

McLIBEL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

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UPDATE 11th January 1994

MCDONALDS FAILS TO SILENCE CRITICISM

"McLibel 2" trial starts February 28th amid protests.

After three and a half years of pre-trial legal argument, a date has finally been set for the High Court libel trial brought by the \$20 billion per year McDonalds Corporation against 2 unwaged supporters of London Greenpeace. It begins on Monday February 28th and is expected to last throughout March.

Libel laws are complex, oppressive and expensive to fight, yet no Legal Aid is available. The defendants are representing and financing themselves, in order to resist censorship and to defend the truth about the fast food giant and their involvement in exploiting workers, animals and the environment, and in pushing unhealthy food. There are 70 defence witnesses, including 16 from overseas.

Faced with a strong and determined defence, the Court has broken its own rules by allowing McDonalds to withhold from the defendants a huge number of company documents, and other relevant information. On December 21st the Court removed the defendants right to a jury trial, saying the matters were "too complex" for the public to understand. In fact the opposite is true, the jury would have been likely to be outraged that the case was ever brought at all.

In the light of this the "McLibel 2" have applied to appeal against the denial of these rights, and the McLibel Support Campaign is calling for all citizens to protest against the Corporation and to defend free speech:

***SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY :** a day of action involving leafletting at local McDonalds stores nationwide. (In last October's day of action over 150 stores were leafletted nationwide.)

***MONDAY 28TH FEBRUARY AT 9:30 AM :** Demonstrate at the High Court, the Strand, London WC2., (Holborn Tube). Bring banners!

***THE SATURDAY AFTER THE VERDICT :** Local protests.

***SATURDAY 21ST MAY :** a national Free Speech Day with protests at local stores. Leaflets are available at £12 per 1000 from :

061 953 4039

0602 585666

and (London only) c/o the McLibel Support Campaign.

APPEAL : The defence needs to raise thousands of pounds in order to pay the fares of their witnesses - ex-staff and trade unionists, ex-cattle ranchers, soya feed and rainforest experts, animal welfare advocates, nutrition and health specialists etc.

I / We back the McLibel Support Campaign

Name Name of Group

Address Phone

I / We enclose a Donation : £..... (cheques to 'McLibel Support Campaign').

McLibel Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1.

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