

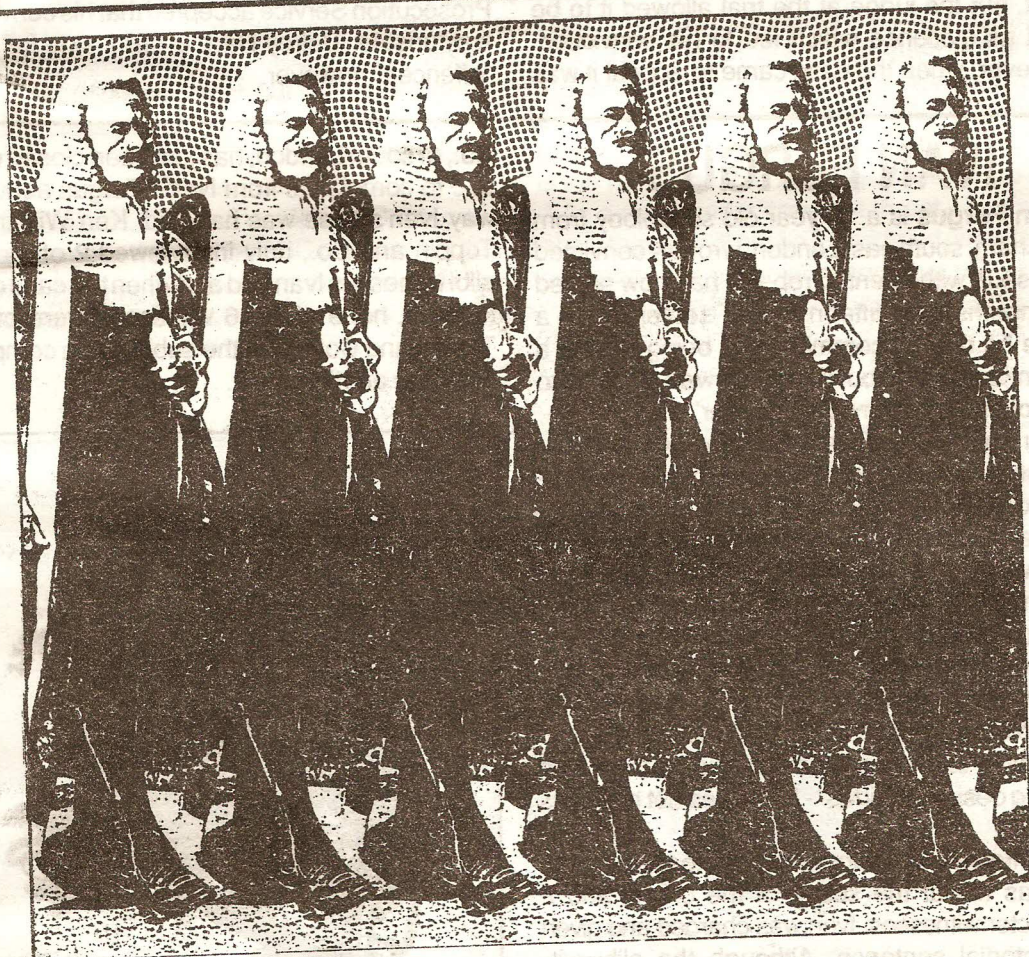
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FREE TO PRISONERS



Seriously Criminal Squad go free - Page 3

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SUPPORTING CLASS STRUGGLE PRISONERS

ROBERT HAUGHTON FREED

Robert Haughton, who was framed by the West Midlands Police, was freed on the 17th May. Robert, who got 10 years for a shooting incident in Birmingham in 1987, was convicted on an unsigned "admission of guilt" produced by the police after he had been let out on bail. Before this "statement" was "discovered", the evidence was non-existent and Robert was looking likely to be acquitted. He denied making the statement, but the judge at the trial allowed it to be used as evidence which led to his conviction. However, when the case came to appeal it was

thrown out! Robert now intends to "sue the bollocks" off the police - good luck to him.

On the same day that Robert Haughton was freed, the conviction of Delroy Hare, another victim of framing by the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad was quashed by the Court of Appeal.

He was framed for armed robbery but the Crown Prosecution Service accepted that his conviction was unsafe. Delroy Hare is still inside for other "offences" however.

IVAN FERGUS

Ivan Fergus is a 14 year old schoolboy from Peckham, south east London, wrongly convicted of assault with intent to rob. He has now served six months of a fifteen month sentence for a crime he did not commit. He is being held in a Detention Centre, but is now allowed out to go to school as he is a 'model prisoner'.

Ivan was arrested while on his way to school - but he has never understood why he was arrested in the first place. He was convicted solely on the evidence of the victim who picked him out two weeks after the attack. This is despite the victim's description of the attacker not matching that of Ivan. The attacker was described as: "slightly brown complexion" - Ivan has a dark brown complexion, "5'11" tall" - Ivan is 5'7", "stubble on his face" - Ivan has no stubble and has never shaved, and "distinctive haircut...with zig zag design on sides" - Ivan does not have this haircut.

Despite having 4 alibi witnesses to the fact that he was not at the scene of the crime, and 2 character witnesses, Ivan was charged and given a custodial sentence. Although the alibi witnesses had made sworn statements, they were not called to give evidence in court. Ivan's mother, Nellie, is campaigning for Ivan's release. She is now taking legal action against the solicitors involved in the case. Even the police have expressed "surprise" that the case came to court in the first place.

For more information contact: *The Campaign for Justice for Ivan Fergus*, 192 Evelyn Street, London SE8 5DB. Tel: 081-692-1308.

STOP PRESS: Latest news is that the firm of solicitors involved in Ivan's case, Toppin and

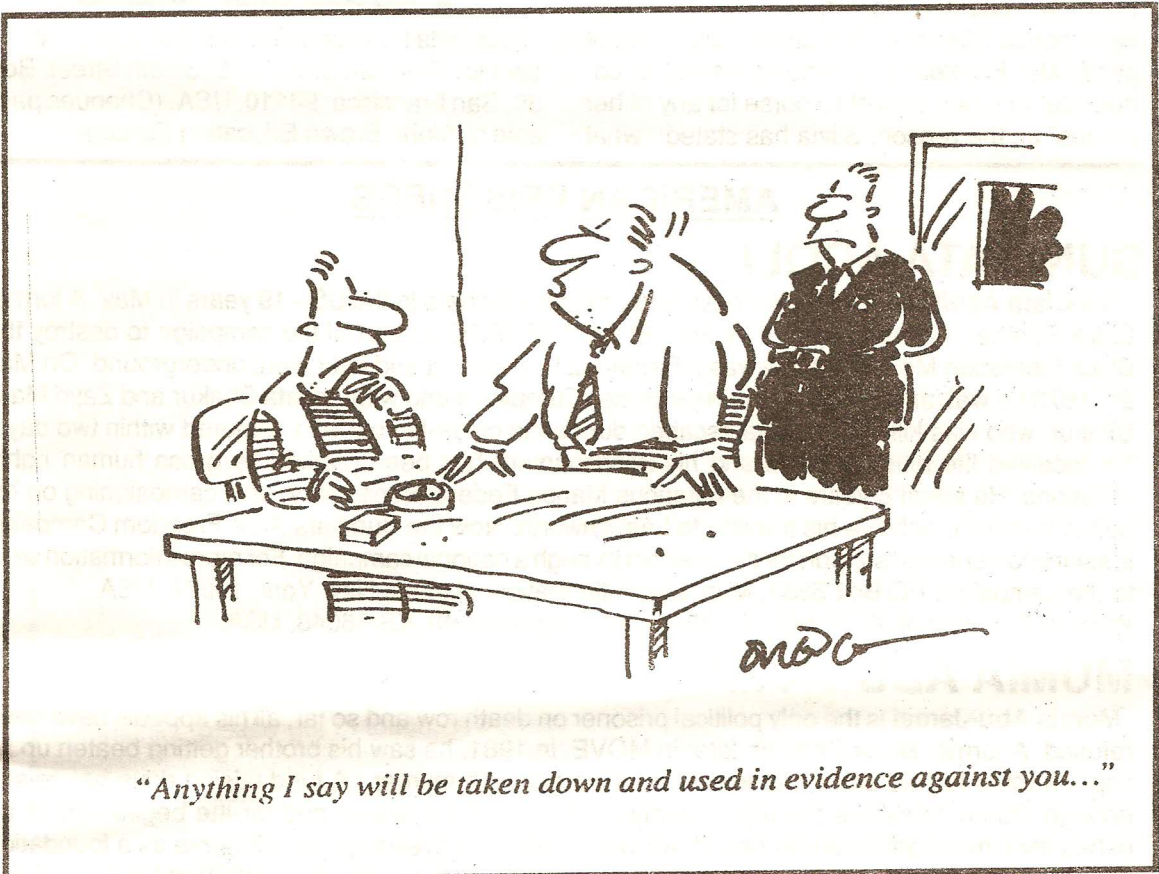
Co., of south London, has just been closed down due to complaints from Nellie Fergus about the way Ivan's case was handled. Ken Williams of Toppin and Co., only interviewed 2 of the four alibi witnesses Ivan had and when the case came to court, none of the 6 witnesses were called. Toppin and Co is also the subject of a complaint involving another case.



NO PROSECUTIONS FOR WEST MIDLANDS CRIME SQUAD - NO SURPRISE

Interestingly, on the same day that Robert Haughton was freed by the Court of Appeal (see article on page 2), the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) was announcing that no officer from the now disbanded West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad would be prosecuted for the fitting up of many innocent working class people. From the Birmingham Six to Robert Haughton, these cops are responsible for the false imprisonment of hundreds of people, only a handful of whom have been freed. In looking into these cases, time and time again you come across the same names - the same cops framing up people who have now been released or who are still serving time.

But it's no surprise that there won't be any prosecutions. The 'Justice System' can't afford to have corrupt officers prosecuted too often. It would open a whole can of worms because not only are thousands of cops corrupt, but the entire legal system they operate in is corrupt. It is designed to keep working class people down - to show us that we don't even need to 'committ crime' or fight back against any of the shit in our lives to be in danger of being sent to prison for a very long time. "You'd better keep quiet, we can do you too, very easily" is the message that framings send out to us all. The DPP's message to the cops is "Carry on Lads." As a class under constant threat, then what is our message to them? The ABC believes we should show that we will not be intimidated, we will stand up for ourselves wherever we are and stick together to see off the whole system that uses prison, police, courts and injustice to keep us "in our place". We don't expect justice under their laws - we have to make it ourselves.



RELEASE SILVIA!

Silvia Baraldini is an Italian citizen and an activist in the United States since the anti-Vietnam war movement. She is now in her 10th year of a 43 year prison sentence for conspiracy for activities in support of the Black Liberation Movement. The charge of conspiracy normally gets no more than 12 years. Her charges include conspiracy to commit a bank robbery that never happened and conspiracy to free Black Panther leader Assata Shakur from prison. For two years, she, Susan Rosenberg and Alejandrina Torres were subject to psychological torture in the Lexington Control Unit. She has been refused repatriation to Italy, in spite of her sister's tragic death in 1990 and her own bout with uterine cancer.

The Italian Government, 90% of the Italian Parliament and a coalition of women's organisations in Italy initiated their request for Silvia's transfer in 1990, under an international treaty with the US called the Strasbourg Convention which allows prisoners to serve out their terms in their own country. So far, the US authorities have not co-operated. The Justice Department cited "Ms. Baraldini's continued refusal to co-operate" and her "lack of remorse for any of her crimes" as the reason. Silvia has stated: "what

the government is interested in, is a public condemnation on my part of the political beliefs which have motivated my life for the past twenty-five years." Silvia has reapplied for a transfer. Silvia's case is being considered by the Justice Department now.



Requests for information and donations can be sent to: "Release Silvia!", 3543 18th Street, Box 30, San Francisco, 94110, USA. (Cheques payable to "John Brown Education Fund.")

AMERICAN PRISONERS

SUNDIATA ACOLI

Sundiata Acoli is one of the longest held political prisoners in the US - 19 years in May. A former Black Panther, he was targeted by the FBI COINTELPRO as part of the campaign to destroy the Black Liberation Movement. He was a Panther 21 defendant and later went underground. On May 2nd, 1973 he was ambushed on the New Jersey Turnpike along with Assata Shakur and Zayd Malik Shakur, who was killed. Sundiata escaped during the cross-fire but was captured within two days. He received life plus 30 years and his imprisonment has been marked by gross human rights violations. He spent 8 years in the notorious Marion Federal Penitentiary, until campaigning on his behalf helped to achieve his transfer to Leavenworth. Now the Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign is asking for renewed support for his freedom through a national campaign. For more information write to the campaign: PO Box 5538, Manhattanville Station, Harlem, New York 10027, USA. Write to Sundiata: #39794-066, PO Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048, USA.

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

Mumia Abu-Jamal is the only political prisoner on death row and so far, all his appeals have been refused. A former Black Panther, later in MOVE. In 1981, he saw his brother getting beaten up by cops, went to his aid and a cop was killed. Charged with murder. A fund raising drive has raised enough money to secure the representation of an excellent lawyer and for the beginnings of an exhaustive investigation on his behalf. An investigation for eyewitnesses will serve as a foundation for a petition for a new hearing or appeal. (*As yet, we do not have any more details of his case*). Send donations to: Black United Fund (make cheques payable to BUF/MA Jamal Fund) 419 South 15th Street, Philadelphia PA 19146, USA. For information contact: Equal Justice, Quixote Center, PO Box 5206, Hyattsville, MD 20782, USA.

Continued Page 5

AMERICAN PRISONERS CONTD.**DHORUBA BIN-WAHAD**

On February 13th, Dhoruba Bin Wahad appeared in the New York Supreme Court for a hearing in which the District Attorney attempted to have him remanded and taken into custody. The hearing had resulted from an Appeals Court ruling against Dhoruba's case in December. Dhoruba, a Black Panther leader, had served 19 years as a result of the FBI COINTELPRO counter-insurgency programme. He was released in 1990 when he and his legal team presented their evidence in court about the injustices and legal misconduct during his original trial. Nearly 400 supporters were in court in February to hear the judge release him - a major setback for the DA's attempt to re-imprison Dhoruba. The next court date was April 16th. (*Again, we have no further details*). For more information: Campaign to Free Black Political Prisoners and POWs in the US, PO Box 339, Kingsbridge Station, Bronx, NY 10463-0339, USA.

FRED HILTON

Friends and supporters of former Black Panther political prisoner Fred Hilton have called for an emergency campaign to raise money for an expensive medication, Interferon, to treat a life-threatening liver infection. Fred completed his sentence and is back in the community. Send contributions, earmarked for Fred Hilton, to the Release Silvia Campaign, (for address see page 4) payable to CRSBI.

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

Every August 10th since 1976, prisoners in Canada and more recently other countries remember those who have died unnatural deaths in prison and act in solidarity with work stoppages and fasting. Meanwhile prisoners supporters and community groups hold demos. This has been gaining momentum in Canada in the past few years. The Prisoners Day Justice Committee in Ontario now produce a radio programme on that day which is received by some prisoners. They have said that this year, besides commemorating those who have been killed or committed suicide and raising issues about tortures, abuses and lack of rights, they would like to see August 10th as a day for "renewed solidarity" between prisoners. Since the 1970's there has been a decline in the solidarity between prisoners, both in Canada and elsewhere. Prison authorities have been working to exploit and widen divisions between prisoners as a means of greater control. The Committee would like to see the Prisoners Justice Day grow into something international which would encourage solidarity between prisoners and supporters/ the community outside, whilst working towards prison abolition.

At the ABC Network Conference in May 1992, the ABC in Britain decided to support the Prisoners Justice Day this year and to encourage other prisoner support groups and prisoners to commemorate it. As yet it isn't clear what activities will be held, but if any groups or individuals are interested in getting involved, either in a national or local action at prisons, cop shops or in the community, please get in touch. We'd also like to hear of any ideas or actions by prisoners interested in this commemoration. We should be able to make Prisoners Justice Day an international event which will increase support and awareness of prisoners and their struggles.

Prisoners Justice Day Committee (Toronto): A Space, 183 Bathurst St, Ste.301, Toronto, Ontario M5W 2R7, Canada.

