kenny was recently in Parkhurst prison on the Isle of Wight where he went on hunger strike in Feburary. His demands while on strike were:

- to reopen his case

- to approve his visitors (as a Category A prisoner his visitors have to be vetted by the

police)

- that all prison officers working in the prison kitchen wear the proper gear and abide by the Health and Hygiene Act.

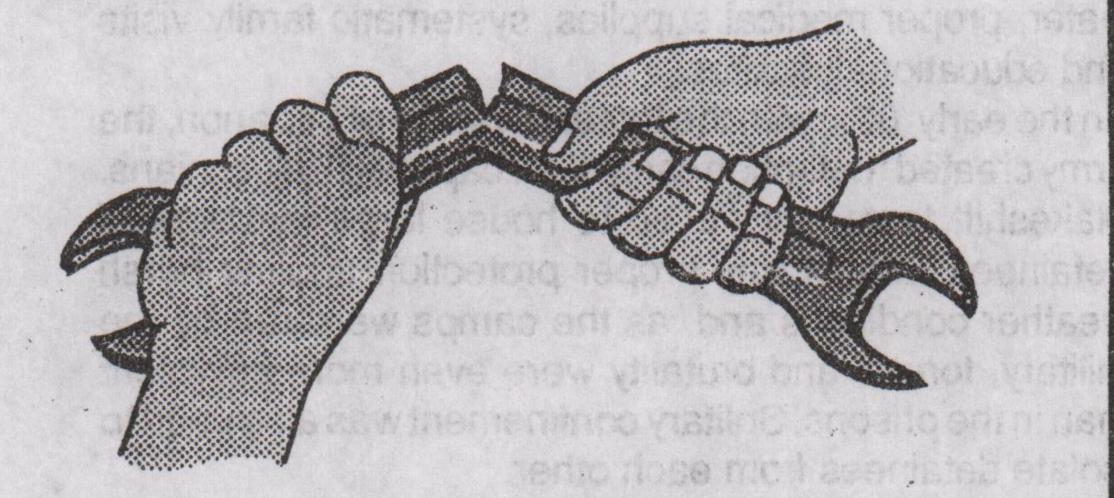
This last demand was due to Kenny seeing a screw pick up a dirty mop with his bare hands and then handle food without washing them. He is now off hunger strike though still refusing prison food and seemingly little has changed. Urgent action is still needed to force some movement on his case.

Write to: The Governor, HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX. Ask why the Health and Hygiene Act is not being followed and what is being done to improve conditions.

Write to: The Home Secretary, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1. Demand that Kenny's case be re-opened.

Write to: Kenny Carter, AD3434, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes, MK4 4DA.

More details on Kenny's case can be obtained by



Please send letters of support for ROLAND JAGGARD and TONY BROWN, donations and for more information, contact:

COUNTDOWN ON SPANNER c/o Central Station 37 Wharfedale Road London N1

writing to London ABC. Please send an SAE.

SSINATIONS

THE BREAKE

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM KEVIN GLOVER

Below is an article taken from a letter from Kevin Glover. a prisoner in Texas, USA. London ABC would like to say that we do not agree with everything Kevin says. In particular it has to be said that the kind of change he talks about is unlikely to take place without being part of a social upheaval that would have to destroy the present world order. However we have printed it here to start off a dialogue on what we replace prisons with. How do we deal with anti-social activities if we aren't going to lock people up? We do not think it is good enough to say "it'll be all ok after the revolution" or to refuse to discuss it because it might not offer easy solutions. If we are going to change anything at all, it will be through working out ideas and methods by discussion and swapping experiences. We welcome responses on this matter, especially from prisoners. Please say if you want us to print your name/ address.

up? Just deserts, aye! If it wasn't such a waste of resources, I'd almost find it humorous. At any rate, it might help some people I hope; they may make a law that would stop imprisonment for some types of burglary and simple possession crimes. Hopefully they'll legalise drugs some day!

Me and my friend were discussing a few things the other day and we came to the conclusion that all prisons should be done away with in toto. Instead of having prisons, we should implement psychologists to treat people, since most violent crimes evolve from emotional disorder. All 'vice' crimes should be made legal (drugs, prostitution etc). The word 'crime' should be removed from the societal dictionary. People who perpetrate violent acts towards society or humanity would be treated by psychologists placing greater emphasis on rehabilitation rather than punishment (as our present system is so rife with). This sort of treatment would afford all the luxuries any person would require and would not expose them to deprivation of dignity or humanity during treatment. Our present modes of dealing with crimes are archaic and unrealistic as well as futile. Prisons are ancient institutions and as of yet have not proved themselves to deter crime or rehabilitate individuals but, on the contrary, tend to fuel animosity towards society. Violence begets violence. Prison ignores the sociological and psychological causes of what we call crime and is in effect like putting a bandaid on a gunshot wound. In this sense, prison is a detriment to the progress of society and humanity. It is for this reason that I believe that we should gravitate towards a more humane, intelligent, humanistic approach to these problems and do away with the medieval practice of harsh punishment-oriented incarceration. Its not practical and is a hindrance to progress. "

"Right now in the state of Texas, there is a massive prison construction going on, which is costing mucho bucks and at the same time the public school (ie. state schools, not private ones) system is having financial problems. Well, currently Texas is in a legislative session and they are trying to enact some strict sentencing guidelines. The guidelines we are following are arbitrary, for example a guy in one county could get 40 years for 1/4 gram of cocaine or heroin, whereas in another county he could get 5 years. So they are trying to set strict sentencing guidelines in order to free up more prison space. Also I think it would make people do a little less time for less serious offences and cut out parole altogether. California tried to build its way out of overcrowding as well as Florida. California's prisons are all filled up now and Florida has some brand new prisons it can't even afford to staff. How's that for a capitalist fuck-

Palestinian Prison Struggles

In the last ABC Bulletin we included a report on the water, proper medical supplies, systematic family visits and educational facilites.

hunger strike by palestinian prisoners in September last year. We have since received more information including more detailed reports of the strike and background information. The following article is drawn from several sources.

THE PALESTINIAN PRISONERS MOVEMENT

There has been a collective struggle by palestinian prisoners since the early '70s when many were forced to work in factories producing military clothing and tents. Some of the first resistors took part in a collective refusal to continue under forced labour. As a result many prisoners were beaten (even worse than before) and confined to cells for 22 or more hours a day. In 1976 there was a 45day hunger strike in Ashalan Prison during which one man died. Out of this, however, came some "official recognition" of the 'Committees of Prisoners' Representatives' and the end of forced labour. In the '80s, the prison struggles carried on - this time demanding better access to clean

In the early '80s, with the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the army created "detention camps" for captured Palestinians. Makeshift tents were used to house large numbers of detainees without any proper protection against harsh weather conditions and, as the camps were run by the military, torture and brutality were even more prevalent than in the prisons. Solitary confinement was also used to isolate detainees from each other.

In 1985 Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Ahmed Jibril faction held a prisoner exchange during which 1000 palestinian prisoners were released. Many had been detained since 1968 and had formed the backbone of the Prisoners Movement. At the same time, the prison authorities began an offensive abolishing hardwon concessions and banning the Prisoners Representaion Committees. Protests against the changes met with tear gas, solitary confinement and the elimination of fruit and vegetables from prison food. However, the authorities' belief that they could abolish these concessions without resistance was mistaken and in March 1987, over 70% of prisoners went on hunger strike.

With the beginning of the Intifada in December 1987, a new generation of military detention centres sprang up to hold the massive numbers of those arrested; including many administratively detained without charge or trial. **Between December 1987 and December 1991, over 90,000 Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank were arrested.** Numbers are now estimated to be well over 100,000. The Palestinians are still subjected to rigged courts, extended periods of detention and isolation, systematic torture, pressure to plead guilty and plea bargaining and harsh sentences.



For more information, contact: Alternative Info Center, PO Box 31417, Jerusalem Israel Womens Organisation for Political Prisoners, PO Box 31811, 61318 Tel Aviv Israel Thanks also to the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, BM PSA, London WC1N 3XX.

BRIXTON'S 'F'WING

March this year finally saw the official closure of Brixton prison's 'F' wing, three years after conditions there were condemned by the Chief Inspector of Prisons, Stephen Tumim. 'F' wing was notorious for its appalling state and became known as "Fraggle Rock", as it held those cons who were awaiting psychiatric reports or who had been segregated because they were 'disturbed'. It was originally opened in 1972 as an annexe of the prison hospital. Prisoners on 'F' wing were usually held in rundown cells with cardboard furniture and broken down heating. So-called violent or psychotic cons were often moved to strip cells with no furniture. Between 1989-90, 14 prisoners killed themselves in Brixton nick - seven of them on 'F' wing. Even a screw topped himself. Many of these men had been identified as being at risk, yet they were dumped on 'F' wing and left to die. The scandal created by the suicides and the exposure of conditions on the wing, helped to force the Prison Service to close it down and relocate the 2-300 prisoners a year who would normally pass through. This is in line with several changes at Brixton which have reduced the numbers there from over 1000 to 600. There is also a new 'health care centre' which is supposedly equipped to help 'disturbed' prisoners via therapy etc. The prison's 'Health Care Manager'(!) claims that use of the Mental Health Act in the prison and at court is leading to more people going to mental hospitals rather than to prison. For many of them of course, this just means one prison rather than another, where you'll be drugged, controlled psychologically and likely to end up spending many years inside, whilst being labelled mentally disturbed for life. The closure of 'F' wing is a welcome move, especially to the prisoners who have suffered life there and relatives of the young men who have died there. But it is a smokescreen, in common with most prison reforms. The prison authorities think that they can fool people that things have changed: shunting prisoners around, who otherwise would have gone to 'F' wing, or by re-vamping the cells and changing the name to 'G' wing! Most people who end up on the psychiatric wing of any prison are there because of, or partly due to, the murderous mentality of prison life. The prisoners who killed themselves on 'F' wing were effectively sentenced to death by the prison system.

THE SEPTEMBER 1992 HUNGER STRIKE "Our empty bowels as the sole weapon".

None of the prisoners' longstanding grievances overcrowding, lack of medical treatment, solitary confinement and arbitary 'rules' - had been addressed. So in September '92, prisoners in Jrieid, Nafha, Ashgelan and Beer Sheva went on hunger strike, quickly followed by other prisons. By October 5th, ten prisons with about 5,000 prisoners were involved. In addition, several of the army-run detention centres joined, including over 4000 at the huge 'Ansar 3' (Ketziot) camp. The demands are too long to list, but focus on the abolition of the detention centres and of isolation units, the freeing of detainees under 18, rights of appeal against sentences, longer visits and better contact with families. Among the demands that were met: prisoners' representatives were allowed to move between sections, longer family visits, concessions on body searches, allowances of toiletries, clothing etc, and education. Some specific demands in individual prisons were also met. However, in many cases, the new concessions simply returned conditions to the state they had been in before the 1985 offensive against the prisoners. It is worth noting that despite massive repression, the strikers won some demands and that there was a corresponding upsurge in the Intifada during the hunger strike. Palestinians also showed their solidarity by the use of sit-down strikes, demonstrations and solidarity strikes. But as with struggles all over the world, you have to keep on fighting or the concessions will be snatched back never believe their promises! We need a world intifada from Wormwood Scrubs to the West Bank, from Gartree to Gaza.



Elizabeth Jenkinson died last November in Horton Hospital in Epsom, Surrey. She was being detained there under the Mental Health Act and had collapsed and died after being injected with three times the maximum recommended dose of Droperidol - an 'antipsychotic' drug that was used to 'calm her down'. At the beginning of March this year an open verdict was recorded at her inquest despite the evidence pointing towards the dangerous use of drugs. A similar case at the same hospital a year earlier saw Gina Ditchman dying after receiving antipsychotic drugs in excess of recommended doses.

psychiatry where they supplement the use of physical restraint, prison-like institutions and the notorious Electric Shock Therapy. It is also true to say that persistent government cuts have meant many institutions where some of the workforce may be committed to trying to help those in their care more often turn to using drugs for restraint due to lack of staff and resources for any alternative approach.But there is also an important shift in emphasis taking place.

HAVE NEITHER ILLUSIONS NOR

Recently a Dispatches programme on Channel 4 documented 52 cases since 1988 of people dying after receiving amounts of antipsychotic drugs way above accepted limits. No records of such cases have been kept by a psychiatric establishment keen to avoid criticism but some suggest there may be as many as one such death a week.

Some cases have gained a certain amount of media attention such as that of Orville Blackwood and Anthony Lloyd Powell (see conference report), but these are only the tip of the iceberg. The cases of Jerome Scott and Valerie Price involved high doses of the drug Haloperidol, while in the case of lan Turnball, SEVEN times the maximum recommended dose of chloropromazol was used to restrain him. lan's family were visiting him at the time and were locked helplessly behind an automatic door in earshot of the struggle that ended in their son's death.

Psychiatric drugs are changing all the time and studies suggest that the data sheets outlining the risks of using such drugs are not used. Adverse reactions are supposed to be reported by the Committee for Safe Medicines but again this is often neglected. With combinations of between 8 and 10 drugs used on some people, this multiplies the risks of taking already dangerous drugs and the liver, which may be able to metabolise one drug, may not be able to cope with a cocktail. Time and time again in the face of clear evidence of misuse, 'open verdicts' are returned at inquests. Another pattern emerges in that in many cases coroners refuse post mortem information to concerned families. The family of Avril Dixon had to hire an independent investigator to get to see a psychiatrists final report, while Sheila Henry, campaigning around the death of her son Anthony Lloyd Powell, had still not received the final pathologists' report after seven years and had to resort to exhuming the body to get an examination done. When information is released, it is often found that the coroner will refuse post mortem information until the day of the inquest so that families are not supplied with all the relevant facts until too late. The reliance on drugs is nothing new in the world of





The latest in a history of scandal surrounding institutions such as Ashworth Special Hospital, Rampton and Broadmoor adds to the general concern to close many of these places and pressure from many concerned with psychiatric abuse has resulted in the government putting a new emphasis on "care in the community". But we should not be fooled. The government is very quiet when the question of resources and support for such a change in approach is raised. Many of those released from institutions have simply swelled the ranks of the homeless. Others fall back on relatives and family, which usually means the burden of care rests on the women in the community with little support, financial or otherwise, from the state. Much as there is a general mistrust of psychiatric institutions, for some people they see little choice in the face of what can be an intolerable home situation.

... Unpredictable and sometimes dangerous or violent behaviour demanding a level of care and attention that many people, caught in a web of work and poverty, simply can't cope with. Some, driven by fear of what an institution may do to a person, try to continue caring at home. In the case of Sheila Henry this care amounted at times to periods when her son was agitated for 24 hours a day, with her having to keep an eye on him and care for him throughout. Many people faced with such a strain and perhaps also more susceptible to the fear and shame that 'abnormal' behaviour can bring see no alternative to an institution.

It was in the light of this dilemma that workshops at the Orville Blackwood Community Campaign Conference proposed the setting up of a support network and also alternative therapeutic communities independant from the state and the obligations that come with funding. No easy task, since it is the same poverty and lack of support that means many families see no alternative to an institution, but in the face of the steady tide of administered drug overdoses it has for many become a case of life and death. To return to government policy, many organisations working in the areas of Mental Health, whilst liking the idea of care in the community see through the rhetoric to the lack of any real funding - it is simply a crude cost-cutting exercise. Also the 1983 Mental Health Act still gives the police and ultimately hospitals sweeping powers to admit and compulsorarily detain those who are suffering from a 'mental disorder'. Extensions to the act are currently being considered by the government and

may include the use of 'Community Supervision Orders'. Such orders represent a move away from custodial solutions but also involve the extension of surveillance and control of the community itself. Dr. Sashadharan, who has been prominent in exposing psychiatric abuse, warns how Community Supervision Orders could widen control into the community where people would be forced to take certain medication. In this way the bars of an institution would be replaced with the internal restraint of antipsychotic drugs, what many term the 'psychiatric cosh'. Not a forbidding institution, too visible, and costly to run too, but get people to police their own families, keep them subdued with drugs. It costs a lot less and at the same time lines the pockets of the multi-billion drug industry (an industry which makes considerable donations to the conservative party). It also leaves the underlying social causes of 'mental illness' untouched (see bulletin no.6 for issues around mental illness and social control). In the face of such non solutions it is important to support people who are prey to this system and expose its abuses, whilst not romanticising 'mental illness' as often it is a cry of despair. Equally any solutions will require a community based approach and wide networks of support. Two organisations mobilising to this end are the Orville Blackwood Community Campaign and the London Alliance of Mental Health Action. Contact both of them at Brixton Community Sanctuary, St Vincents Centre, Talma Rd, Brixton SW2 (071 924 0913)



On Saturday 10th April the Orville Blackwood Community Campaign held a conference entitled Surviving Mental Health- Pushing for changes.Ms Clara Buckley, mother of Orville Blackwood opened the conference with a powerful thankyou and appeal to those present to continue the struggle in the face of the latest inquest into Orville's case reaffirming the original verdict of 'accidental death'. The inquest added to injury by commending the role of the workers involved in administering the lethal dose of drugs. Also speaking was Ms Sheila Henry, mother of Anthony Lloyd Powell whose campaign to prove that her son was killed by a lethal dose of Modecate had been blocked for 7 years by refusal of the coroner to release post mortem information. Anthony's G.P had given him this injection despite clinical evidence and pleas from a social worker that he had reacted badly to a similar drug previously. Two days after the injection he died, but at the inquest it was concluded that Anthony had died from an overdose of a different drug that he had taken himself- a suggested cause that was witheld from Ms Henry until after her son was buried.

organ which would have most conclusively have shown the action of Modecate, was missing from the bag containing the other organs; an unprecidented 'mishap' for which Ms Henry could get no explanation from the coroners' court. Ms Henry has also faced harassment from the police in an attempt to make her drop her campaign and portrayals of her as a wild mad woman by the gutter press. Her struggle continues. Next to speak were members of the Francis family who have set up the lan Francis Community Truth Campaign. After breaking his ankle in a prison football match at Send prison in August last year lan was moved to and from hospital and then readmitted to the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford when his condition worsened. Apparent flu-like symptoms were accompanied by a high white blood cell count so a blood culture was taken and a test for neck stiffness was carried out in case of meningitis. However lan was left alone overnight and in the morning found writhing on the floor having fallen out of bed. By the time the doctor was summonsed from home lan was already 'deeply unconscious and going down rapidly' and tests in the intensive care unit suggested he was brain dead.

It took Ms Henry 3 years to get a licence to exhume Anthony's body so that an independent pathologists report could be carried out, only to find that the heart, which is the

Continued Page 12

'Survivng Mental Health' Continued

The campaign are seeking a judicial review of the inquest verdict of 'accidental death' and a public enquiry into similar cases of negligence.

perchierde abuse wards how Comminity Supervision

The conference then heard from the mother of Conroy Wallace, who has been locked up in Broadmoor for over 20 years. She read extracts of a recent letter from her son who complained of medication slowly freezing his limbs, of how he was refusing to take Modecate, and this resistance being answered with the threat of even higher doses of drugs. As is often the case Conroy was being given a cocktail of 6 or more drugs at once and any resistant behaviour was being 'medicalised' as a further sign of illness. Ms Wallace feared for her son's life and was comforted by Clara Buckley when she could not go on with her account. Various people who had spent time inside psychiatric establishments then spoke of their experiences. Dr Sashadharan addressed the implications of new legislation for professionals in the mental health system and a speaker from the Black Unity and Freedom Party spoke on the national and international context of racism and the stereotyping of crisis behaviour in Black people as a problem of individual mental disorder. Black people are massively over-represented as 'patients' in the mental health system and also amongst the numbers killed by psychiatric abuse in a system where the racism of wider society is intensified. In the afternoon session people split into 4 workshops to discuss; Black Women and Mental Health, Racism and Mental Health, Mental Health and Social Control and 'Community Support'. The key points brought back from these workshops were:

For further information on any of the above cases or to send letters of support contact the **Orville Blackwood Community Campaign**:

c/o Brixton Community Sanctuary St. Vincents Centre Talma Road London SW2

lan Francis Community Truth Campaign, the Old Library Project, 14-16 Knights Hill, West Norwood, SE27 081 766 6770/761 3923



(1) To set up an independent support network to monitor psychiatric abuses and defend those at risk; (2) The workshop on Black Women specifically proposed the setting up of an alternative therapeutic community. (3) To encourage the befriending of people in psychiatric institutions with visits, letters and support. (4) To continue producing regular information bulletins as the Orville Blackwood Campaign was already doing. There was also a call for a national demonstration against psychiatric oppression, a call for a Public Enquiry into deaths in psychiatric custody and for financial support for atombstone for Orvilles grave. It was also proposed to set up a base to coordinate the various campaigns and also a helpline that people could contact for advice and in an emergency. Finally the idea of regular yearly conferences was reaffirmed. Star Was and started

A FRIEND OF ORVILLE BLACKWOOD'S WRITES

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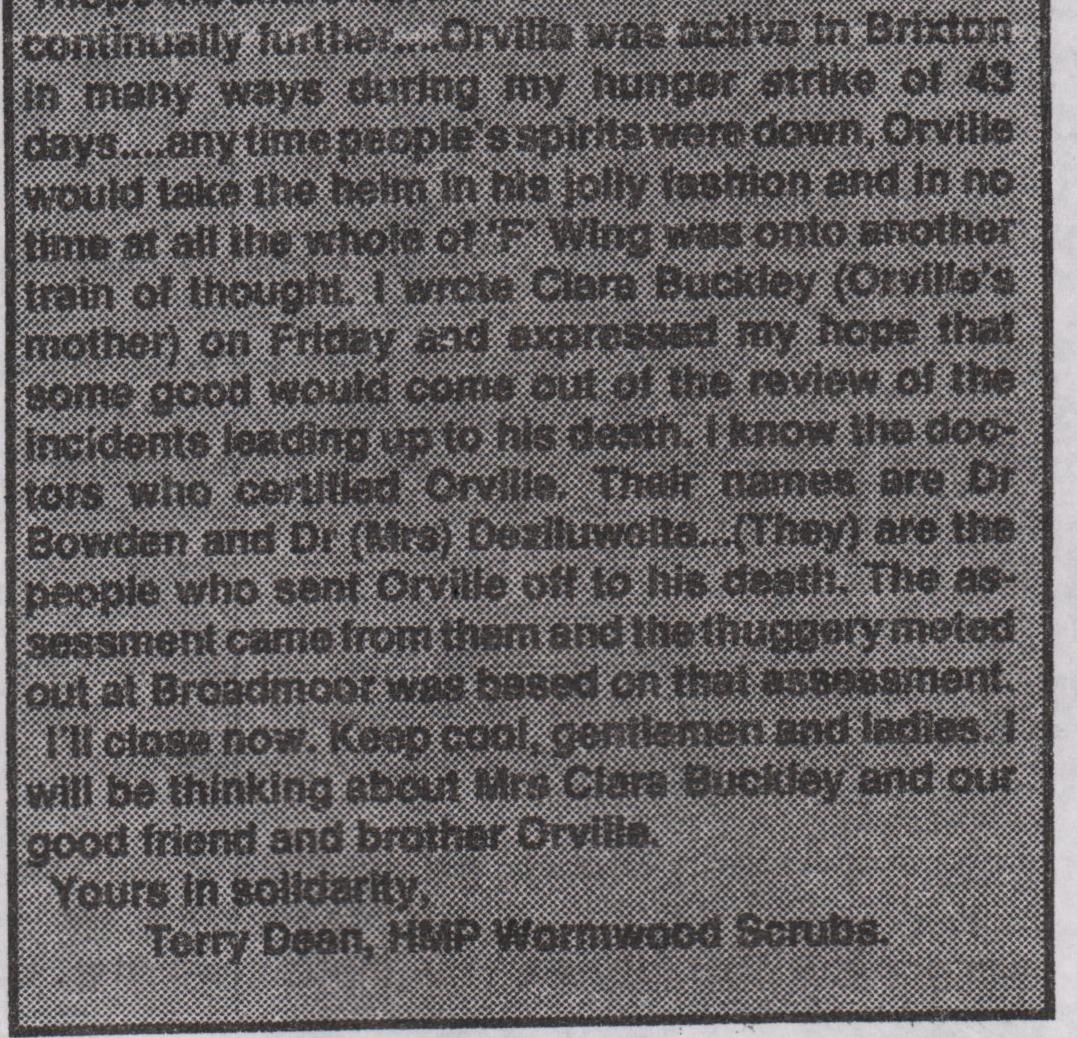
Re: Saturdays Independent (3/4/93) column: Decision of judge to return a verdict of "Accidental Death" on the late Onville Statisticad

I did a lot of leafleting for Orville. I knew him at 'F' wing, Sripton, while I was on trial for the riots of Sept 1985...Orville was not crazy - extrovert, but

no schizophrenic by a long chalk. The news that Broadmoor will once again be off the hook makes

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All in all it was a productive and practical conference renewing the commitment to carry on as effectively as possible against a system which has carried on abusive and inhuman practices for too long. Particularly inspiring were the 'campaigning mothers' who have been the backbone of the campaigns for so long. THEY DESERVE OUR SUPPORT!





Last year on April 13th, nine Latin American women serving sentences in Styal women's prison in Cheshire went on an indefinite hunger strike in protest at the long and inproportionate sentences of up to 14 years for drug smuggling. They were also protesting at a judicial system which systematically denies people from the third world' the same treatment as British prisoners. Three Latin American men also joined the hunger strike in solidarity. It eventually finished at the end of May with several of the women suffering memory loss and dangerous deterioration of health. The strike gained a certain amount of media attention, support from MP Jo Richardson and it publicised the plight of many similar women who made up 20% of the UK's female prison population in 1991.

These women, who are sometimes referred to as

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case because it would "go against" them, in order to get their cases over quickly. On top of this, not only are sentences served by foreign nationals comparitively longer, but they are served entirely in closed prisons as 'deportees' who are not eligible to go to open prisons. They are also likely to serve a higher proportion of their original sentence as government policy ensures that parole is systematically refused for prisoners serving sentences of over five years on drugs-related charges. More recently however, it seems that some Nigerian women are beginning to get parole, perhaps as a result of the campaigning of support groups and action like the Styal Women's Hunger Strike.

Inside prison, the women suffer from acute isolation and despair compounded by loss of contact with their families. They are given one 5 minute phone call to their family every 3 months and few have families with the resources to phone or visit. The majority of women concerned have the added torment of not knowing what may have happened to their children. There are no facilities for translation and interpreting. In a prison environment the racism of British society is intensified, so adding to feelings of isolation. Many of the women become seriously ill.

"mules" by the media, are the pawns in a multi billion pound drug trade. They are often bribed and blackmailed into smuggling drugs by dealers and money lenders. Coming from mainly Colombia, Bolivia, Nigeria, Gambia and the Caribbean, these women are invariably poor and have dependant children or relatives to support. In some cases failure to pay debts to money lenders may oblige a woman to do a 'job' for the lender or face death threats and intimidation of her family. Alternatively, it is the attraction of a temporary escape from poverty. Some are told that they are taking a suitcase of money for tax evasion purposes and many are unaware that they are smuggling drugs. For many, who hope to get as little as £500 or the equivalent, for the 'job', a nightmare is awaiting them. They are told that if they are caught they will simply be repatriated and any fine will be paid by the dealer, while in reality they face prison sentences of up to 14 years. Even worse is the fate of women like Rosalie Odigie or Clara Ayemwenre who died last October due to packets of cocaine bursting inside them. Two or three women collapse at Heathrow each year due to such an overdose (although prompt action usually means they don't die). The British government claims that it's policy of severe sentencing acts as a deterent. But news of the penalty for drug smuggling rarely reaches the slums of the cities where the poor and vunerable are recruited; in the words of the Colombian Consul on London, "word has not filtered back" to the countries concerned. The sentences given to female drug smugglers take no account of their personal circumstances. A British citizen has the benefit of a Home Circumstances Report and a Social Enquiry Report which may take children, health and economic factors into account. The sentences for drug couriers simply reflect the amount of drugs smuggled despite evidence that the majority of couriers have no previous involvement with drug trafficking and have only become involved due to extreme economic hardship. All total and Latin American and African women also consistently complain that the solicitors allocated them by customs officials take little interest in their cases and often advise them incorrectly - such as not to contest their

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Looking at the wider context, we see that it is the powerful governments and moneyed interests who control the rules of world trade and the role of drug production within that trade. They are happy to see the destruction of the agricultural base of many countries and concentration on 'cash' crops including drugs so that high interest rates on debts can be paid for with export earnings. For countries like Columbia and Bolivia, coca, poppies and marajuana may be the only consistently valuable exports. The supposed illegiality of their production just means that local farmers are even more at the mercy of both big drugs barons and narcotics control police. These police periodically arrest, beat and extort the farmers who they induced to grow the drugs in the first place. The police also move in and out of the gangs of the big drug lords. But government involvement in the drugs trade is more direct. In 1989 the CIA was importing as much as 80% of the cocaine supply into the US and for many years 'covert operations' ran drug production to finance destabilisation and war in Vietnam and Afghanistan as well as more famous cases such as the Iran-Contra affair. While a supposed 'War on Drugs' gets high profile in the media, the prime movers in the trade and the drug barons with power are rarely interferred with. To give an example of this, in 1989 the Costa Rican government arrested John Hull and charged him with illegal trafficking of drugs and arms. Hull, an American, owned a large ranch in Costa Rica and there was overwhelming evidence to proving his involvement in the arms-for-drugs supply line to the Contras. In response to his arrest, 19 members of the US **Continued** Next Page

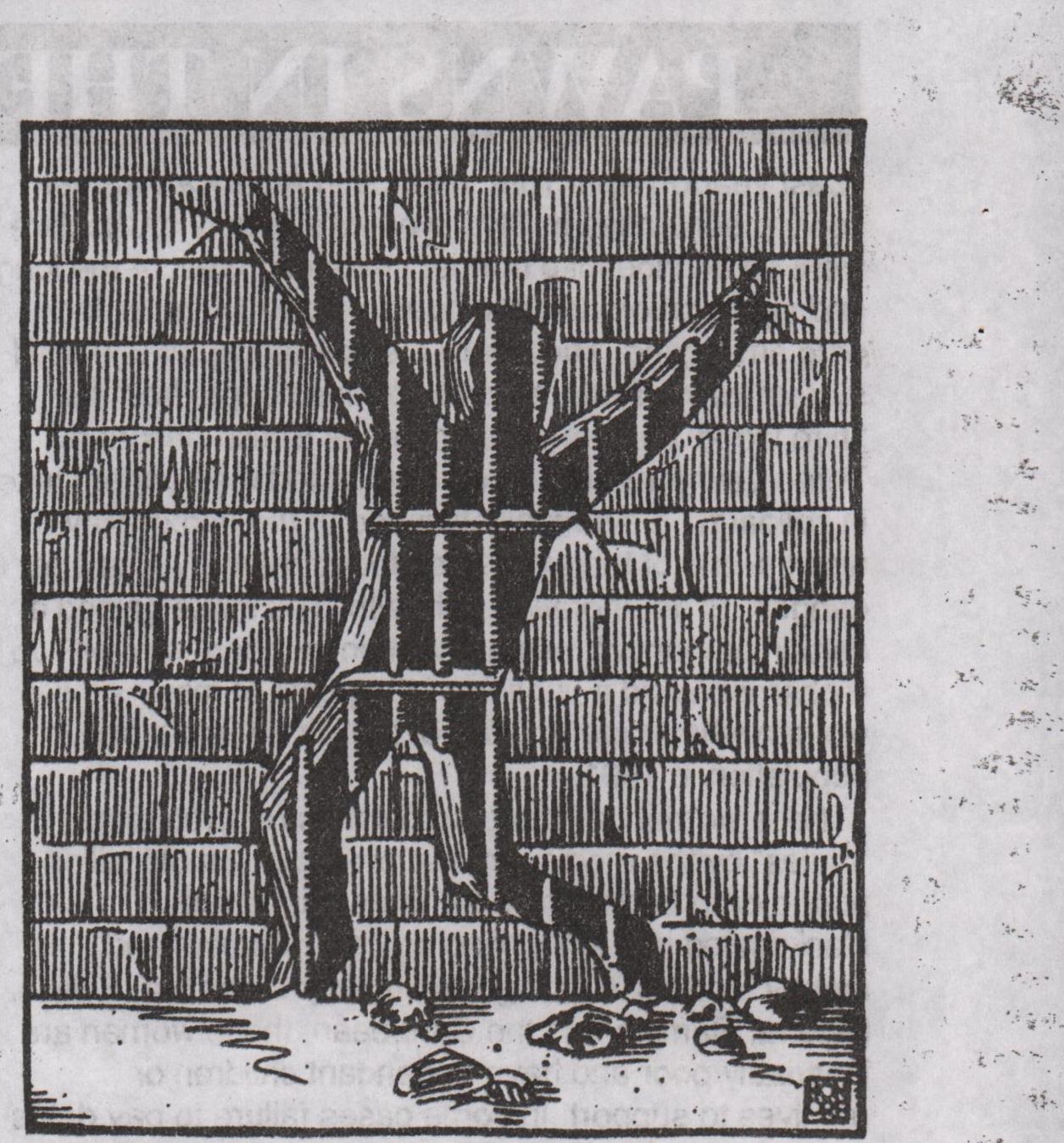
PAWNS IN THE DRUGS TRADE CONTINUED

Congress wrote a letter to the Costa Rican president Oscar Arias stating "it is our hope that Mr Hull's case can be concluded promptly and that it can be handled in a manner that will not complicate US - Costa Rican relations".

So much for the War on Drugs. It is the small peasant farmers, desperate and sometimes unwitting couriers and small-time street corner pushers that suffer from the so-called War on Drugs, while as ever the main movers in the world drug trade remain untouched.

Supporting Prisoners

To return to the plight of Latin American and African women in British prisons, many are being supported by the Grupo Amiga and Maendeleo ya Wanawakee African Prisoner's Scheme (addresses below). Grupo Amiga supports Latin American women with prison visits and letters. They concentrate on Holloway where all such women are visited on a one-to-one basis by a woman who speaks Spanish or Portugese. They are in the process of setting up groups of visitors in Leeds (Askham Grange) and Canterbury (Cookham Wood). The Maendeleo ya Wanawakee African Prisoners Scheme provides support to the 300 - 400 African women currently imprisoned here and both groups are campaigning for 'Third World' women to receive fairer sentencing and parole. DOG BIONTINE VOD There is also "Praxis" - a group supporting men in a similar situation; apparently there may be up to three times as many men as women prisoners although we are still awaiting further information. If you can speak a language of the 'Third World', please take the time to write a letter or visit these people in prison; they need supporting. Contact:



GRUPO AMIGA c/o Women in Prison 3b Aberdeen Studio 22-24 Highbury Grove London N5 2EA to more chiralers may oblige a woman to do a "job" for the leader of face depth threats and mismodation of har lamity. Akemanyety, it is the chiraction of a temporary.

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STRANGEWAYS LATEST

We have received some addresses for a handful of the prisoners from the second Strangeways trial (see supplement to last Bulletin). It seems all the prisoners who escaped during the trial have been recaptured. Here are the names we have: ALAN LORD K80382 (10yrs) - HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5NX. ANTONY BUSH (9yrs) - HMP Liverpool, 68 Hornby Rd, Liverpool L9 3DF. MARK AZZOPARDI (8 yrs) - HMP Full Sutton, Moor Lane, Full Sutton, York YO4 1PS. KEVIN GEE (10 yrs) - HMP Frankland, PO Box 40, Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham DH1 5YD. BARRY MORTON CU0221 (8 yrs) - HMP Frankland, PO Box 40, Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham DH1 5YD. PAUL TAYLOR - HMP Woodhill, Special Unit, Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes MK4. Drop these five a line and let them know they're not forgotten. We don't know the whereabouts of any other prisoners from the first and second trials, but if any one reading this does then let us know as soon as possible. Meanwhile there are 27 more men due to appear in court from the Strangeways

MAENDELEO YA WANAWAKEE (ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN) African Prisoners' Scheme 1st Floor, The Print House 18 Ashwin St London E8 3DL

Vamos Juntos (permanent worker) PRAXIS United Reform Church Pott St London E2



uprising.

Spanish Prisons - Putrefaction Of A Democracy

This is a free translation of an article originally published by La Lletra A. It is worth reading, despite being heavy going in some parts.

INTRODUCTION

'Overcrowding', as a social policy, serves to increase the exploitation and conflict between people and increases the tax profits of the State.'

Although the law in Spain on prisons is in theory progressive, reforming and rehabilitating, in reality it is common knowledge that the prison system treats the prisoner as a social danger, who must be punished as an object lesson in order to intimidate the rest of the population. Methods of ruling societies are fitted to their system of production. In the capitalist commercial economy, people are subjected to forced labour and the imposition of disciplinary systems. To reach this objective, there is nothing better than the abstract machinery of the Law, which pretends to be impartial and egalitarian in a social situation of extreme inequality. Prisons are its most concrete instrument of coercion and punishment. Similar methods of discipline are found in different State institutions - the Army, Administration, Religion, Schools, Factory, Hospitals etc. The first aspect which springs to mind is that in all the prisons in the country, there are fewer prison places than prisoners. Since the death of the Dictator (Franco), the number of prisoners has increased dramatically. From fewer than 15,000 we now have more than 36,000 people rotting in these dustbins of democracy. The total real capacity of Spanish prisons is only 24.000. This increase can be explained by the formal restructuring of the new state; the opening of borders with the arrival of democracy and the spread of agressive Western-style capitalism to Spain's big cities. This is characterised in the most deprived areas by increased privatisation, social disintegration and drug abuse. The political regime that followed the Dictatorship had to diversify its techniques of controlling people. A basically centralist state dominated by an almost school-like paternalism had to update its methods of social control. Its response to this new set of circumstances has been to modernise the repressive forces and the plan to run-down the prisons.

ment to visit various penitentaries in order to compile a detailed report, but this was refused. Until then, only Turkey had denied access to its prisons. Helsinki Watch had carried out this type of investigation in Czechoslovakia, Britain, Poland, Rumania and the then Soviet Union. But Spain was to lenghten the ignominious list of those who resort to secrecy to avoid the exposure of the misery and brutality which is created in a country by the reaffirmation and expansion of the capitalist system.

This refusal was taken up by the media, comparing it to a "Third World situation". The comparison with Turkey woke up some guilty consciences, but there was the Minister of Justice to get rid of fears and guilt complexes: "Our prisoners get what they deserve and our prisons are comparable with any European country" he reaffirmed with a smile. Due to the government refusal, Helsinki Watch organised the production of the report from sources other than direct visits to prisons. Only in Catalunya did the autonomous government allow entry into the "Quatre Camins" and "Wad Ras" prisons. However, they didn't dare grant permission to visit the notorious "Modelo" prison in Barcelona although permission was repeatedly sought. The following summarised information comes from documents and interviews with various professional sectors and from prison victims.

OVERVIEW OF THE PRISON SITUATION

A prison law brought in in 1979 (Ley Organica General Penitenciaria) laid down that every prisoner should have an individual cell. The "Modelo" prison in Barce-Iona - capacity 800, has at present 2100 prisoners. "Wad Ras" prison - capacity 150 women, has 400 in cells which contain on average 15. Generally, cells contain between 2 and 15 people. Individual and double cells are used solely for security ends ie. punishment and health reasons, thus denying the right to intimacy, nor does there exist any proposal to fufill this obligation. The spanish system does invest in works to further fortify the prisons, including electronic control systems. At the same time, inmates are forced to pass their time with no real or useful training or leisure resources. Training opportunities are normally of low quality and far from the realities of the labour market: there are few libraries and paid work with the minimum of dignity is not accepted in the prisons. Outdoors there is hardly anything, a concrete yard presides, representing the dead space of imprisonment where degradation, division and apathy are instilled into people, thus acheiving demoralisation and destruction of the innate desire for freedom in every prisoner.

A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT?

In1991 the non-government organisation Helsinki Watch (federated to Human Rights Watch) carried out a study into the prison system of a relatively new democracy in Western Europe. Spain was chosen, a country which during the military dictatorship had merited continous criticism from human rights activists all over the world.

Permission was requested from the central govern-

Continued Next Page

SPANISH PRISONS CONTD.

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In the name of "Citizens' Security", relations with the outside world are even more restricted, while behind the walls permanent violence and mistrust are ever more promoted. The statistics of suicide in spanish prisons are 10 times higher than in spanish society as a whole. Drugs circulate in huge quantities. The authorities have tried to cover up the figures for infection with the AIDS virus, while making no attempts to stabilise them. The government has now admitted that 25% of the prison population has the virus; the number of those infected is of course much greater and is reaching tragic proportions. There exists no general study or statistics on the level of AIDS amongst prisoners and their families. This deliberate ignorance allows zero-postive prisoners, who still haven't developed the disease or show any symptoms, to live crowded together with other prisoners without the slightest measure for hygiene or prevention. In the name of Morality the distribution of condoms and hypodermic syringes is refused and in most cases the partner of the infected person is not told of the infection, so that family visits become a channel by which the disease may be transmitted to the exterior.

warders or break prison rules can be legally sanctioned with up to 14 days is isolation, suspension of 'day releases' for up to 2 months and of visits up to a month. But these limits are not respected and are often prolonged with no certainty when they will end. The 'First Grade' category is one more torture under which prisoners die daily. Last year, 1600 prisoners were classified as such, mainly those convicted under the Anti Terrorist Laws, as well as remand prisoners considered to be very dangerous. The 'First Grade' category suffer almost permanent lock-up and isolation, at most 2 hours daily solitary walking in the yard, and so on.

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There is one more disciplinary measure not 100 1 Th. considered by the Law, that of transferring the inmate to other prisons. Spain is a relatively large country and · * 3 . to be imprisoned far from your native town is a severe 一元. punishment both for the prisoner and the family. This Wer. measure is applied mostly to protest leaders, whether real or perceived as such. Isolation can be more than 2 months due to adding punishments together, while violence by warders is the order of the day. The inmate is, in effect, totally powerless against coercion and the arbitary use of force. We detail below one of the examples given in the Helsinki Watch report.

Zero-positive prisoners who have developed the disease are transferred to the sick section or to hospital. But the claws of the State don't release their hold on a convict that easily. Many cases of terminally ill patients are especially painful. According to Article 60 of the Prison Rules, prisoners with a short life expectation should be provisionally released. But there are innumerable complaints about the non-functioning of this legal Clause, above all for those infected with AIDS. The judges do not normally consider the health of the prisoner as sufficient grounds for conditional liberty, or else this is granted so late that they die almost immediately after being released.

On the subject of nutrition, this would be totally deficient if it were not for the prison shops which for obvious economic reasons are not available to all the **prison** population. The women of "Avila" prison told Helsinki Watch investigators that they could only eat **bread** and butter from the daily menu, the rest was inedible. As a class institution the prison exploits the prisoner in most humiliating ways: no health service, no sports or leisure facilities (not even chess), rubbish for food, continous non-compliance with the benefits for prisoners without financial means, and so on.

In May 1990, the inmates of the 'Fourth Gallery' in the Modelo prison in Barcelona began a disturbance £ *. consisting of throwing objects from the windows and shouting obscenities. The floor is designed for 200 people but held 700 at that time. The protest was sparked off by the brutal beating of a mentally distressed prisoner who smashed a TV set with a stick. The Prison Director ordered the use of anti-riot equipment and the seperation of 18 inmates identified as having thrown objects. These prisoners were taken to another floor where they were ordered to strip off their clothes. Meanwhile the prison guards, armed with trunceons, lined up in two files facing each other in the space which joins the two Galleries. The 18 prisoners were forced to pass between these lines three times during that night. In the end, a prison doctor was called

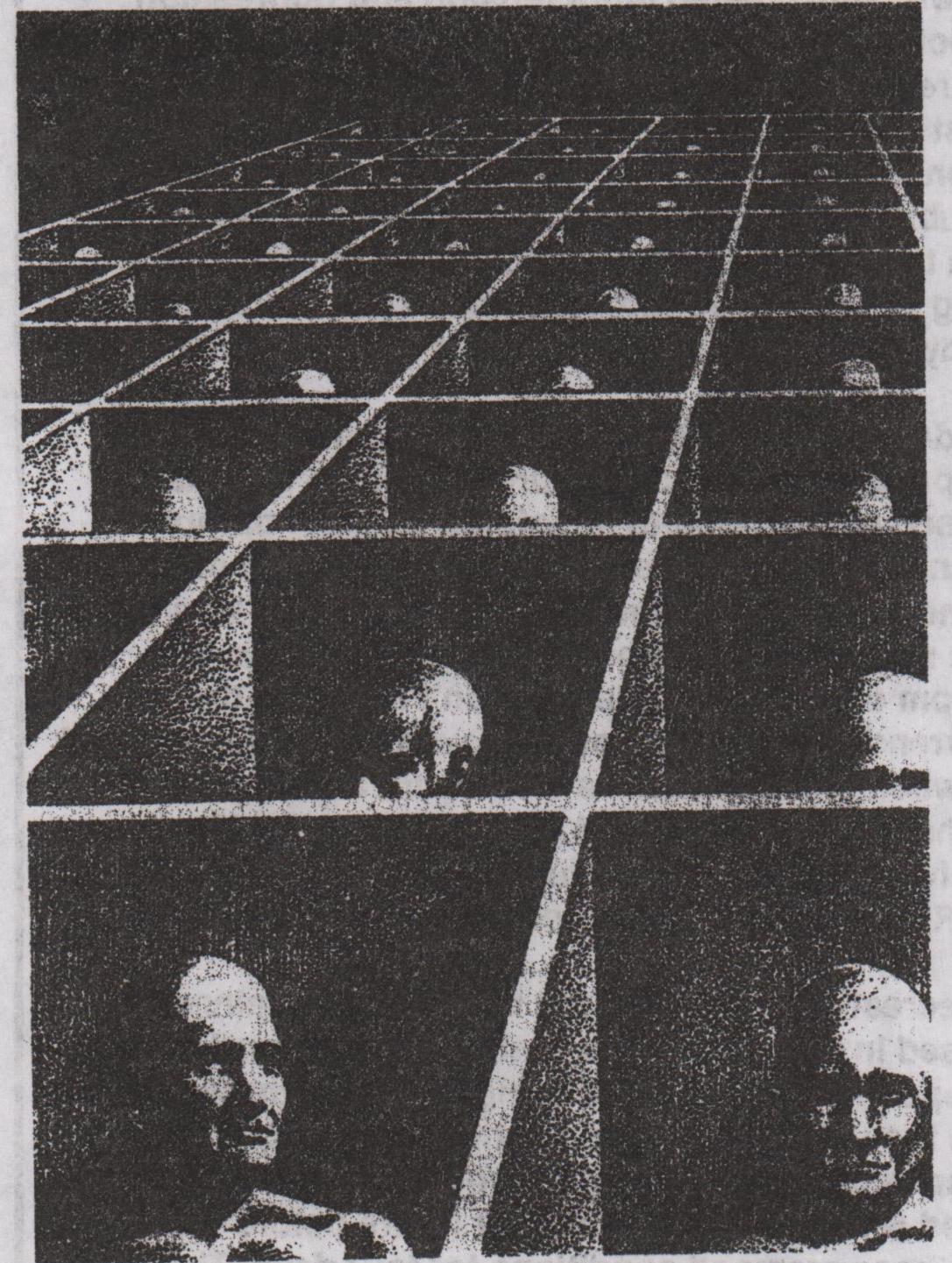
The disciplinary measures applied to prisoners can be divided into authorised (ie in the Prison Rules) and unauthorised. In short, the inmate is defenceless against the total power and arbitrary decisions of the Prison Directors and their faithful servants, the prison warders. The system of division into categories has reduced the level of resistance of the inmates and the wide powers that the authorities ahve always had, undermine the minimum trust necessary amongst prisoners to maintain a long or coherent struggle. Those prisoners who do not cooperate with the in to examine the victims of the beatings, all had injuries including severe contusions to the head.

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A group of lawyers made a private prosecution of the prison guards on behalf of these prisoners. The prosecutors lined up 50 warders in front of the prisoners. Before this, some of the inmates were visited by guards who threatened to plant contraband in their cells if they were identified. The lawyers also received anonymous threats.....

The groups who suffer most from a lack of protection in spanish prisons are women and foreigners. The number of women imprisoned is far higher than in other European or North American countries and is rapidly rising. Spain has only four women-only prisons and a large percentage of women are held in womens' sections within male prisons. They receive even fewer work, educational or sport opportunites and discrimination within the sections in male prisons is even worse. Women's social value is considered to be even less than men's and as such, prisons spend even less on them than men. The treatment of women with young children has now worsened. Until recently, those who wished to keep small children with them were generally allowed to do so. Now, with a change of policy, they can only get this permission as a reward for good conduct. The other options are very painful. If a mother wants her children brought up by family members, she can only see them once a month, and then only through a glass screen. If, however, she agrees that they can be taken into State Care, she can visit them twice a week and in the flesh.

Although the Law lays down that inmates under 21 should be separated from adults, there is no Youth Prison within the country.



GRAHAM GALLOWAY

Graham Galloway is an anarchist imprisoned in Blundeston Jail. He was convicted of murder in 1987. In February 1987 he was living in a homeless hostel between Bristol and Weston-Super-Mare, the 'Old Yew Tree Country Club'. He'd been living off his wits since his release from Dartmoor prison three months previously. Various people lived at the hostel, including two young girls and a man named Brian Barras. Graham was friendly with the girls, but was not intimate with one of them, Leezel, as was later alleged by the prosecution.

On the 22nd February, one of the girls, Justine, went to Graham claiming that Barras was beating Leezel with a baseball bat and asked him to help. Graham went to find Leezel badly beaten and in need of hospital treatment. He asked the caretaker to ring for an ambulance, but he refused saying that she wasn't that badly hurt. Graham and Justine then tried to get Leezel into Graham's car. However, Barras appeared and tried to prevent them leaving. He then attacked Graham with a stave, whereupon Graham, who had a knife, stabbed him in the nose. Barras later died in hospital from a subarachnoid haemorrage - blood on the brain caused by a ruptured artery. The doctors who examined Barras did not spot this condition which is easily treatable by lowering the blood pressure on the brain. Graham contends that the man wouldn't have died if the doctors had been competent and that the wound he gave Barras in selfdefence wasn't in itself fatal.

At the trial, the Crown alleged that Graham had not tried to help Leezel and had stabbed Barras, who was unarmed, in 'revenge'. The forensic evidence from the scene bore out Graham's story, but confused statements from Justine and other witnesses, as well as fabrications from Barras's girlfriend and a prison officer, led towards his conviction. On top of this, the defence pathologist refused to give evidence that would have shown up the crown pathologist's statement. (Perhaps to protect his career?)

We are witnessing, in the names of "Morality" and "Security" an increase in the misery and pain caused by spanish prisons and only a widespread popular protest can halt this tendency.

While one person is held we are all in prison, it rains on the fields misery and mire.

Struggle by my side so that the weeds don't wither the corn!'

Published by: KAP (Anti Prison Collective), c/.Cera 1 bis., 08001 Barcelona, Spain. Tel:(93)3290643. Graham is now gathering new evidence and is trying to take the Home Secretary to court to force him to reopen the case.

STORE STREET PROVIDENCE

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Graham is innocent of murder. It is important that his case be raised wherever possible. He is also an anarchist who has been active spreading his ideas inside. He welcomes letters. Write to: Graham Galloway T67099, HMP Blundeston, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 5BG. Or to: Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke, Home Office, Queen Annes Gate, London SW1. For a copy of a statement from Graham detailing his case, send a large SAE, and if possible a donation to London ABC,121 Railton Road, London SE24.

SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF) located in Lucasville, Ohio, the years of oppression exploded into a full-blown riot. For all familiar with the treatment and conditions there, it was known to be long overdue. Brutality, racism, murder and inhumane treatment had been documented with the State and Federal courts as well as with Amnesty International and other human rights organisations - yet the prisoncrats just kept tightening the screws without letting up. Years of whitewashing by the state legislative watchdog committee (Correctional Institution Inspection Committee CIIC) didn't help. The CIIC in 1990 called for a full scale investigation into conditions at Lucasville which they turned into a political fiasco by creating a 800-member 'Aryan Brotherhood' and focusing on that aspect, saying the Brotherhood controlled gambling, drugs and prostitution inside the prison. No mention was made of other factions and the fallacy about the Aryan Brotherhood just caused the younger prisoners to want to join or start one. Governor Celeste called for a full scale investigation by the State Highway Patrol (SHP) after the FBI, SHP and CIIC had just investigated allegations that two black prisoners had been killed by white guards for touching a white nurse in Lucasville. All the SHP did was twist and turn their investigation to cover for the guards' and prisoncrats' illegal activities. They also called for more security and more guards as well as putting the prison on semi-lockdown. This created more tension and oppression which eventually led to the Bloody Easter Sunday Riot.

The failure of the Courts and legislature to provide relief from the oppressive conditions, coupled with the constant harrassment and retaliation against prisoners who tried to use legal avenues to address the everyday constitutional violations, left only one option - Revolution. (The Judges, politicians, even prisoncrats pay lip service to the public about how prisoners should, and are encouraged to, use the courts and grievance system to air complaints and violations. In reality, they bog down prisoner cases for years, whilst dismissing 90% of cases without a trial. They then retaliate with long term isolation in control units, cell and body searches and the thousand other ways of harrassment.) The years of frustration came to a head when forced/mandatory TB testing was done after the State had put full-blown Active TB carriers in areas of the prison where it could spread - refuse to isolate these carriers properly. When guerilla tactics were used by prisoncrats to enforce this mandatory testing, prisoners rebelled. What started as a spontaneous event turned into a takeover of all of L Side and 8 guards were taken hostage. 9 prisoners and one guard were killed before the takeover was over. The prisoners were liberated and some of those who refused to participate were beaten and some killed. The takeover/riot began at approximately 2.45pm on Easter Sunday. It didn't end until the last hostages were released unharmed and prisoners surrendered on national TV eleven days later on April 22nd. The negotiated surrender was made possible when Niki Schwartz, a civil rights attorney from Cleveland, Ohio, was called in to assist and advise the prisoners involved. It is still rumoured (and unofficially confirmed by some of the prisoners involved) that there is a much larger body count of prisoners killed, but that the State is covering it up. Right now, the US Department of Justice is calling the shots at the prison. Approximately 330-340 prisoners who were in the recreation yard when the riot began remained out there until about 3.30am when over 200 guards dressed in Riot Gear entered the yard and herded the prisoners into the gym by twos. They were then stripped naked, all their belongings were thrown into a pile (this property hasn't been recovered to this day) they were handcuffed behind their backs and marched naked down K Corridor whilst both male and female guards made derogatory comments about their nudity and genitals. Prisoners were placed 5-10 to a cell. It took four hours before the handcuffs were removed and prisoners were kept in these cramped conditions for four days. They received no medical attention, no food except for a couple of sandwiches a day. They were then moved to one-person cells. One prisoner, Dennis Weaver, who had a history of litigations, was killed and allegedly hung while on K Side and a non-participant. They way he died has not been confirmed to this writer. During the riot and negotiations, the Department Of Corrections spokesperson repeatedly treated the Incident as a joke. This was the same tactic used when the Four Brothers took control of JL Supermax Block in '85 and is a common tactic used by the State. It backfired this time and led to the execution of guard Robert Villandinghams. The prisoners hung sheets out of the window telling the media that the State wasn't playing fair. The State's response was to move the media away from L Block so that they couldn't see or hear the prisoners. After Villandingham's body was dumped out of a window, the State started taking the prisoners seriously. Rumours abounded - it was reported from unnamed sources that there were 17-50 bodies stacked in the L Side Gym - and to this day there are confirmed reports of more prisoners killed at the beginning of the riot than the DRC is reporting. I'm told that the Justice Department is calling the shots now and a cover up is being done regarding body counts. **Continued** Next Page

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Demands were issued to the DRC at the start. The different factions inside the prison worked together after the initial takeover. While the media reported that there was dissension, it was at a minimum. One of the problems was forced integration. The reason that the State was able to invent the fallacy of the Aryan Brotherhood was because prisoners who don't want to be forced into integrated cells have to say that they are racists in order to obtain a "Green Card". This is a tag in the prisoner's file saying it is against their religion or philosophy to share a cell with a person of another race. Those who have done time know that a lot of integrated cells contain homosexuals and this has been a stigma against integrated celling. (See White v. Morris consent decree). It is even recognised by leading Jurists that Integration by court order is no longer effective - integration in prison should be by choice due to the volatile environment.

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The demands that the State agreed to consider were:

- 1. To follow all administrative rules and regulations.
- 2. Administrative discipline and criminal proceedings to be fairly and impartially administered without bias against any specific individual or group.
- 3. All injured parties to receive prompt medical care and follow-up.
- 4. The surrender to be witnessed by religious leaders and the news media.
- 5. The Unit Management System to be reviewed with attempts to improve in areas requiring
- change.

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6. SOCF to contact the Federal Court to review the White v. Morris consent decree that requires

integrated celling.

7. All close security inmates to be immediately considered for transfer.

8. Procedures to be implemented to thoroughly review prisoner's files regarding early releases and changes made where warranted.

9. 600 inmates to be transferred to relieve overcrowding.

10. Current policies regarding innappropriate supervision to be rigidly enforced.

11. Medical staffing levels to be reviewed to ensure compliance with the ACA standard for medical care.

12. Attempts to be made to expedite and improve work and program opportunities.

13. The DRC to evaluate and improve work and program opportunities.

14. No retaliatory actions to be taken towards any prisoner or group of prisoners or their property.

15. A complete review of all correctional facility mail and visiting policies to be undertaken.

16. Transfers from the corrctional facility to be coordinated through the Bureau of Classification. Efforts to be increased to ensure prompt transfers of those prisoners who meet eligibility standards.

17. Efforts to be made to upgrade the channels of communication between

employees and prisoners involving quality of life issues.

18. The complete comissary pricing system to be reviewed.

19. The DRC to consult the Department of Health regarding any further TB testing.

20. The FBI to monitor processing and ensure that civil rights are upheld.

21. The DRC to consider, case by case, the interstate transfer of any prisoner if the DRC feels that there is a reasonable basis to believe that they would be unable to provide a secure environment for that prisoner. Any prisoner denied a transfer will be reviewed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

On Monday April 12th, 1993, the bodies of 6 prisoners were placed on the yard for the DRC to pick up. They had been beaten and hung. All were older prisoners, some of whom had refused to participate in the riot. Some were snitches. On Tuesday, prisoners had dismantled windows and went from L Side to K Side and got prisoners in K8 to destroy their cells. Back in the AC Blocks, prisoners tore out their cell lights and wiring, beat on the cell doors and started fires with all state issue property. This was not shown on TV. On Wednesday 13th, a helicopter piloted by the Ohio National Guard and Northern Assistant Regional Director Joe McNeil had engine failure and crashed outside the prison, injuring those inside while another officer broke his leg trying to rescue those inside the helicopter. Governor Voinavitch ordered 500 National Guard to surround the prison, replacing the Ohio State Highway Patrol. On Thursday 15th, water, food and prescription medication were delivered to the prisoners. (Since the takeover, all water, electricity and food had been cut off). This was the day that Villandingham's body was dumped out the window. In exchange for the release of a hostage, prisoners were given air-time on TV. "Inmate George" told the public that all prisoners of all races joined together in unity during the takeover to show the public the oppressive conditions they were living under, and that they were all willing to die if their demands were not met. They also called for the sacking of

Warden "King Arthur" Tate. (Later a private investigator called the media claiming that "Inmate George" was one George Skaizes - a former client whom she believed was innocent of the murder he was imprisoned for).

As a result of the broadcast, guard Darrold R.Clark was released and George also apologised to the Villandinghams family for his death, saying that it was sad but necessary. He also said that another hostage, Bobby Ratcliff, was alright and would be home soon.

The hostages were well treated and guarded from the prisoners by the Muslims and White Brothers. On Friday 16th, prisoner Abdul Samad Mulin and guard James Demons were permitted out in the yard where an impromptu press table was erected and two State Negotiators sat allowing media coverage of the event. Abdul Samad called upon the Muslims of the world to monitor the situation and to retaliate if any of the Brothers were killed by the State. He then went on to voice the complaints of the Muslims regarding SOCF's refusal to allow their prayergarb and other issues pertaining to the customs of Islam. It was obvious that they were given a limited time to voice the issues. He also stated that the mandatory TB testing violated their religious tenets and helped sparked the incident. He mentioned how the Security Point Classification System and transfers were unfair.

Guard James Demons was garbed in a Muslim robe and stated that he felt the incident could have been prevented and that shutting the water and power off jeopardised the hostages' lives. He also said that the prisoners killed were not killed by the Muslims and were killed for being snitches. He was then led off the yard - and none of his fellow pigs clapped or cheered. He was later to tell the media that he acted like he embraced Islam merely to savehis own life and that he resented the way the situation was handled as Villandingham could have been saved if the State had taken matters seriously. When Niki Schwartz was brought in, things started going more smoothly. On April 21st, eleven days after the riot, the negotiated settlement of all 21 points mentioned above were accepted and the surrender of prisoners on nationwide TV began. Prisoners were shipped to MANCI, Trumball, Lebanon, Lorain and Chilicothe correctional institutes.

The fact remains that Ohio's prisons are operating at 200% over capacity and the conditions are so bad that the same situation is liable to occur in any of the prisons. The public attitude of stiffer sentences and more prisons does not deal with the root problems of crime - as long as there is racism, unemployment, sexism, poverty, drug abuse and inadequate community resources for children and young adults, the crime rate will continue to escalate. President Clinton's plans for the criminal injustice system involves more funding to hire more police, which will lead to more arrests and imprisonments, which will mean more and continued overcrowding. One issue that the Brothers at Lucasville didn't touch on, or that the State didn't let out, is the fact that the Adult Parole Authority isn't paroling enough prisoners who merit parole, and the Governor refuses to exercise his authority for emergency releases of prisoners in overcrowding situations. The Parole Board members have ultimate power over prisoners and often exercise it arbitrarily and capriciously. At the same time there is an Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission ready to issue a report recommending mandatory sentencing and community alternatives to prison. The sentencing structure in Ohio is ridiculous some prisoners are doing 100 years + for offenses that in other states would get 2 or 3 years flat. It has been proven that the longer the incarceration, the more detrimental the effect. In Sweden, even murderers only do 2 years in prison and prisoners' families can live with the prisoners so as not to break up the family unit. But prisons are industries nowadays, employing people in rural areas and creating an enormous job pool, so penalties get increased to maintain the business.

What is the answer? Obviously rioting isn't the best way to bring about change due to the violence that goes with it, but when people are treated like animals with no alternative means of getting justice, rioting is the only avenue left to focus the public eye on what is happening inside our prisons. Hopefully now committees will be formed to bring about positive change. It's up to those in the progressive community to make the History in the aftermath. I would urge these Attorneys, legislators and civil rights groups to join together and try to organise committees to make the State address all the issues, so that there's not another Bloodbath. To those involved - they need your support now more than ever - to fend off the multitude of criminal charges forthcoming as well as retaliation by the State. Remember, we're in here for you - you're out there for us.

Solidarity,

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ODDS AND SODS

This bulletin is produced by London Anarchist Black Cross. We are a collective and aim to promote practical solidarity with prisoners. We support revolutionary prisoners and those inside for resisting the class system or fighting against injustice in our lives. We support people framed by the police. We support prisoners organising and resisting on the inside. We welcome contact, news, and ideas from prisoners, their relatives and supporters and anyone getting involved in prisoner support work. Our activities include publicity, writing to prisoners, solidarity actions, material aid as well as exposing the nature of prisons and the system that they are a part of. Ultimately we are working towards a class-based movement that will destroy prisons, along with capitalism, in a revolution that will create a real classless society. Part of this involves finding our own solutions in our communities and workplaces, to dealing with anti-social crime and creating our own justice.

ABC TAPES

Manchester ABC have produced a benefit tape for John Perotti. £3.50 plus P+P from the Manchester address. Huddersfield ABC have a benefit tape to raise funds for their activites: £2 + SAE from Huddersfield address. (Postal Orders payable to R.Taylor please).

London ABC are putting a benefit tape together; any offers from bands, let us know.

If you live in London or the Southeast, you can join our LABC Supporters Network. It costs £5 waged/£3 unwaged a year, for which you will receive mailouts including the Bulletin, details of events, prisoners list. Organisations can affiliate: £5 small/local groups, £10 large/national.

For more information, send an SAE for our "ABC Intro Leaflet" or contact us at 121 Railton Road, London SE24 OLR.

Want to help?

- Send a donation. The ABC is always skint!

- Write to prisoners: a letter can brighten up their day.

- Get involved. We meet weekly, contact us if you want to come along. Or help distribute leaflets / copies of the Bulletins.

- Set up your own prisoner support group. We can help with ideas / practical experience.*

- Send us info on prisoners / prisons in your area.

UNTIL ALL ARE FREE WE ARE ALL IMPRISONED **ABC POSTERS**

We still have "Remember We're Still Here" posters available, in red and black. They cost 50p each plus 30p P+P.

ALSO AVAILABLE:

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Coalition for Prisoners Rights Newsletter: Prison Bulletin from the US. PO Box 1911, Santa Fe, NM. 87504-1911.

Oh Toh Kin: Native Canadian newspaper, issue 2 a special on native prisoners and the use of imprisonment to control indigenous peoples. Subs: \$10 for 4 issues. Free to prisoners. Oh Toh Kin Publications, PO Box 2881, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3X4, Canada.

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Copies of "From Alcatraz to Marion to Florence -Control Units in the US", a pamphlet by the Committee to end the Marion Lockdown. £1.50 plus 30p P+P. (See review Bulletin No6).

"Justice For Winston Silcott". Booklet of Winston's writings. 50p plus 30p P+P.

"No Comment" - advice on how not to talk to the cops if you're nicked. Send a donation and say how many copies you want. .

Copies of Booklet on Bridgewater Four - please ask for price.

Back copies of the ABC Bulletin are also available for 10p plus 18p P+P. Issue 1 sold out.

Please make all cheques/POs payable to "Anarchist Plack Crocc"

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For international contacts, get in totich with your nearest group.

