

## TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN AFFILIATES

### ANTI-POLL TAX GROUPS

Abercromby APTU  
Aberdeen ATPT  
Abeyhill APT Group  
Adswold APTU  
All Scottish APT Federation  
Avon Fed of APTU's  
Aylesbury Vale APTU  
Barnsley Campaign ATPT  
Basingstoke APTU  
Bath University APTU  
Beacon Lough APTU  
Bedminster APTU  
Borstal APTU  
Bridgwater APTU  
Broughton APTG  
Broughton/Inverleith APTU  
Burnley APTU  
Cambridge APT Campaign  
Camden Stop The Poll Tax  
Canton APT Group  
Chorlton APTU  
Cinderford APTU  
Clapton APTU  
Clifton / Hotwells APTU  
Colchester ATPT  
Craylands APTU  
Crookesmoor ATPT  
Doncaster APT Campaign  
East Herts APTU  
East Oxford APT  
Easton APTU  
Elswick & Benwell ATPT  
Gravesend APTU  
Greenwich ATPT  
Hackney ATPT Fed  
Hammersmith & Fulham APT  
Haringey APTU  
Haymarket/Tollcross APTC  
Headingley APT Campaign  
Heeley ATPT  
Hertfordshire APT Fed  
Highfields APTU  
Hornsey APT  
Hunters Bar APT  
Ibex-Cessnock ATPT  
Isle of Dogs APTU  
Islington ATPT  
Kettering APTU  
Kingsdown APTU  
Ladywell APTU  
Leeds Fed of APT Groups  
Leicestershire APT Fed  
Leith APTU  
Lewisham APTU  
Lincoln APT Campaign  
Llandrindod APTU  
London APT Fed  
Long Eaton APTC  
Longsight ATPT  
Merchiston/Morningside APTU  
Middlesborough ATPT  
Middlesex Students ATPT  
Muirhouse CRAPT  
Newtown APTU  
Nightingale APTU  
Norwich APTU  
Nottingham APT Fed  
Pembury ATPT  
Peterborough APTU  
Pitstop  
Plymouth APT Fed

Pollokshields ATPT  
Prestonfield CRAPT  
Pudsey APTU  
Reading APT Coordination  
Rochester APTU  
Rotherham APT Federation  
Rugby APTU  
Sciennes/Marchmont APTU  
Sheffield ATPT  
Southville & Ashton APTU  
Splott & Adamsdown APTU  
St Albans ATPT  
St Andrews APTU  
St Werburghs APTU  
Stamford Hill APTG  
Stockbridge-Newtown APTG  
Stockport APT Federation  
Strood APTU  
Sunderland Central APTG  
Sutton ATPT  
Swindon APT Fed  
TME Cmte. of the Belper APTU  
Taunton Deane APTU  
Tower Hamlets ATPT  
Town Fields & Wheatley APT  
Undercliffe APTU  
Victoria APTU  
W10/W11 APT Campaign  
Waltham Forest No Poll Tax  
Wandsworth ATPT  
Warrington APTU  
Watford APTU  
West Hampstead APTU  
Winchester ATPT  
Wirral APTF  
York Against the Poll Tax

### TRADE UNIONS

Barnsley TUC  
Barrow Trade Union Council  
Bath TUC  
Bloomsbury Nalco (Health)  
Brighton, Hove & District TUC  
CPSA, DHSS Central Branch  
Camden Teachers' Assoc  
Camden Trades Council  
East London Teachers Ass (NUT)  
GMB TU 200  
Hackney Nalco  
Hammersmith & Fulham TC  
Haringey TUC  
Haringey Nalco (Local Gov.)  
Hyndburn TUC  
Knowsley Nalco  
Lambeth TUC  
Leeds Area Teachers' Ass. NUT  
Leicester & District TUC  
Llanelli Trades Council  
MSF 245 Branch  
MSF St. Pancras Branch  
Newcastle U.T. TUC  
Newton Aycliffe & District TUC  
North Staffs. Trades Council  
Rank and File Teachers  
Swindon TUC  
Southwark Trades Council  
T&GWU Region No. 1  
TGWU 1/250 London Taxi Drivers  
TGWU 6/538  
Tameside Nalco  
Tameside TUC

V.O. Branch NALGO  
Wirral Trades Council  
Wisbech and District TUC  
Yorks Trade Council

### Other Organisations

Advisory Service for Squatters  
Bradford ABC  
Class War Federation  
Cleveland NCCL Group  
Deptford DAM & IWA  
East London Red Action  
Greenleaf (Quarterly)  
Hackney CDA  
Hackney Solidarity Group  
Hammersmith SWP  
Harringay Senior Citizens CC  
International Socialist League  
Lancaster Anarchists  
Anonymous  
Leeds ABC  
Leeds Anarchists  
Lewisham Women & Empl. Proj.  
Liverpool Anarchists  
London ABC  
London Anarchist Communist Fed  
London Greenpeace  
London Institute Student Union  
London Labour Briefing  
London RCG  
Manchester Class War  
Manchester Socialist Outlook  
Mutual Aid Centre  
NUS London  
Newham Green Party  
Northern Counter-Information  
Nottingham Defence Fund

Oxford PTRSG  
Wirral Solidarity Group  
Plymouth Sutton Labor Party  
SE Region DAM  
Southampton Anarchists  
Southampton Class War  
Stirling Anarchists  
Sunpower Books & Crafts  
The Inmates  
ULU  
Unemployed Workers Charter  
Workers Power

### Overseas Organisations

Agappa  
Autonome Bibliothek  
Brand (magazine)  
Blitz Bookshop  
Coffee-shop Bollocks  
Ermittlungsausschuss  
La Procedure  
Nabate  
Network  
Uitkeringsgerechtigden  
Odessa Helsinki Group  
Ravage (Newspaper)  
Viva  
Warzone  
Wolnitz

Plus many, many individuals.

Apologies if your organisation has been left out. Of course if you haven't affiliated .....

**I/We wish to affiliate to the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign:**  
**Name of Organisation/Individual:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Phone:** .....

**Contact Person:** .....

**We enclose £.....**  
**£5 — Local,**  
**£10 — District,**  
**£25 — Regional & TUs**

**Donations desperately needed, more than ever with people facing possible life sentences in the Crown Courts.**

**Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign**  
**c/o Haldane Society of Lawyers, 205 Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP**  
**Tel: 071-833-8958**

# STAND FIRM

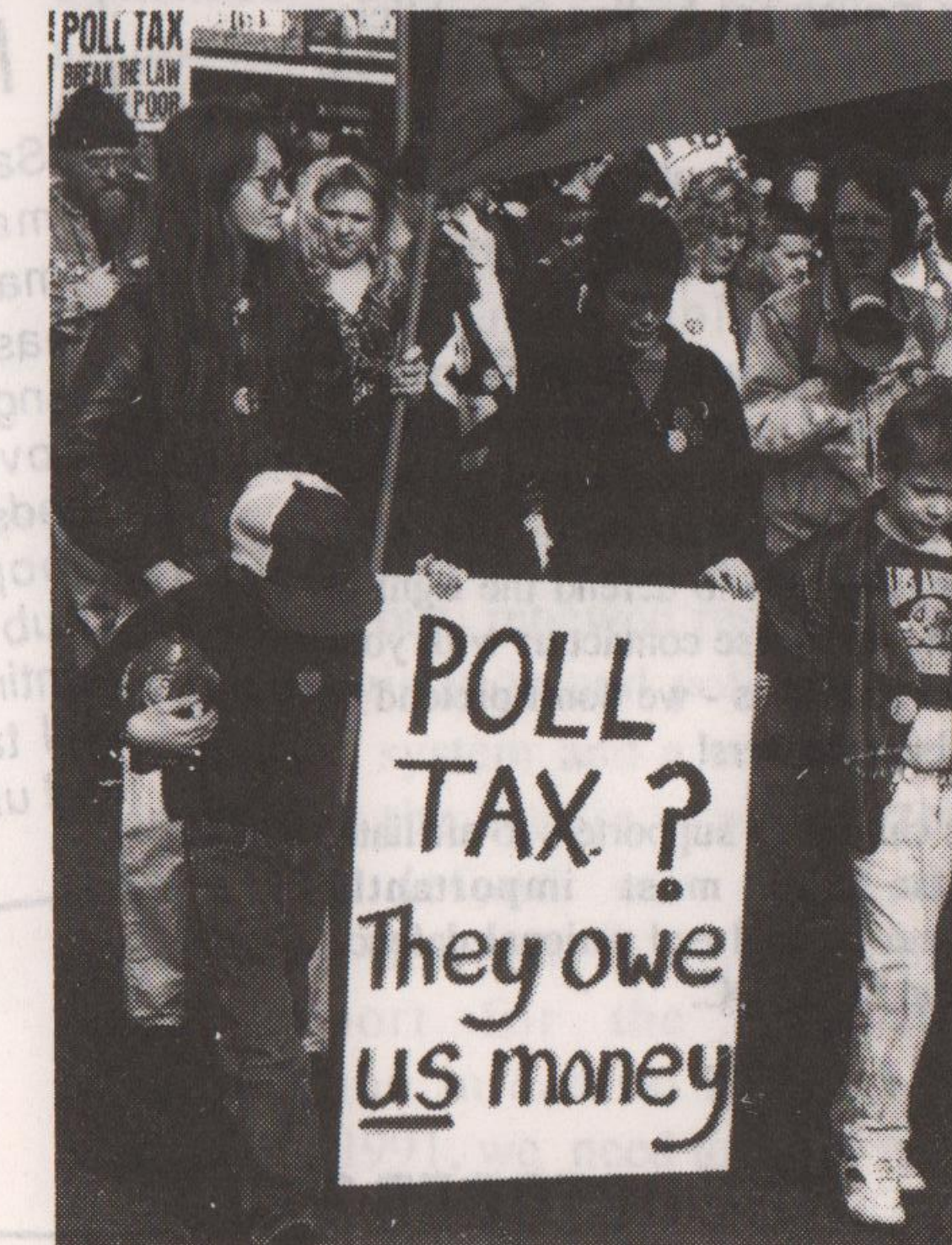
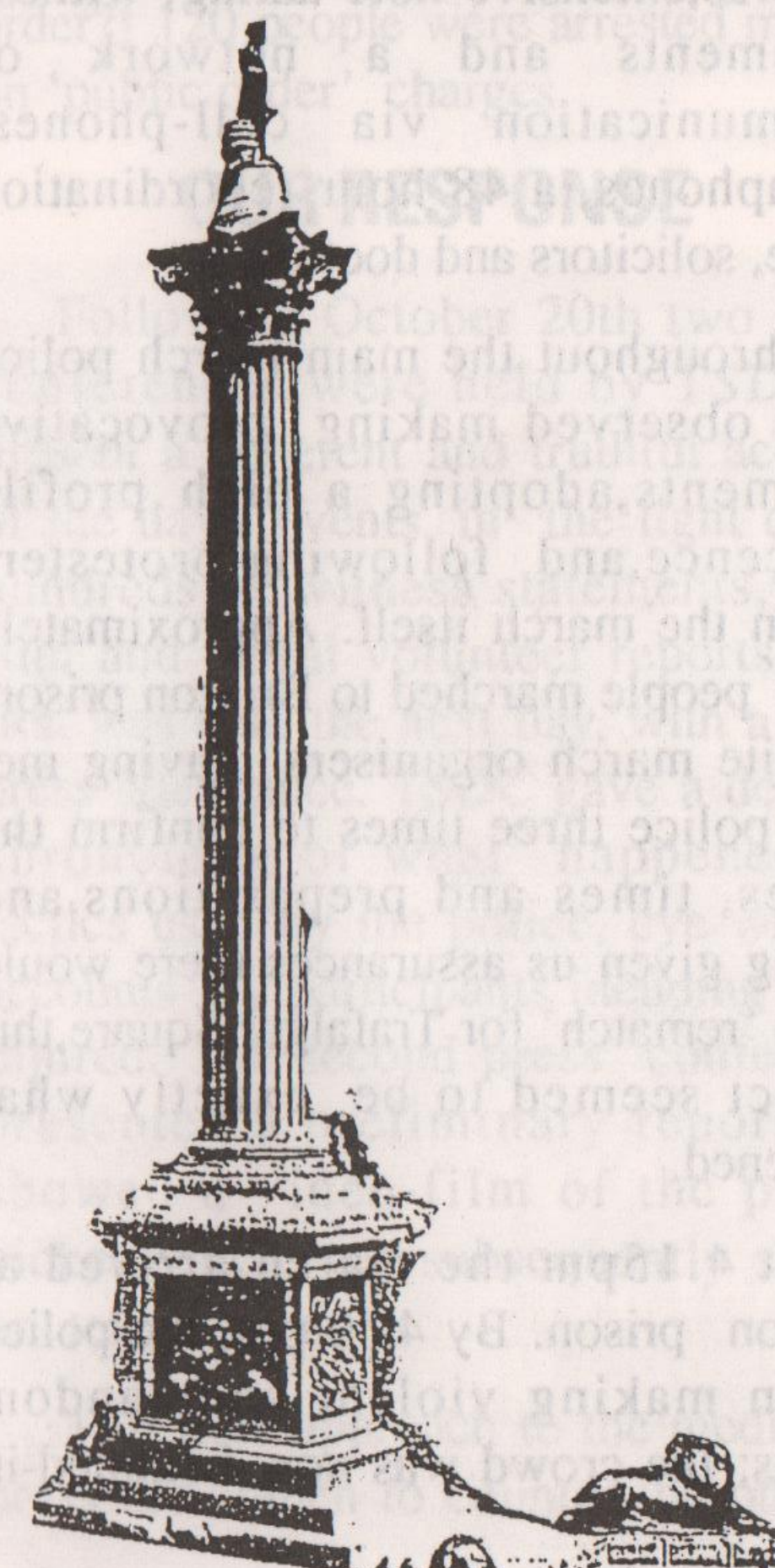
NO.5 JANUARY 1991 PAPER OF THE TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN

This winter the Campaign has moved forward on all fronts - it has been a challenging period, rewarding but also exhausting!

### THE OCTOBER 20th PROTESTS

October 20th was a great show of anti-poll tax strength, 25 - 30,000 attending the London APT March (called by the TSDC and organised by the London APT Federation), and with 2,000 and 3,500 taking part in the 2 TSDC solidarity feeder marches and pickets before and after. The movement was back on the streets and clearly supporting the March 31st defendants and prisoners.

Our Legal Back-up and Monitoring system (including video crews) for the day's events was put to the test by the police attack at Brixton Jail, and worked magnificently. We were able to log and support all 120 arrested and organise an immediate and successful press conference (supporting the demonstrators and attacking police violence), and publish a detailed Report



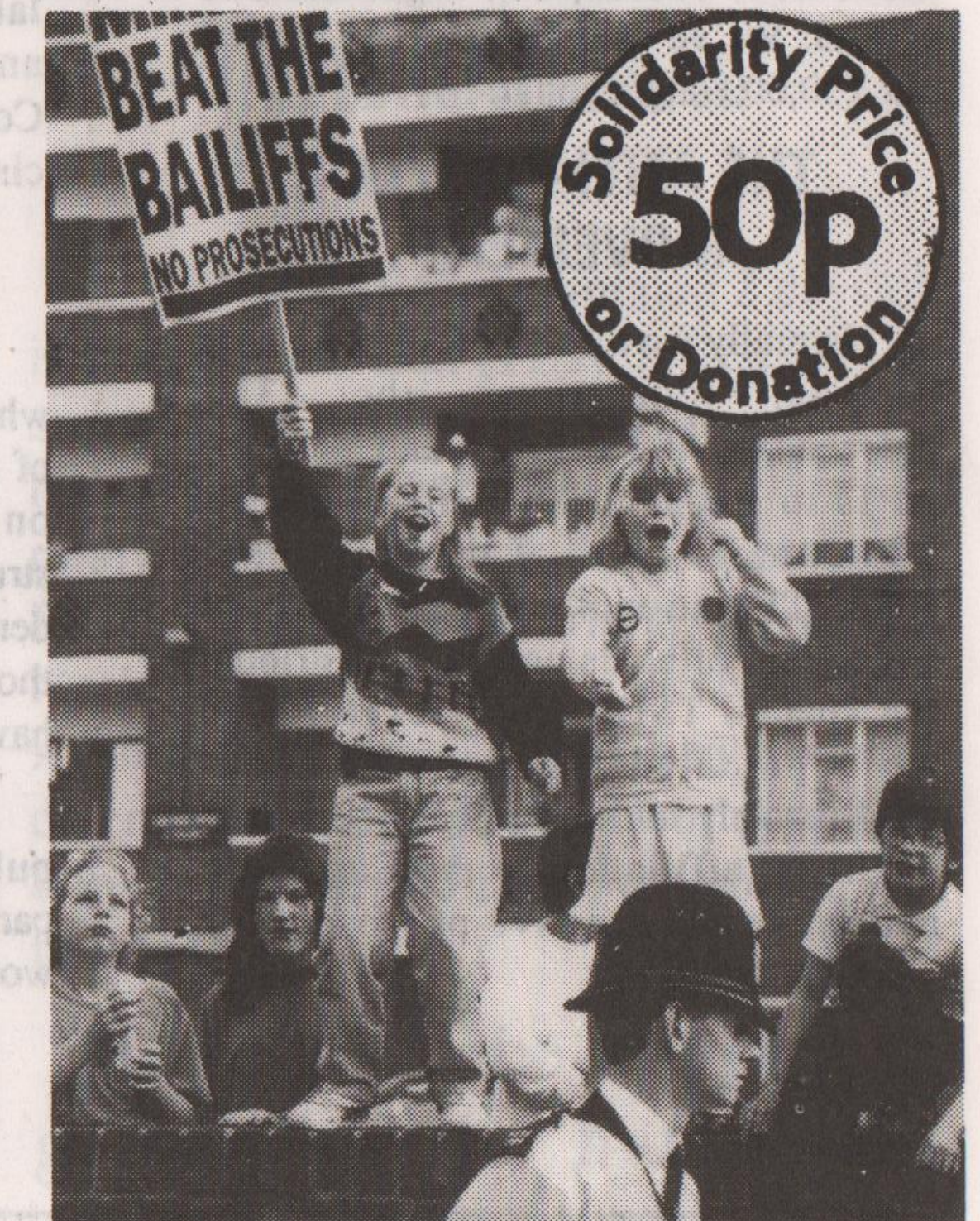
booklet within a week. We organised pickets of the court hearings for the next fortnight.

This was enormous progress all round from the aftermath of March 31st, and to a great extent succeeded in embarrassing and discrediting the media and authorities, and their attempts to smear and criminalise the movement.

### DEFENCE WORK

Following the above events, dozens of new defendants began to attend meetings and visit our office (now staffed full time by volunteers) to help or get support. Our Oct 20th video evidence was made available for viewing and for use in trials. We needed to monitor 15 - 20 hearings weekly up to the end of the year, including of course March 31st trials. There were some successes, but crown court appearances meant some heavy sentences also.

Meanwhile the Prisoners Group was set up and has ensured maximum, systematic support for all those inside and regular updated details of those inside distributed. A special tribute must be made to support campaigns in Holland and Italy for dutch and Italian prisoners, arrested at Brixton and held on remand - within a month, 15 benefits were organised, £10,000 raised as surety, and protests held.



### GRANTHAM SOLIDARITY

The first jailing of a non-payer (for 21 days) in December led to frenetic activity and co-operation by the TSDC, the ABAPTF and above all the local APTU (Grantham) who called a national demonstration for 15th December in the town. With 4 days notice, TSDC provided full, effective, legal back-up and monitoring for the 800 marchers and the later 100-strong prison picket. We also mobilised for the event, produced a special TSDC Grantham Bulletin, and provided speakers at rallies before and after.

### 1991 SERIOUS TRIALS

Crown Court cases and March 31st 'riot' trials at the Old Bailey have now started, and involve a great deal of preparation and support.

### March 23rd - National Anti-Poll Tax Demonstration, Central London

We are already planning and preparing an effective Legal Back-up System for the day, and also of course to ensure there will be full publicity and solidarity for all the APT defendants and prisoners.



# CAMPAIGN NEWS

Cont. from  
Front Page

## AFFILIATIONS

After Oct 20th support for the Campaign has grown a lot with scores of new affiliations - obviously from APTUs, but also notably from labour movement bodies, and organisations abroad. We've raised about £15,000 of our £50,000 target so far.

## THE ANTI-POLL TAX MOVEMENT

Naturally we rely on the regional and national federations, the '3D' independant APT network, and affiliated APTs to spread TSDC information. It was a major issue at the November ABAPTF national conference where Federation officials agreed to distribute the special TSDC Conference Packs we'd prepared for delegates, but unfortunately and inexplicably opposed ABAPTF affiliation to the Campaign and other constructive proposals for working together.

## National Solidarity Conference

We are now working with other defence campaigns, black and Irish organisations, civil liberties groups and labour movement bodies to publicise and organise the February 9th Conference. We'll also be producing and circulating a Report of this event.

We hope we are achieving some of what is needed - we recognise that none of us can be complacent about the tasks on the way to victory in the APT struggle, and also to defend the right to demonstrate. Please contact us with your thoughts and ideas - we don't pretend to have all the answers!

We call on all supporters to affiliate, publicise and most importantly participate in local and national defence work, and the TSDC.

TSDC: OPEN MEETINGS WEEKLY, WEDNESDAYS, 7pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, London WC1. All welcome.

## STOP PRESS No to the Gulf War:

Saturday 12th January — over 100,000 marched to Trafalgar Square against massacres and devastation in the middle east over control of the gulf oil fields. Anger and opposition is also growing to government plans to seize hospital beds, ban some strikes and demos, force people into the army and round up "subversives". We have to pledge to continue our basic struggles against the poll tax and all other oppressive unfair and unjust laws and practices.

## THE OCTOBER 20th PROTESTS

October 20th saw the first big anti-poll tax demonstration in London since the huge demonstration and 'Battle of Trafalgar' on March 31st last year. On August 4th at a TSDC National Defendants' Meeting, it was decided to initiate a London APT march on Oct 20th, and to organise events to support all those arrested and imprisoned after March 31st. This was to be accompanied by two International Days Of Action, 19/20 October..

It was agreed that it was necessary to demonstrate clearly that we cannot let our demonstrations be provoked and brutally attacked by the police, a blatantly political attempt by the state to drive us off the streets, and frighten others away from demonstrating freely. October 20th showed that the government and their police lackeys have failed to deter us - their move has backfired and has simply created more resistance.

The TSDC organised two specific events on the day highlighting the plight of those arrested and imprisoned after March 31st, and to give the Anti-Poll Tax movement the opportunity to show solidarity with the defendants. Activists began early with a 1500-strong lively and noisy picket of Horseferry magistrates at 10.00am, scene of many a show trial and poll tax summons z(largest court picket for 40 years).

A TSDC feeder march from the court met up with the large demonstration in Kennington park organised by the London Federations, and marched on to a rally of over 20,000 people in Brockwell park, Brixton. From the rally 3,500 demonstrators continued onto a second picket at Brixton prison where four anti-poll tax protesters were being imprisoned — the biggest prison demo in 20 years.

The events which followed clearly showed once again the lengths to which the state and police will go to attempt to criminalise and attack the anti-poll tax movement. The TSDC organised a legal Back-up and monitoring system to coordinate and support the marches and pickets. Its purpose was to provide legal information before the march, legal support in case of arrests (and subsequent back-up), and most importantly, 60 volunteers to carry this out and monitor police tactics. To do

this the volunteers used still and video cameras, extensive note-taking, witness statements and a network of communication via cell-phones, megaphones, a 48 hour coordination office, solicitors and doctors.

Throughout the main march police were observed making provocative comments, adopting a high profile presence, and following protesters within the march itself. Approximately 3500 people marched to Brixton prison. Despite march organisers having met with police three times to confirm the routes, times and preparations, and having given us assurances there would be no 'rematch' for Trafalgar Square, this in fact seemed to be exactly what happened.

At 4.15pm the march arrived at Brixton prison. By 4.30 pm, the police began making violent and random arrests; the crowd was now hemmed-in

on three sides, riot police could be seen massing in side streets and some protesters left. At 4.57 pm about 50 riot police charged into the now surrounded crowd, batoning people indiscriminately. Megaphones were taken from TSDC stewards.

From this point onwards, riot and uniformed police, supported by vans moved in making violent arrests, forced marchers into Brixton centre where marchers were again hemmed-in and attacked. The tube station was closed. This continued and people were harassed, assaulted and force-marched for a mile down Brixton road to Oval tube station.

## A PRE-PLANNED ATTACK!

Why did the police decide to violently attack a demonstration one hour before it was due to end? Why was no attempt made to enable people to peacefully disperse? Clearly the police had planned and prepared to provoke and attack, selecting the Brixton picket. The decision to disperse the picket took place almost immediately after people had arrived. Police withdrew liaison officers, the march was prevented from dispersing peacefully and (as we discovered later) Horseferry court had been block-booked in advance for October 22nd. Deployments of at least 3,000 police, the use of riot squads and vans, indicate military-style preparations for war or, in the jargon, 'a serious public order situation'. Whose order?! 120 people were arrested mostly on 'public order' charges.

## OUR RESPONSE

Following October 20th two press conferences were held by TSDC to present a coherent and truthful account of the day's events, in the light of the hundreds of witness statements, video film and legal volunteer reports. The first was held the next day, with a large press attendance. TSDC gave a detailed chronology of what happened, the tactics used by the police, eye-witness accounts by participants including those injured. The second press conference presented a preliminary report and showed a video-film of the prison picket, which was subsequently shown on television news.

This new approach to the media and press did much to counter the obvious

lies, propaganda and media crap which we saw after March 31st, and put the Met. Police on the defensive. Obviously this approach won't prevent the media deliberately putting over police and government versions of events; however it is important that we not only demonstrate against the poll tax but also against the attempts to deny us our right to demonstrate free of police attacks. The police may have backed down on their threat to ban future marches but they hope to use 'public order' legislation as a means of controlling popular dissent.

Much can be learnt from October 20th, not least our renewed resistance to oppressive legislation and policing. The legal support system and a coordinated approach to the media gave us the chance to defend our right to demonstrate. However, to give effective legal support for the coming demonstration in central London on March 23rd 1991, we need to work with all anti-poll tax groups, unions and federations so that every group of marchers is aware of collectively defending each other and providing coordinated legal support on the scale that will be needed.

From the outset it was agreed that stewarding demonstrations must be itself a democratic process, especially by

demonstrators themselves, and that stewards were not there to control protesters (as we have seen, the police's idea of 'public order' enforces that 'control'), but rather to give coordinated support, legal liaison and to facilitate effective communication on actions such as marches and pickets.

## INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The TSDC also initiated 2 days of international action (19/20th October) in support of poll tax defendants. The response was heartening, with actions in many countries including Scotland, France, Poland, Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Greece, Norway and Australia. The international support the defendants received shows how widely known the anti-poll tax movement has become.

As part of the struggle to get rid of the hated tax, demonstrations are vital. They show us the confidence and strength of our movement and show how determined we are to make our voices heard.

## PRISONERS LETTERS

Dear TSDC,

How can I express my gratitude to the new cabinet for the early gift of a New Years Honour (49 days in jail, Assault. Ed) in recognition of the very occasional objections raised by myself Re; The Community Charge?

It was plain from the start of the trial that the State had gone to great lengths in fabricating an extraordinary tapestry of intrigue out of an every day Oxford Street scene. I can only send my sympathies to the chief prosecution witness for any traumas he might have suffered during the case and hope that his conscience is not too trampled to stand up to my appeal. It was great to have many friends and supporters at court throughout - Only sorry that it ended up with a guilty verdict and a half-dozen probationary cops muscling in on the gallery.

I was on my way to the Scrubs but it was full house there so I find that I'm here at Latchmere. It seems to have dodged the suicide statistics that have plagued Brixton and elsewhere this year and it's actually possible to live 2 to a cell plus a fair bit of association. Friends visited on Friday and TSDC organised a radio and newspapers. With help like this I can fight the isolation that I am supposed to accept in place of the right to protest at the brutal arrest of a man on the 31st!

Greetings, yuletide or not, to all other Poll Tax hostages - Stick together on the wrong side of the wire - share what limited comforts come your way - send reports to the TSDC office (like, what kind of facilities do they have for helicopters?). And help each other in the struggle against the systematic criminalisation of the poor. There are 10's of thousands of people outside continuing the fight. P.S. How are they going to make room for all the deserters that are bound to be charter-shipped back from the Gulf?

Alistair Mitchell



## COURT CIRCULAR

Since the last newsletter courts have been continuing to persecute defendants from the Battle of Trafalgar, and of course the victims of the police attack upon our picket of Brixton Prison are now being treated to a dose of judicial nastiness. Occasionally the truth about the police violence, lying and incompetence has been exposed in the courtroom.

In one case a cop claimed to have seen a protestor throw a brick through a window of the South Africa Airways building. The cop admitted that he was 80 yards away in near darkness! He also admitted that he identified the wrong building!

This was too much even for Mrs Stipendary Pamela Long, who had to acquit the protestor and his friend who had tried to stop his unjust arrest. Random arrest and the brutality of PC Tony Egan of the Territorial Support Group [the SPG with a new name!] were uncovered during the trial of Roy Hanney. The jury were so convinced of Roy's innocence that they returned a not guilty verdict before listening to all the speeches and the summing up.

Elsewhere the courts have been displaying a huge amount of inconsistency in sentencing, in contrast to their consistency in always believing the police! Some people have been treated "leniently" with probation and community service orders and the like. Other magistrates, such as Campbell in Marlborough Street and Romner in Clerkenwell have been following in the vindictive footsteps of Roger Davies the nastiest beak in the Horseferry Road Magistrates court, and have sent people to prison for several weeks on the [not very convincing] words of the police.

The message from us should continue to be that all charges should be dropped and that the defence of our demonstrations against police attack is no offence!

## NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE POLL TAX



**March 23rd,  
Central London**

The APT movement is calling a massive national protest march against the Poll Tax to celebrate a year of non-payment in England and Wales, 2 yrs in Scotland - and to show total solidarity with those arrested and imprisoned following the mammoth 200,000 strong demonstration on March 31st 1990.

Preparations are underway to organise and publicise this, and both Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square have been booked and various routes are being considered.

We in the TSDC will be working to enable the movement to express its full solidarity with all the defendants, and also its determination to defend the right to demonstrate. As agreed unanimously at the November All Britain APTF national conference, this event will go ahead WHATEVER the response of the authorities.

### Legal Back-Up

The TSDC will be co-ordinating a comprehensive Legal Back-Up and Monitoring system. This will ensure that every participant gets the maximum possible practical support and that the whole police operation is subject to public scrutiny.

### What Local APTUs and Federations should do

Organisation and solidarity are our strength, and needs to be discussed straight away. Every contingent should:

- choose your own stewards to help on the day (not to police the

demonstration but to protect it)

- contain at least one First Aider
- choose 2 Legal Liason Volunteers (LLVs) to co-ordinate with the Legal Back-Up system (distribute bust cards, get names of anyone arrested and witnesses, monitor police movements/aggression, write a report to send in etc).

We will establish a full Legal Co-ordination Office and a bank of available solicitors etc, as well as mobile LLVs. Your group's liason with this is essential for the welfare of all marchers. Other details will follow.....

Lets also pledge to look out for, and care for, all the people who join our protest but are not part of any contingent and may therefore feel isolated.

**LET'S MAKE THIS A  
MASSIVE SHOW OF OUR  
SOLIDARITY AND  
DETERMINATION TO  
FIGHT ON TILL THE  
GOVERNMENT'S POLL  
TAX IS ABOLISHED, AND  
AN AMNESTY IS  
DECLARED FOR ALL  
NON-PAYERS AND ALL  
ARRESTED AND  
IMPRISONED ANTI-POLL  
TAX DEFENDANTS.**

Every movement for justice must expect to come up against State harassment and repression. To remain effective it must then be able to assure all those who participate in its protests that, if arrested, they will properly defended - legally, politically and financially. In our struggle against the Government's Poll Tax we need to stand by anyone nicked on our street demonstrations, sit-ins, confrontations with bailiffs or whatever.

The recent growth of APT Defence Campaigns (see below) around the country is an inevitable, encouraging and exciting development and one that should be emulated wherever necessary whether following a specific event, or for general defence in a locality/region. The following are some of the Campaigns we have had some contacts with and support:

# DEFENDING OURSELVES

## Other APT Defence Campaigns

collective defence - other fines paid by HAPTU fundraising.

locality/region. Whilst every Campaign is different in specifics, there are general points we'd like to make (not hard and fast rules):

Campaigns are effective if open to all, run collectively, are autonomous with their own funds, and where the basic policies, demands and decisions are made by DEFENDANTS (who have individual and collective veto where appropriate).

They should provide unconditional legal, moral, political, practical, financial support to every defendant and prisoner, and should receive unconditional support from local APTU/Fs. Obviously much needs to be said about legal casework and other practicalities (court monitoring, instructing solicitors, maintaining contacts with all defendants and keeping them involved, witnesses, press, organising protests, line of defence, welfare needs, allocating funds etc), much of which we are learning as we go along.

For this reason there will be a specific Workshop at our NATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE on Feb 9th: 'Organising Defence Campaigns - short and long term objectives'. We welcome everyone to attend, especially those in existing DCs.

### CONCLUSIONS

The greatest insurance we have against repression is our solidarity. Along with practical support there should be public and angry protests and of course a public determination to continue the struggle and to demonstrate, whatever violence and intimidation the authorities and police employ.

**SOLIDARITY AGAINST  
POLICE ATTACKS  
SELF-DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE  
DROP ALL THE CHARGES**

We are committed to sharing (two-way) our experience and knowledge with all Campaigns and those wishing to set them up. Please contact us.

### SETTING UP CAMPAIGNS

Its our experience that, apart from the TSDC, there are two main types of DCs - to support those arrested a) in specific protests b) over a period in a



# WE'RE WINNING



The non-payment campaign is causing a government Crisis. The Poll Tax is extortionate, unfair and unworkable. The movement against it has drawn hundreds of thousands of people into political activity for the first time in their lives, and millions into conflict with enforcement measures.

The non-payment campaign is now one of the largest movements of civil disobedience in British history. In December, Scots local authority reps held a crisis meeting with the Minister of State: "It's about time the Government realised the system has broken down"...the picture is going from bad to worse"...the worry is that public resistance to the tax will get stronger - the higher the bills the greater the problems and more tax dodgers. And this is the easiest tax to dodge"...those billed seem to think they might benefit from a non-payment amnesty"...etc. etc. A week later Thatcher had been forced to resign, and Poll Tax "reform" was promised.

Meanwhile, the authorities, having lost all the arguments, have only fear and lies to resort to. Fear - attacks on our protests (and threats of future bans), threats of and use of courts, bailiffs and even jail against determined non-payers. Lies - nasty propaganda to smear non-payers for "causing high Poll Tax levels and cuts in services"...the very things people are rightly responding to and fighting against! These threats and lies show the authorities' weakness, not strength, but will still have some effect though until we show that they are empty and baseless.

But just as important, we shouldn't underestimate the effect of this in

discouraging non-payers from actively joining APT groups/events. For whilst there are thousands of local groups, after 2 years (3 in Scotland) the movement (the local APTs, the federations, events, strategy, etc.) is tending to get set in its ways, relying on a layer of now-experienced activists.

## GET ACTIVE

Hence at this time a key task for all of us is the **involvement of people** in all activities and at every level, and to encourage the new ideas, energy, initiative and diversity this inevitably means. Another task is for the movement to **maintain and increase** our presence in the streets, our neighborhoods and workplaces. Defence Campaigns like the TSDC have been crucial in overcoming people's fear, defending the right to demonstrate, and in maintaining the unity of the movement. In fact, possibly the single most important political event of last year - the "Battle of Trafalgar", was turned by the demonstrators, the movement and the TSDC, against the Government and helped to break **their** unity, not ours in the end.

There's a long way to go yet in this titanic struggle and we all need to gear ourselves up for more future threats, lies, bogus "reforms" and promises and bribery before the elections.

*WE ARE WINNING — and our guarantee of victory is to stand firm on all fronts and to continue to demand the complete abolition of the Tax, a total debts amnesty for non-payers, and the release of all Poll Tax prisoners.*

## LIFE AFTER DEBT

The Poll Tax campaign has shown the links with opposition to other disgusting aspects of this society - the class divide, the arrogance and subservience of the police, courts and media, the lack of any local community control over local decisions, etc. It has greatly strengthened the struggle for the right to basic needs and services for all. It is helping regenerate community self-organisation, solidarity, and the confidence to stand up to those bodies which think they are so powerful but which we are now realising are helpless in the face of determined mass working-class opposition and non-cooperation. These struggles are ongoing, and by defeating the Poll Tax we will have shifted the balance of power and questioned whether we need "Them" at all.

## OUR HISTORY

Like the 1381 Peasants Revolt, the 1640's English revolution, the Luddites and the Chartists and late 19th Century strikes...like the syndicalist industrial revolt 1910-1914, the suffragettes, unemployed struggles in the 30's...like the post-war housing occupations and mass strikes, 60's youth revolts and cultural upheaval, the women's movement, resistance in the North of Ireland and the 70's prison sit-ins...and like the 78/9 winter of discontent, the '81/'85 inner-city uprisings of black people and youth in general, the miner's strike '84/5 (and 1926) and so on...like all these, the anti-poll tax struggle is our history and will be remembered and referred to time and time again. Let's build on it, let's create solidarity networks and community self-defence, and let's not forget that the struggle will continue until a decent society is created, run by and for ordinary people, the whole world over.

# SOLIDARITY AGAINST POLICE ATTACKS

## — sharing our experiences

In recent years we've witnessed increasing police attacks and controls on protests, pickets and sections of our community, backed up by new laws (Public Order Act, Employment Act etc).

The authorities are trying to criminalise any effective opposition.

At the same time inner city working-class communities, above all black people, have been subjected to violent and paramilitary policing. This is aimed at trying to impress upon those who bear the brunt of economic and social hardship and oppression that any fightback will be isolated and stifled.

## FIGHTBACK

However, throughout the '80s, industrial and community struggles of all kinds have continued - inner city street revolts, miners' and printworkers' strikes, anti-fascist and anti-racist protests, and demonstrations by a wide range of movements and groups. Those involved have had to face systematic police harassment, reinforced by media indifference or hostility.

But with the rise of mass civil disobedience against the Poll Tax, an atmosphere of greater confidence and solidarity has begun to spread throughout the country and across sections of the community.

We in the TSDC, which was formed out of one of the biggest demonstrations and angriest street conflicts ever seen in this country, have tried to analyse Government policy and police tactics. When our 3,500-strong Brixton Jail demonstration on October 20th was broken up by a pre-planned police attack and followed by calls from police chiefs and politicians for bans on future APT

protests, it became clear that the right to demonstrate was under threat again and even more seriously.

## A SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

As this was now an essential issue beyond just the APT movement, and spurred on by a need to involve TSDC affiliated bodies especially, we decided to call a conference to bring together those people, groups and movements who've experienced modern police methods and who've had to fight for their rights.

After discussion with many groups we decided to extend the purpose of the conference to encompass the whole idea of policing and our response, of self-organisation and self-defence. (See AGENDA below).

We've had a great response - with other defence campaigns, Black and

Irish organisations, students unions, trades unions and trades councils, students unions, the NCCL (Liberty), and of course APT federations all publicising the event.

We sincerely hope for the maximum participation of delegates and activists present, and that as well as informed debate there will be some practical conclusions and initiatives to help us defend ourselves from future State aggression.

The conference will end with a Solidarity Pledge and a full Report will be compiled for widespread distribution afterwards.

**WE URGE YOU OR YOUR ORGANISATION TO ATTEND ON FEB 9th (£5 per delegate, £2 individual, free to defendants..in advance if possible, or at the door - PLEASE BOOK CRECHE IN ADVANCE).**

## NATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE AGAINST POLICE ATTACKS

Saturday February 9th, 11 am — 5 pm  
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1

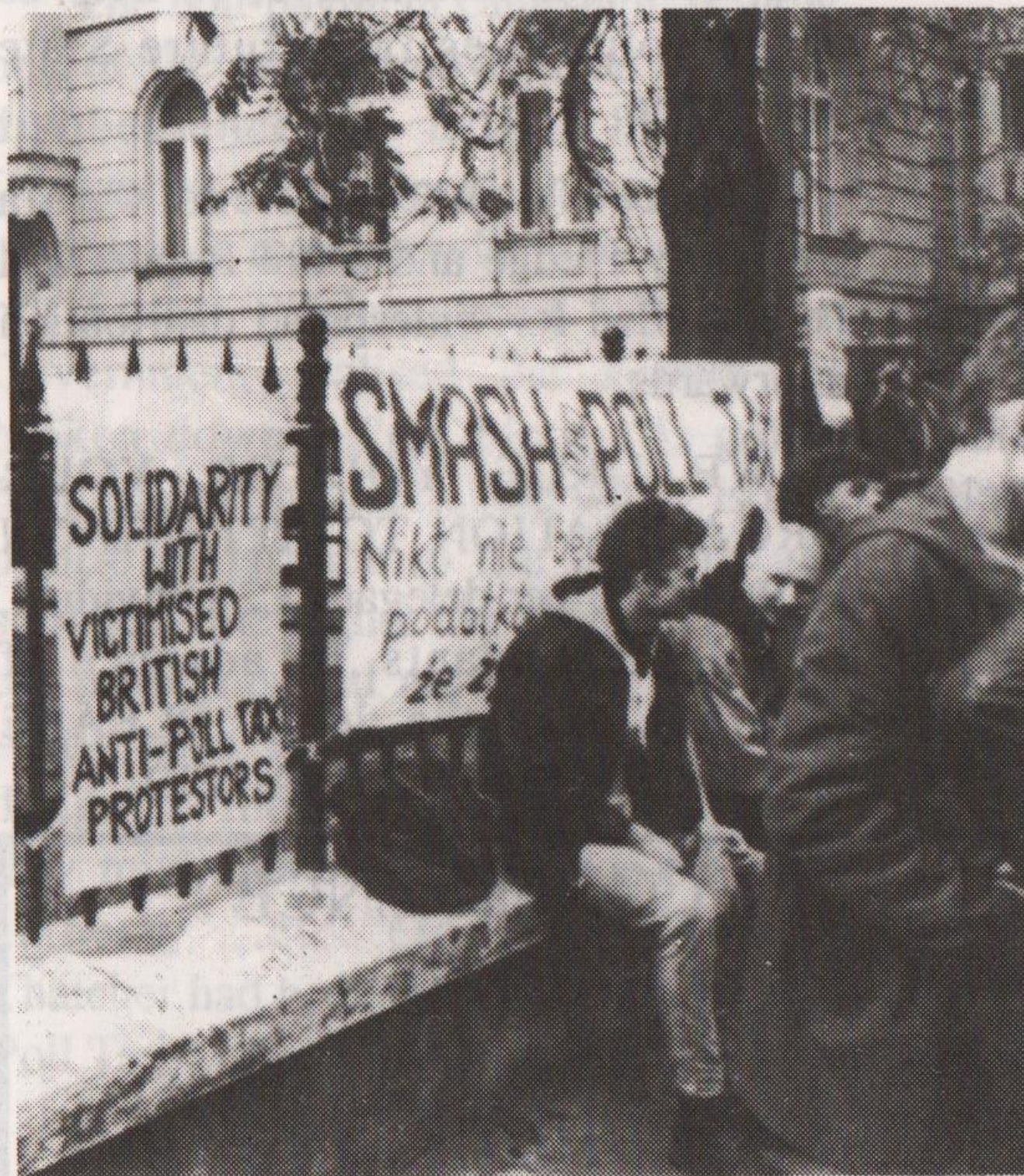
### AGENDA

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 11.00 | Registration. Videos, Refreshment  |
| 11.30 | Open Platform  |
| 12.00 | Introduction and speeches  |
| 1.00  | Fighting Back — Our experiences  |
|       | Workshops:   |
|       | Black struggles- self-organisation & self-defence  |
|       | Labour movement — defending strikes & picketing  |
|       | Irish solidarity movement — across the water & here                                      |
|       | Anti-Poll Tax campaign — mass civil disobedience   |
|       | Lesbian & Gay Community & police harassment  |
| 2.00  | Break  |
| 2.30  | Fighting Back — Organising to defend ourselves   |
|       | Workshops:   |
|       | Organising Defence Campaigns - Short and long term objectives                            |
|       | Legal Back-up & monitoring protests and the police                                       |
|       | Organising protests — tactics  |
|       | Supporting prisoners   |
| 4.00  | Plenary session  |
|       | Report-backs from workshops and conclusions  |
|       | Preparing for the March 23rd national anti-poll tax demonstration                        |
|       | Pledge of solidarity and determination to fight on despite police harassment and attacks |



# INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The following is a translation of a press release put out by a group of french activists who organised the occupation of the British Embassy in Lyon on Thursday 18th October in solidarity with anti-poll tax campaigners and Trafalgar Square defendants. About 30 people occupied the embassy and flew a banner inscribed: "STOP POLL TAX. AMNESTIE POUR LES MANIFESTANTS DE TRAFALGAR SQUARE". All the occupiers managed to escape being arrested by the police who eventually managed to re-take the building. The translation is the original one done by the French comrades. It doesn't do justice to the original french and is slightly obscure in parts but we have left it as it is rather than risk changing the original meaning.



## PRESS RELEASE

Thatcher, who make us familiar to several jokes: the Falklands war, the death of Irish hunger strikers, the suppression of National Wealth, of miners (etc...), has just found, as a last bloody trick, the institution of a new tax: THE POLL TAX!

That notorious comic might like Robin Hood and was directly inspired by him with a small difference: this time it's rob from the poor to give rich!

The Poll Tax's a home [local?] Tax based on people and not on housing anymore. That means, for example:

ten persons on a flat'll pay ten times more than the Prince Charles in his manor. Funny, isn't it?

The lower classes (seeing evil everywhere) don't give up to struggle. The "Jacquerie", that began more than a year ago in Scotland, is spreading all over the country: sacking of castles (council houses [halls?]), attack of bailiffs and a fierce battle with the Queen's Archers.

One of the biggest battle of this troubled times was the battle of Trafalgar Square! On one side 200 000 serfs, on the other side the servicemen: rank and file troopers and cavalry. As a result: one of the biggest riot that had ever happened in England had wrecked the London inner city.

Without understanding their stake, the villains are calling for a new demo for the 20th October in London Town. And, hear about it, gay newsmongers, during these events there's been a savage repression! Beyond the bludgeonning, more than 500 "yokels" were jailed.

But, now, let's stop laughing! The denouncement was instaurated as a civic duty, the press published the demonstrators photos with a hotline to identify them and, more than six months later, the police keep prosecuting the rioters or people supposed to be...

Facing the capitalistic exchange, and the police repression inside states of Europa, we oppose our universal solidarity between victims of the same system. That's the reason why we give unconditional support to the English people's claims:

- Releasing of all prisoners
- Dropping of all charges
- Abolition of the Poll Tax

P.S. Talking about riots; one might be foolish, mayor or social worker to be amazed by what happened in London or in Vaulx-en-Velin (i.e. the latest riot in France). Proportionally, the same causes are producing the

same effects. To drive back people in a smaller and smaller places, to give them the choice between work and boredom, to let them as a future, to become cops or gangsters, to make to have the money to pay the last bill to get, as entertainment, the consummation in supermarket or in night clubs (if they let you enter inside); it's exposing slowly but surely to the falling of a climbing tower or that a wealthy area as the West End turn to ashes.

Robin Hood's friends  
Lyon on 18.10.90

## ANTI POLL TAX WORK IN NORWAY

In support of Poll Tax prisoners, some people in Oslo have made the Norwegian Anti Poll Tax Union (NAPU). 19 Oktober, on the international action day against Poll Tax, NAPU organised a demonstration against the Poll Tax outside the British embassy.

About 150 persons participated in the demo and a representant for NAPU delivered a protest letter against the British parliament and the British Department of Environment, who is responsible for the Poll Tax. Different groups from the left wing participated in the demo and a representant of the Renovation Service Workers Union talked about the Thatcherism and the reactionary Thatcher-politics in the city council in Oslo. Many of the same things are happening in Oslo. The unemployment in Oslo is getting larger, everything is getting privatised and sold off to private companies. Thatcherism is the idol of the chairman and the city council of Oslo! After the demo there was a discussion meeting at Blitz about the Poll Tax, a video from the Poll Tax riot was to be shown but someone had stolen it. It was shown before a support concert for the TSDC at Blitz some weeks later.

from: Blitz Newsletter,  
December 1990.

# BLOODY SUNDAY

The Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign has vowed to fight any attempt by the powers that be to ban street protests against the poll tax. In our fight for the right to demonstrate we have to remember that we are not the first movement to face banning orders from the state. This article is hopefully the first of many giving about other movements that have come into conflict with this State over the right to demonstrate.

This month sees the 19th anniversary of one of the most brutal suppressions of an unarmed street protest by state security forces since WWII. The name of this episode, although rarely heard in the media, still returns sporadically to haunt those who would have us believe that this State can criticize other governments that use their armed forces to open fire on popular demonstrations.

Bloody Sunday is a name that will be vaguely familiar to many and yet it would not be surprising if many are unable to say exactly what actually happened on 30 January 1972 in Derry, given the veil of silence which has covered this event for so long. The chain of events which led to Bloody Sunday started in 1968 with the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil Rights Movement was formed to fight the sectarian discrimination enshrined in Northern Ireland law.

The demands of the Civil Rights Movement included the introduction of "One man, one vote", an end to discrimination in housing and employment, and the repeal of the Special Powers Act (of which a South African Law and Order minister once said that he'd exchange the entire apartheid system for just one of the Act's 10 sections).

Uncontroversial as these demands may seem, peaceful protests by the CRM were repeatedly broken up by attacks by police, auxiliaries and mobs of loyalist reactionaries influenced by the ravings of the "Reverend" Ian Paisley. Eventually, in their desperation to crush the Civil Rights Movement, these forces resorted to directly attacking nationalist communities by rampaging through their areas.

This brought an end to the Civil Rights Movement as a peaceful protest movement. The nationalist community reacted to these invasions by building barricades and resisting the police, mainly with bricks and petrol bombs. When the police were unable to crush this resistance the British government sent in the troops to "aid the

civil authority". This ushered in a short time of relative peace as people exhausted by the traumatic struggles, tried to recuperate and waited to see what changes direct British intervention would bring. However by the early summer of 1971 a number of incidents involving the army had changed people's perceptions and militancy was again on the rise.

In August the Stormont Government introduced internment without charge or trial in an attempt to crush dissent. Immediately on the introduction of internment, the Stormont premier, Brian Faulkner, declared a 12 month ban on all demonstrations. While the official civil rights association was reluctant to challenge the ban, the nationalist community responded by heightened protest, including a rent and rates strike which attracted the support of some 40,000 households.

This rent and rates strike involved the use of window posters and street committees, much like the poll tax resistance today. The aftermath of the strike involved the bringing in of laws allowing direct deductions from benefits to cover debts, the very same laws that are now being used against non-payers in Britain.

If internment was supposed to suppress protest it was a drastic failure. As October came, the rent and rates strike snowballed into a non-payment of TV, radio and car licences, road tax, ground rent, electricity, gas and hire purchase with the result that local government came to a standstill. Any attempt to use bailiffs or to cut off services were opposed by organised community action.

By the end of December, groups of people together with Peoples Democracy (a left-wing, mainly student based group, heavily involved with the civil rights movement) planned to defy the ban on public demonstrations and organised a march from Belfast to Long Kesh (where internees were kept) on Christmas day. It was against this background that tens of thousands of people attended a civil rights demonstration in Derry on Sunday 30th January.

The march left the Creggan and headed off towards the rally in Rossville Street. The marchers were prevented from entering the Guildhall Square by barbed wire barriers. During the rally the British army responded to some stones being thrown by using CS gas and water cannon. By 4.15, army tactics began to change and stragglers who arrived late began to flee at the sight of the

advancing paratroopers. The Paras then took up firing positions and began to shoot. the 14 people who were killed were either fleeing or trying to surrender.

The 14 dead were:  
Patrick Doherty (30);  
Gerald Donahey (17);  
Jack Duddy (17);  
Hugh Gilmore (17);  
John Johnstone;  
Michael Kelly (17);  
Michael McDaid (21);  
Kevin McElhinny (17);  
Bernard (41);  
Gerald McKinny;  
William McKinny (27);  
William Nash (19);  
James Joseph Wray (23);  
John Young (17).

The effects of this trauma are still being felt. In the South of Ireland, upon hearing the news, a spontaneous mass demonstration march to the British Embassy in Dublin and, despite the futile efforts of the Gardai to restrain the crowd, burnt it to the ground. World opinion was outraged, and the British government was sufficiently embarrassed to launch a special enquiry into the "affair", headed by Colin Wallace.

That the enquiry was nothing more than a white wash can be seen from what Fred Holroyd (ex-British Army intelligence officer) has to say: "...This ties up with what Colin Wallace has said, Wallace said when he was involved with the tribunal they would have a rehearsal everyday before they actually went into court with the soldiers and NCO's who were involved and they would actually go through a duplicate of the day's proceedings so that all those people went in there they couldn't be expected to be caught out with any questions which might reveal anything other than what the army wanted revealed."

19 years on people in Ireland and in Britain still march every year to remember those 14 people shot down by the state for protesting for civil rights.

This year the Bloody Sunday commemoration march is on Saturday 26 January, assemble Hyde Park 12 noon, march to rally in Kilburn. Contact Committee for British Withdrawal From Ireland, Box 353, London NW5 4NH for more details.



# PRISONERS LIST

## REMAND PRISONERS

**DANIEL ATTWOOD, KT1303**  
Latchmere House Remand Centre,  
Church Rd., Ham Common,  
Richmond, Surrey, TW10 5HH.  
Arrested 20th October in Brixton.  
Charged Section 2 and Section 4  
POA and Criminal Damage.

**MARCUS B. ROSKILLY, KT1294**  
HMP Brixton, Jebb Ave, London,  
SW2 5XF. Arrested 20th October in  
Brixton. Charged Section 3 POA. At  
the time of writing Marcus is about  
to face trial so his circumstances will  
probably change.

## STOP THE SHOW TRIALS

**PAUL JACOB, RA0711 HMP Brixton,**  
Jebb Ave, London, SW2 5XF.  
Arrested 31st March in Trafalgar  
Square. Charged Section 1, Section  
2, GBH. Paul is a traveller and his  
home and all his worldly possessions  
were in two vans which have since  
been towed away and destroyed.  
There is now a fund being set up by  
a supporter in Aylesbury to collect  
money for Paul to get a new  
van/home when he gets out. The  
address is: Box S, 34 Cowley Road,  
Oxford.

## CONVICTED PRISONERS

**NEIL HARDING, MV1333 HMP**  
Brixton, Jebb Ave, London, SW2  
5XF. Both Neil and Alan were  
arrested and convicted for charges  
relating to the demonstrations in  
Hackney against the setting of the  
poll tax level, earlier this year.  
Sentenced to 8 months. EDR Jan 18  
1991, not long to go now!

**ALAN CLARKE, MV2254 HMP**  
Pentonville, Caledonian Rd.,  
London, N7 8TT. Alan can't read  
so it would be best to send cards  
rather than letters. GBH, 2 years.

**ROBERT ROBINSON aka SIMON**  
**O'REILLY, RA0741 HMP Camp**  
Hill, Clissold Rd., Newport, Isle of  
Wight, PO30 5PB. Arrested on 31st  
March. Charged and convicted  
Section 2 POA. Sentenced 2 years.  
A police van ran over Roberts foot in  
Trafalgar Square but he was tried for  
kicking the police van.

**WAYNE CALDER, NT0082 HMYOI**  
Huntercome, Huntercome Place,  
Nuffield, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon  
RG9 5SB. Arrested 31st March in  
Trafalgar. Tried, convicted and  
sentenced to 2 years.

N.B. Sentences of 12 months or  
under usually get half remission, ie.  
someone sentenced to 3 months will  
normally only do 6 weeks. Sentences  
over 12 months people are eligible for  
parole after the first third of their  
sentence and get the last third off on  
remission. However remission can be  
lost. If in doubt phone the office.

## CUSTARD PIES LEAD TO JAIL

In Nottingham last March  
(1990) there were anti-Poll Tax  
protests inside the council  
chamber. Two people, dressed up  
as Robin Hood were arrested for  
throwing custard pies at  
councillors setting the Poll Tax  
rate.

Keith Duncombe (JH2569) and  
Guy Waddingham (JH2568) were  
sentenced to one month jail each  
on 8th January 1991. ...HMP  
Lincoln, Greetwell Road, Lincoln.

Louise, TSDC Prisoners Group

# PRISONERS SUPPORT GROUP

The TSDC Prisoners Support  
Group was set up around the end of  
October to support those imprisoned  
for the poll tax demos in March and  
October. Obviously, the group could  
have done with being established  
sooner, but somehow prisoners' needs  
got overlooked in the rush to trace  
witnesses for the 31st, prepare cases  
and fundraise. But now that the group  
is up and running it has become one of  
the most active components of the  
TSDC.

We have a regular weekly  
meeting to discuss the various  
prisoners being supported and we are  
slowly learning the best way to deal  
with things. An early problem was  
caused by "advertising" all the  
prisoners without consulting them,  
which resulted in an irate inmate  
demanding to be taken off the list, so  
now we write to every prisoner first to  
discover their wishes.

We organise a rota every meeting  
for visiting the remand prisoners so  
that they get maximum visiting rights,  
send £10 per month to every inmate  
for their "private spends", and, of  
course, are regularly updating the list,

which at present is changing on an  
almost weekly basis. The list gets  
mailed out to all contacts with  
detailed info on the back on the best  
way to support the poll tax prisoners,  
plus advice to phone the TSDC office  
before you do anything in order to get  
the latest news. Supporting poll tax  
prisoners is vital - if they weren't  
inside it could be you instead!

We urge everyone to send letters  
of solidarity at the very least and some  
anti-poll tax groups are now adopting  
prisoners: ie pledging to write on a  
regular basis, and send books,  
magazines etc. Fundraising too is vital -  
prisoners cost money! Donations to  
TSDC should specify if the money is  
to be used for prisoners otherwise it'll  
end up going into general funds.

We guarantee that every penny  
raised for prisoners goes directly  
towards helping them. If you're  
interested in the work of the prisoners  
group come along to a meeting and  
find out how you can help, or drop us  
a line or call the office if you are  
outside London.

# NEITHER "SCUM" NOR "PORRIDGE"

Where to start about imprisonment? I  
could rant on for the length of this article  
and more about what a bastard Roger  
Davies (Horseferry Road magistrate) is  
and how he should be hung from  
Nelson's Column by his thumbs for what  
he did to me and several others. But  
that's not what I'm setting out to do. I  
want to say something optimistic to  
reassure people that being banged up  
isn't as bad as some would have us believe  
but at the same time I don't want anyone  
to think I'm justifying my imprisonment  
on the passing whim of the C.P.S., the  
aforementioned Davies and certain cops.

Firstly, let me tell you a little  
background info. I was sentenced to 3  
months for threatening behaviour after  
March 31st and served six and a half  
weeks in youth custody, most of which  
was as pleasant as can be expected under  
the circumstances. It did have it's low  
points and admittedly during my time,

I experienced the full range of  
negative emotions and at the very worst  
points, irrational fears but thankfully none  
of these set in. Like, I suspect, many of  
the defendants who are awaiting the  
outcome of their trials, I had no experience  
of the prison system and my idea of  
Young Offenders' Institutes was largely  
derived from the film "Scum" and other  
such sources and believe me, 3 months  
looked a fucking long time from that  
angle. So there's lesson No. 1. Don't  
believe the hype. In reality it was pretty  
much one long stretch of intensified  
boredom sporadically interrupted by  
meals and wing cleaning and not socks full  
of PP9s to the head and pans of boiling  
water in the face as some might have us  
believe.

Another belief that is important to  
dispel is that being a "Poll Tax rioter"  
puts you in line for adverse treatment. In  
my opinion, it's fair to say that screws are  
a lot nearer to being normal human  
beings, or if you prefer, members of the  
general public than cops and as such  
their opinion of the Community Charge  
holds with that of the aforementioned and  
as such many will respect you for the  
stand you've taken and certainly won't  
see it as a reason to treat you especially  
badly.

However with inmates, in my case at  
least, there was a whole different story  
and in many cases when I told them what  
my charge was, I might have well been  
telling them that I had run around

Trafalgar Square wearing a red nose and  
with my trousers down...i.e. ridicule.  
However, this was mainly due to the fact  
that I was in for an unusual reason and I  
was the first Trafalgar Square victim to  
make it to this particular institution and it  
must be said that I never came in for any  
malicious piss-taking or the like and it  
calmed down after a couple of weeks.

It is true that I came into contact with  
a lot more machismo behaviour than I'm  
used to. Obviously this only applies to  
male nicks as for that matter does the  
whole article as I've no idea what the  
female equivalents are like. But it did  
affect me for at least a week after my  
release but again nothing to worry about,  
which I hope is the attitude which is  
coming out over the length of this piece.

On the practical side of things, there's  
not a lot of advice I can give those of  
you looking at a stretch that wouldn't be

patronising as you really learn everything  
you need to in the first week or so.  
Maybe take a few quid with you to put  
into your private spends if you are  
unlucky enough to get sent down as it  
comes in really handy. I can't emphasise  
enough how important it is for  
defendant's friends to write and visit as  
outside contact is worth it's weight in  
gold.

Hopefully, I might've made one or  
two of you less wary of what's in store  
which is no reason to be complacent and  
stop fighting but if you do get sent down,  
try and keep your head high and your  
heart strong, hopefully time'll fly by and  
everyone gets out sometime.

Craig

Ex-Defendant from March 31st 1990

# PRISON "RIOTERS" VINDICATED

## Jury Refuse to Convict

On October 12th last year, after a 5  
month trial, all 20 Risley prisoners  
charged with riot and criminal damage  
during their 3- day uprising and  
takeover of Risley Remand Centre  
(May 1-3rd 1988) were vindicated  
due to the refusal of the jury to  
condemn or convict.

The defendants explained that  
they were entitled to protest  
effectively (sit-ins, rooftop occupation  
etc.) against inhuman conditions, and  
to defend themselves (barricades, tiles  
etc.) when attacked by the screws and  
MUFTI squads.

So despite all the efforts of the  
authorities to violently retake the  
prison (this was repulsed, and the  
prisoner's demands were conceded),  
to rubbish the protestors as "drug-  
crazed" and "led by psychopaths", to  
disperse the participants and to charge  
them with offences carrying up to 20  
year sentences - they failed.

The prisoners' success in exposing  
the truth about the prison led to the  
Home Office official enquiry  
recommending the jail be closed

down - the report was suppressed but  
the message was already getting  
through.

Despite overwhelming odds during  
the trial, especially the clear bias of  
the judge, the 12 jurors unanimously  
backed the defendants. This success  
is down to the prisoners'  
determination, collective defence and  
solidarity, and public disgust with  
prison conditions in general after  
constant jail protests.

**It shows what can be achieved.**

*"With the MUFTI on the ground  
floor corridor rushing up the stairs  
we had a serious head-on confrontation  
- we were seriously concerned for our  
safety, given the squad's reputation for  
gross violence and brutality, we were  
faced with the stark choice of either  
waiting passively to be brutalised and  
violated, or resisting and defending  
ourselves by any means necessary. we  
took the latter course".*

Wadi Williams  
one of the Risley 54