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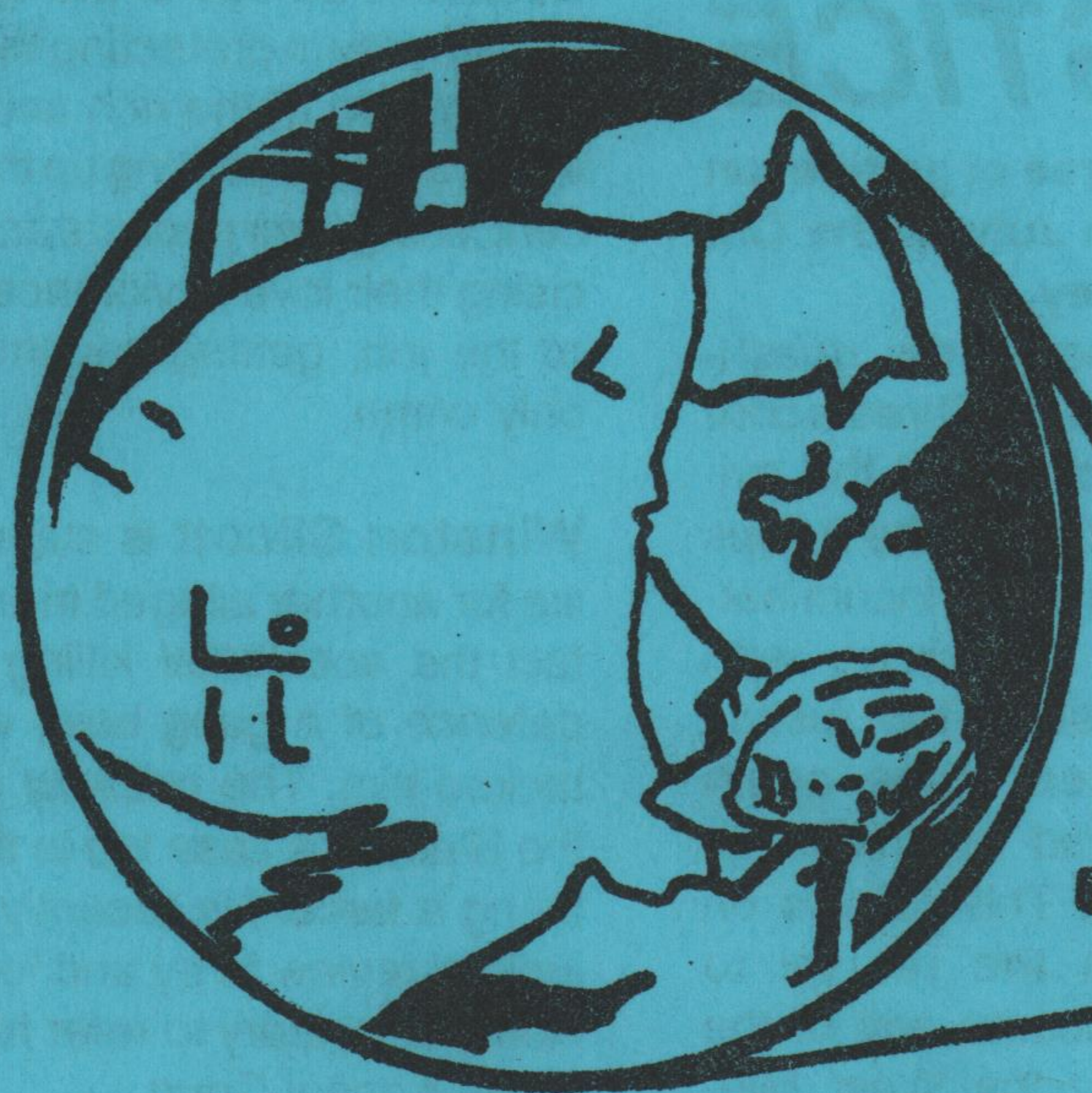
# TAKING LIBERTIES

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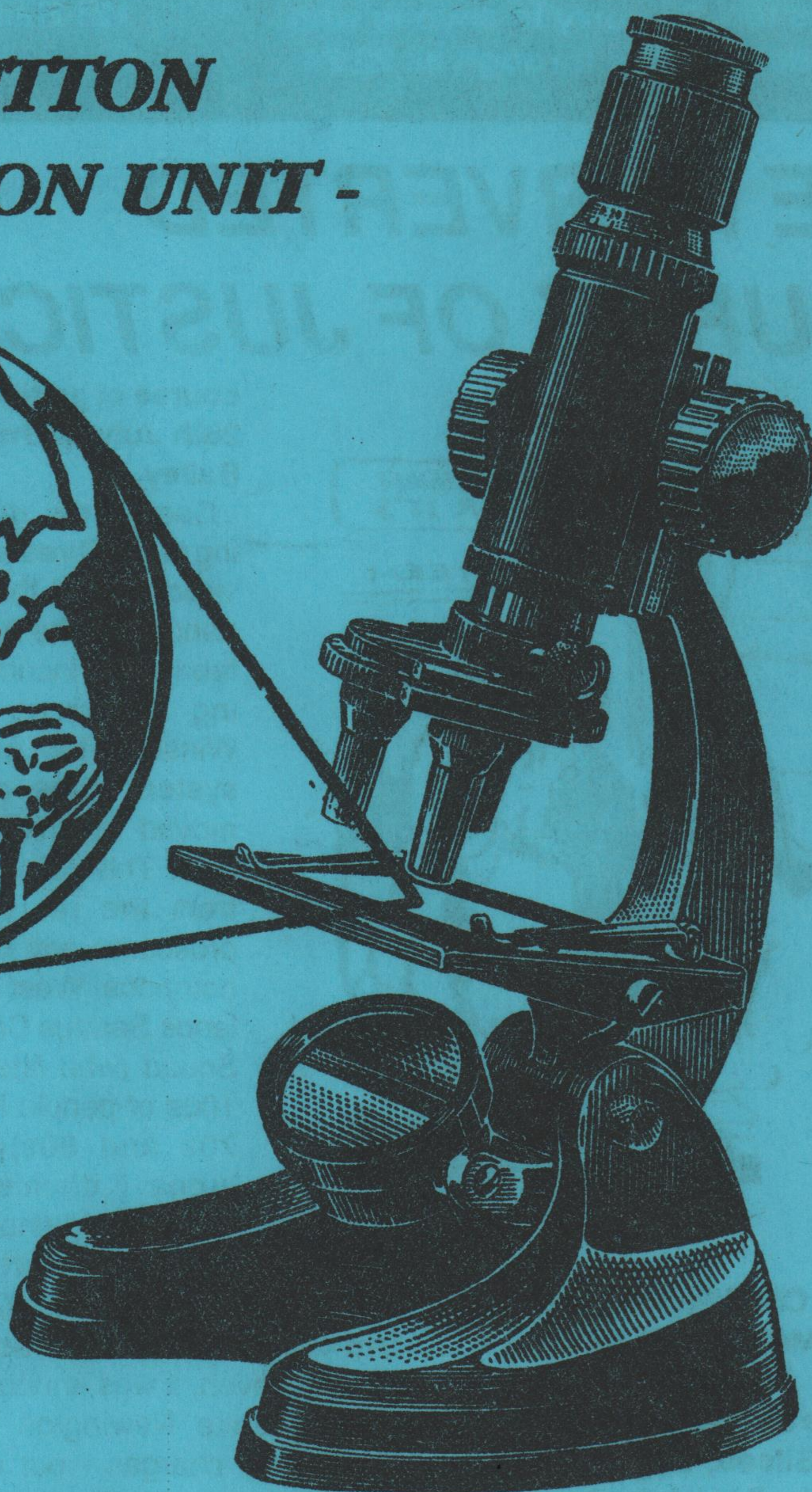
Issue Number 13

Sadly Now 35p  
FREE TO PRISONERS

**FULL SUTTON  
SEGREGATION UNIT -**



**UNDER THE  
MICROSCOPE**



**SUPPORTING CLASS STRUGGLE PRISONERS**



# INTRODUCTION

Here we are again with another scintillating tome on how the bastards are trying to grind us down. This issue is one of those NEW FORMAT type ventures, ie, it's smaller and more expensive. BUT, it's also got a stunning IN DEPTH feature on Full Sutton prison, near York, a purpose-built hell-hole, the purpose being to use more violent control, more isolation, and more intimidation of prisoners.

We're hoping to keep this sort of format going, focussing on one main subject each issue, but with news and updates too. So sorry to anyone who does usually wade through all 22/24

pages. There's only a few of us producing *Taking Liberties*, and we can't get one out often enough if they're any bigger.

This doesn't mean that we don't want help with production, though, and anyone who wants to get more experience in collating, stapling and stuffing envelopes, come and do it for us, and we'll be happy to provide you with excellent references.

We are London Anarchist Black Cross and we're at 121 Bookshop, c/o 121 Railton Road, London SE24 0LR. Tel 071 274 6655/Fax 071 326 0353.

## THE PERVERTED COURSE OF JUSTICE



Detective Chief Superintendent Graham Melvin and Detective Inspector Maxwell Dingle, responsible for the framing up of Winston Silcott, Engin Raghip and Mark Braithwaite (the Tottenham 3) for the death of PC Blakelock during the 1985 Broadwater Farm uprising, were cleared of 'perverting the

course of justice' on 26th July at the Old Bailey.

Despite the quashing of the Three's convictions, and the evidence that the 2 cops fabricated incriminating interviews with Winston, the justice system once again moved to protect its own. This follows on from the refusal to prosecute any of the notorious West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad (who fitted up 100s of people in the 70s and 80s), the judge dismissing charges against the cops who tortured

false confessions out of the Guildford 4.... On the same day as their acquittal even, it was announced only 2 Stoke Newington cops would face charges - out of 46 investigated by the force and 91 implicated in frame-ups, racism and crackdealing by Hackney Community Defence Campaign. Even when they have to pros-

ecute cops to save face, the justice mafia rarely allow convictions. Could this be due to the vital role the filth play in protecting the property system of the rich and keeping us down? Framing up the innocent, lining their pockets and exercising their love of violence is part of the job, getting caught is the only crime.

**Winston Silcott** is still serving life for another alleged murder - in fact the accidental killing in self defence of a gang boss who attacked him. The publicity around the Blakelock case led to this trial being a farce. He recently won a judicial review to try and force the Home Secretary to refer his case to the Appeal Court.

Letters of support to:  
Winston Silcott, B74053  
HM Prison Swaleside  
Eastchurch, Sheerness  
Kent, ME12 4DZ.

The Winston Silcott Defence Campaign held a noisy demo outside Tottenham Police Station on the 5th August. Over 100 people protested the fact that Winston is still inside while Melvin is free to frame again. They need your support, get in touch:  
WSDC, c/o 79 Tangmere  
Broadwater Farm  
London N17  
Tel. 081 365 0448.

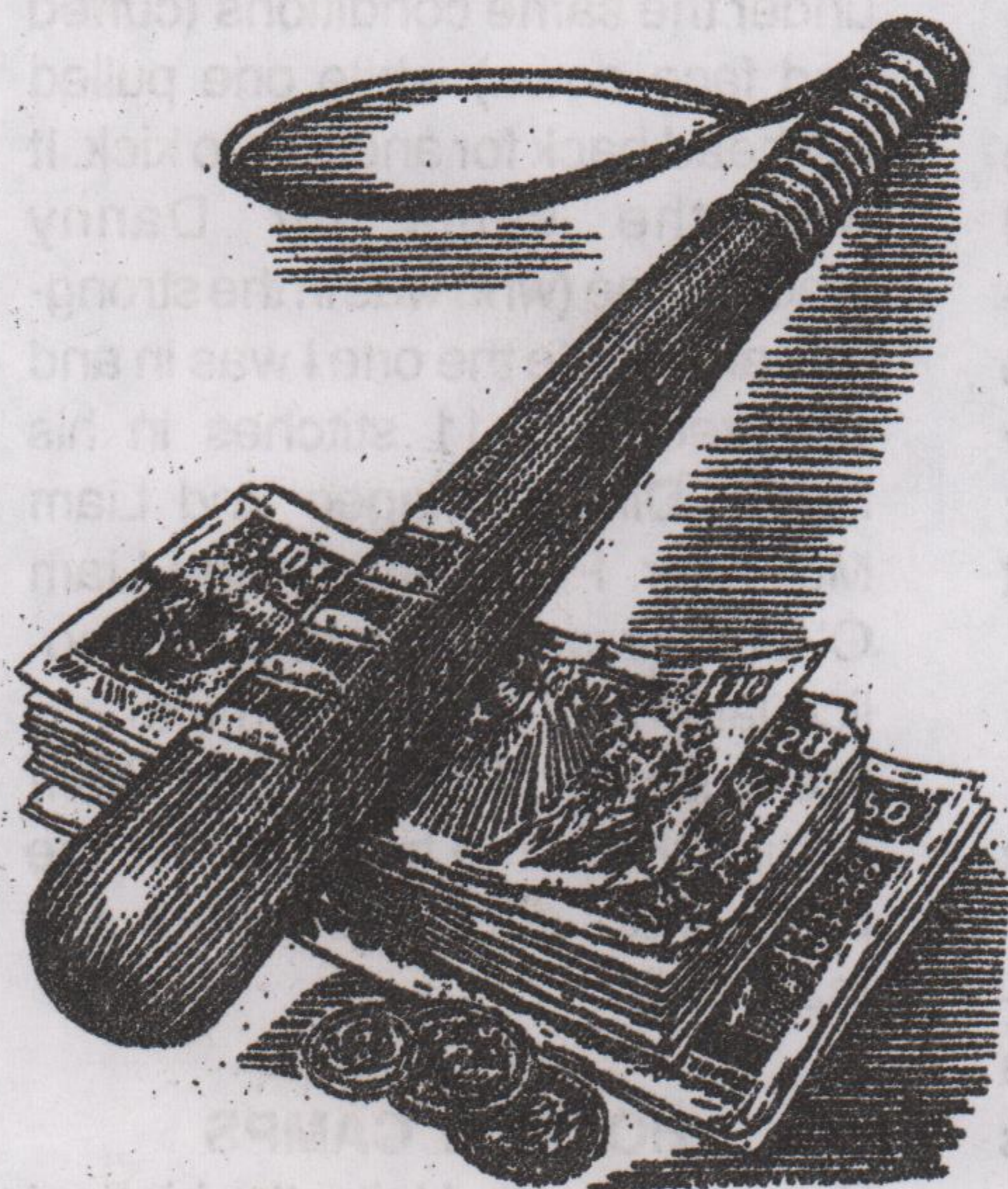


Newly opened Doncaster Prison in South Yorkshire has been in the news recently. The private jail, which opened 4 months ago, has already seen two suicides in a month, several protests by inmates, allegations of violence and bullying between prisoners, and one escape.

Doncaster is run by Premier Prison Services, a consortium of British firm Serco, and the Wackenhut Corporation from the US, who run a number of private prisons in the States. The US company has im-

## DONCATRAZ

ported US-style controls into Doncaster: electronic locking of cell-doors, computer tracking of prisoners, closed-circuit TV and fewer screws. As a result the inmates have nicknamed the place 'Doncatraz'. In September it was revealed that despite the government maintaining that private prisons would cost 'the taxpayer' less, the Prison Service was having to bail out Doncatraz, putting in money to pay for 20 more 'middle managers' to sort out the problems at the prison. Just what's needed, more managers! Like the Wolds and



Gary Mills and Tony Poole were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1990 for the murder of drug dealer Hensley Wiltshire. But the more is uncovered about their case, the more the finger points in a quite different direction.

Two weeks before his death, Wiltshire burgled the house of a Gloucester police officer's parents - this can't have made him a popular man in certain quarters... On the night of 6th January 1989, Gloucester police found Wiltshire in the street with stab wounds, following a fight which Gary Mills admits having but which he and others maintain Wiltshire

Blakenhurst, the other two privately run prisons opened so far, Doncaster's regime seem to be slipping into chaos. The government has made the contracting

out of the running of prisons - up to ten percent of the system is the stated goal - one of its major ideological aims. Inevitably, private firms trying to run jails for less than the state, become less 'efficient': less staff, less access to 'facilities' for inmates. The result is often that prisoners are frustrated and bored and take it out on themselves by suicide or self-mutilation, or on each other as bullying, intimidation, hierarchies, or, sadly less commonly, as resistance to the regime and rioting.

This all goes on in most jails in

the 'state sector' too, of course, but in the private prisons the staff are often less experienced and less able to exert control over the situation. Meanwhile there's a layer of liberals opposed to privatisation, as well as the Prison Officers Association, whose position they threaten, trumpeting the failures of the new jails. Beyond the government's belief in private enterprise, it is possible that the creation of a two-tier prison system could be used to break up prisoner solidarity across the system if a serious prisoners movement should arise. On top of this, the new prisons are recruiting from traditional rebellious working class communities; e.g. there are a number of ex-miners employed at Doncaster. Security is the only growth industry in many areas where traditional jobs have gone. If the lesson of the US is to be taken seriously, too, we could see prison labour used to cut wages and break strikes.

This is partly speculation, but not to be taken lightly. *Taking Liberties* opposes prisons in general, we do not see private or 'public' prisons as being essentially different. Prisons are always used to divide and isolate working class communities - whoever runs them. But we have to be aware of what is going on, in order to even begin to work out ways of uniting prisoners resistance with effective solidarity on the outside.

## Poole and Mills are Innocent!

started. For seven and a half hours they shuttled him back and forth between the hospital and the police station until at 11 am they put him under arrest for possession of an offensive weapon. Half an hour later he was back at hospital and died at 3.45 pm. At the autopsy his body was shown to have 60% more injuries than when he arrived at the hospital for the first time.

The two prosecution witnesses appear to have given false

evidence in return for charges against them being dropped. Another witness, who confirms Mills acted in self-defence and Poole was not involved, was told by police not to attend court.

In short, this case stinks of a cover-up, ill-treatment by police resulting in yet another death in custody. Poole and Mills, both in Gartree, are now waiting for an appeal date to be set. HMP Gartree Market Harborough Leicestershire LE17 7RP.



# Prisoner Updates

You can't have missed the press surrounding the attempted escape by 6 prisoners from the Special Secure Unit at Whitemoor Prison on September 9th. Five 'IRA' prisoners - Liam McCotter, Liam O'Duibhir, Paul Magee, Gilbert MacNamee, and Peter Sherry, together with Andy Russell, (serving twenty years for an armed robbery he denies involvement in, and the Gartree Prison helicopter escape in 1987 - see last issue of *Taking Liberties*) were recaptured after they dodged camera surveillance, cut through fences, scaled razor-wire-topped walls, and shot at pursuing screws with a smuggled gun.

The media quickly erupted with outrage. The screws, the Governor, Prison Service director Derek Lewis and the Home Secretary all tried to dodge responsibility and put the blame on someone else. The chair of the prison's Board of Visitors and screws claimed security was too lax, searches had been stopped on Home Office orders. Searches of other high security jails turned up a map of the prison at Belmarsh, and a gun at Durham,

destined for an armed robber. There were sensational revelations about IRA prisoners' supposed unheard-of privileges: expensive food, a £250,000 phone bill, screws at their beck and call.

As usual 90% of this is just crap - but everyone was using it to further their own position and advance their power in the system; the Prisoners Officers' Association to demand more screws, more repression, and to discredit politicians bent on undermining the P.O.A's power in prisons; Michael Howard to justify further crack-downs inside; the Labour Party to whinge about how it would carry out the repression more efficiently; and everybody in general to cast doubt on the IRA ceasefire.

## BATTERED

At the end of the day, the only people whose voice has not been heard are the prisoners themselves. Four of the six received a

serious battering following the attempt. Danny (Gilbert) MacNamee, Dingus Magee, Liam McCotter and Andy Russell were heavily beaten by screws while chained and handcuffed.

According to Andy: "I now have ripped ligaments in my right arm. I was cuffed behind my back and sat on, face down until the early hours of Saturday morning -

it was gone 3am when the cuffs were removed. The favourite torture tactic was for one of them to savagely pull the chain holding the cuffs up my back - end result the ripped ligaments. Outside the jail I had them sitting on me under the same conditions (cuffed and face down) while one pulled my head back for another to kick. It was the same for Danny MacNamee (who was in the strong-box alongside the one I was in and who received 11 stitches in his head), Dingus Magee and Liam McCotter. Peter Sherry and Liam O'Duibhir were caught by the police later and firstly taken into police custody. This stopped them getting the same treatment as the police had seen they were un-

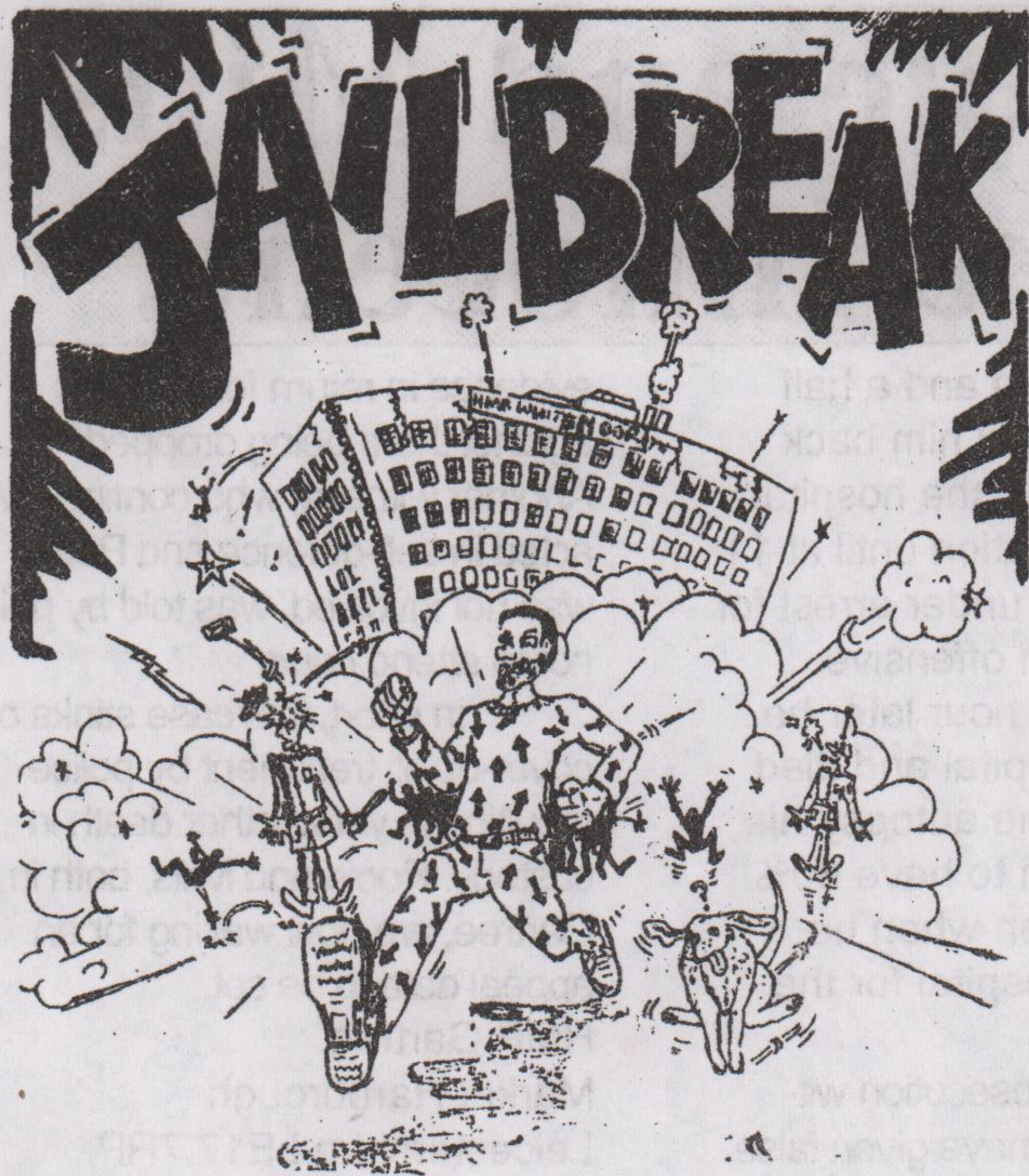
marked."

## HOLIDAY CAMPS

Special Security Units, the highest security prison wings in the UK, are not the holiday camps the hysterical media headlines screamed they are. S.S.U cells are smaller than normal cells, prisoners are totally segregated from other inmates, with heavy surveillance; visitors are often harassed and strip-searched. Andy Russell was moved to Whitemoor from the Full Sutton S.S.U. after protesting at the rough treatment screws gave to his visiting grandmother. The heavy security and artificial isolation have a serious psychological effect on prisoners - already faced with long years behind bars. Andy Russell and Danny MacNamee have both appealed against their convictions

cont/d on back page

## ESCAPE FROM BUTLINS?





# Free Emma Humphreys Campaign

Emma Humphreys has been inside for 10 years for stabbing Trevor Armitage in self-defence.

She stabbed him once, he died soon after; she'd suffered untold physical, sexual and mental abuse from that bastard, and then a bunch of other bastards saw fit to send her to prison for it. She was detained at her majesty's pleasure - an indefinite sentence, as short or as long as they fancy - as she was a minor at the time.

After years of campaigning by Justice for Women, grounds for Appeal have finally been lodged. The initial grounds are focussing on some technicalities with regard to the judge's summing up on the law of provocation. These and possible other grounds will be developed further when they know they have leave. If leave to appeal is granted, Emma may have an Appeal date any time from December this year, though more likely in the new year.

In June this year the parole board rejected the local review committee's recommendations that Emma be given a release date, or that she be moved to an open prison. The reasons given are that she is too "unstable and volatile". If they'd been banged up for 10 years for self-defence, without even a vague idea of a release date, I'm sure they'd be feeling pretty volatile, too. This is far longer than most convicted rapists and many men who have killed women known to them. Emma's lawyers have applied for legal aid to judicially review this decision.

Like so many others inside, Emma has been

taking her frustrations out on herself (she suffers from eating disorders and has attempted suicide); it's pretty obvious that she should never have been sent to prison, and it's NOT EXACTLY going to help her get over the horror she had to live through in the first place. Emma needs support - Justice for Women are planning a public meeting and a benefit in December, so if you can help in any way, contact:

JfW, 55 Rathcoole Gardens, London N8 9NE, Tel 081 340 3699.

Or write to Emma Humphreys, HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Road, London N7.



## SARA THORNTON ON HUNGER STRIKE

Sara Thornton has just come off a 40-day hunger strike which she's been on since the beginning of September. She was protesting against the length of time the Home Office are still taking to respond to new evidence presented to them regarding her case. It seems that they can't even respond to someone going on hunger strike, either, 'cos there's still been no change in the situation.

In a letter to ABC dated 21st September, Sara said that she was doing OK. But she obviously needs as much support as possible. Please send cards and letters to: Sara Thornton, Hospital Wing, HMP Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 4HR.

Josephine Smith was sentenced to life in 1993 for killing her husband after years of violent abuse from him. She has been refused leave

to appeal against her murder conviction. At trial Josephine failed in her plea of manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility, despite ample evidence of depression and anxiety caused by her husband's brutality. The prosecution evidence against her consisted of allegations of financial dishonesty, used to discredit Josephine and portray her as a liar.

Campaign organisers Norwich Justice for Women are focussing on this hypocritical application of the Criminal Evidence Act, which is sup-

posed to stop the prosecution from discrediting a witness by using evi-

dence of previous convictions or allegations. For example, the case of a

## Josephine Smith

man who recently had his conviction of aggravated burglary, robbery and attempted rape quashed on the grounds that the trial judge was wrong to allow evidence of previous convictions of rape, assault, robbery and attempted rape to be heard by the jury. Yet the murder charge against Josephine is being backed up by a possibly dodgy debt!

For further information contact Norwich Justice for Women on 0603 628130. (See back page for address.)



# Feature

# FULL SUTTON:

Full Sutton Prison, near York, is a maximum security dispersal jail - in other words it holds prisoners serving long sentences, many of whom are Category 'A', considered to be dangerous, violent or likely to try to escape. The 'dispersal system' consists of several such prisons; some of the more recent ones, like Full Sutton, have been purpose-built in the last couple of decades to attempt to design more effective and efficient ways of controlling and isolating prisoners. Long-term prisoners, facing long years

inside, many already used to using violence, many from brutalised or institutionalised backgrounds, often have very little to lose by resisting the conscious inhumanity and brutality with which they are treated in most prisons. On top of this a prisoner can be sent to a dispersal jail hundreds of miles away from their family, friends, and community, which breaks much of the human contact and support that keeps a prisoner going. For complaining, or speaking out, or for breaking one of the numberless prison rules, or

for nothing at all, a prisoner can be dragged down the segregation unit ('the block'), and beaten up, stripped, left to survive any number of days or weeks in isolation....Or they can be moved, at a moment's notice, to another dispersal prison, miles away again, often losing much of any property they have gathered, smashed or stolen by screws. Any prisoner who consciously resists the brutality of prison life, or fights back against the screw's violence, or tries to publicise prison conditions, or

## A REPORT INTO THE SEGREGATION UNIT AT FULL SUTTON PRISON, 1994,

by ANDRZYJAKUBCZYK. [Slightly edited]

In June 1994, the governor of Full Sutton Prison, Mr Staples, appeared on a regional news programme, ('Look North'). The public perceived a calm, eloquent middle class official with charge of a modern and supposedly liberalised dispersal prison assuaging concern, refuting criticism and espousing the quality service delivery of his establishment. To the more aware/astute, particularly in view of recent events, the interview appeared for what it was - a further exercise in disinformation.

### SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

In 1993, James Walker committed suicide by hanging within Full Sutton's Segregation Unit. Subsequently there were allegations of negligence surrounding his death, including submissions to INQUEST, a campaigning organisation concerned with deaths in custody. In May 1994, C. Peechy attempted suicide by setting his cell on fire. A ten minute delay in removing the prisoner from the

burning cell resulted in a disturbance by other prisoners to attract the attention of a night-patrol officer absent from duty within the Segregation Unit. The disturbance and fumes attracted attention and the prisoner was removed unconscious. The local civilian firemen attended the scene and heard numerous complaints and allegations made to them by prisoners.

Over the 19-22 June, Warren Edwards and Robert Lambert similarly attempted suicide during the early hours of the morning. Again there was a delay, estimated in the region of 15 minutes, and again due to the absence of night-patrol officers from the Segregation Unit. Both prisoners were removed from their cells unconscious and resuscitation applied. The condition of both prisoners necessitated their removal to civilian hospital in York, where they were detained. On their return to the prison, they were located within strip cells, not as a consequence of any medical or continuing psy-

chological condition such as had resulted in the initial suicide attempt, but to consciously deter others from similar thoughts or actions. On 6 July 1994, Dominic O'Connor attempted suicide by hanging but was saved after being observed hanging from cell bars. On 8 July 1994, a prisoner, name unknown, attempted suicide by hanging; resuscitation was necessary and his condition was sufficiently serious to necessitate removal to civilian hospital.

### SOCIAL DEPRIVATION

These events transpired in the Segregation Unit, and involved psychologically vulnerable prisoners. Events such as these do not happen without reason, particularly on this scale. Prisoners undergoing long-term administrative segregation under prison rule 43 are particularly vulnerable to stress. The deprivation of social interaction in which the prisoner is confined alone twenty-three hours a day under conditions of reduced environmental stimulation is in itself sufficient to elicit psychogenic responses in many cases, and this is well documented.

Where these conditions are supplemented with a regime of austerity so extreme that basic standards of humanity are disregarded and fundamental 'civil



# Feature UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

tries to help other prisoners do any of the above, can expect to get this treatment constantly; the active grapevine among screws means they will be marked from the time of arrival at a prison: most such prisoners get a good hiding in reception cells and so it goes on. The Segregation Unit at Full Sutton is like the block at many jails - filled usually with prisoners who have fought back in small ways, or refused to conform to the hierarchies, or those labelled violent or disturbed. Normally

the Unit holds about 20 prisoners. In recent months the block at Full Sutton has been in the news in a minor way, because Andrzy Jakubczyk, a prisoner who has experienced all the above treatment, wrote a report that exposed just some of the daily violence. The publicity it got locally forced Humber-side Police to start an inquiry into the allegations. We have decided to print the report, together with a report of a demonstration held outside Full Sutton by some ex-prisoners, relatives of prisoners and other supporters, and some

other statements, news and views on Full Sutton. Bear in mind that we are featuring this not because it is an isolated case, it isn't. It is an example of the routine in many prisons. Isolation and the destruction of the spirit, breaking of people who don't play by the rules, and controlling by fear those outside to keep them conforming, are the function of prisons. These events have come to light: in most cases, the screams from the punishment block are never heard outside the walls.

rights' routinely infringed, frequently in contravention of formal regulations, it is unreasonable to expect prisoners not to respond. The aforementioned incidents are a reflection of the regime operating within Full Sutton's Segregation Unit.

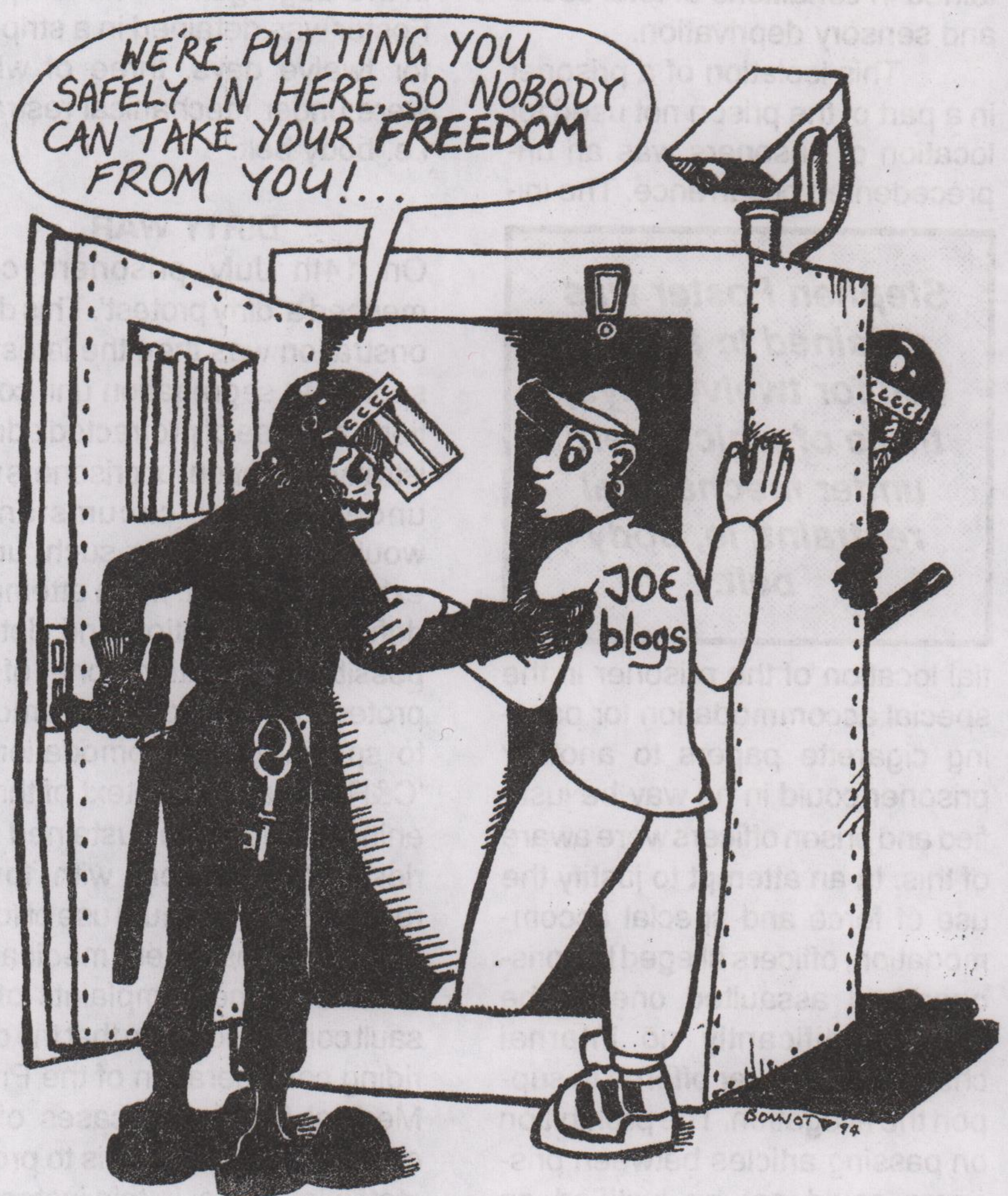
## GENERAL COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENTS

Over the past two years there have been innumerable complaints, allegations of gross misconduct against prison officers in Full Sutton's Segregation Unit, ranging from destruction of private property to severe assaults resulting in serious injuries. In January 1994, an internal inquiry was conducted following an extremely violent assault on a prisoner resulting in serious injuries. Prisoners in the Segregation Unit responded by a physical demonstration, resulting in the forcible removal of a number of them by 'Control & Restraint' (C&R) squads to other establishments under the provisions of IG.28.1993 (Stage 2 (13)). As part of the internal inquiry a number of prisoners temporarily transferred under the aforementioned provision were visited and interviewed by senior management from Full Sutton. One such prisoner, John Fearnby, was approached and asked to waive allegations; it is likely others were similarly approached.

The use of special accommodation viz. strip cells and 'C&R' squads at this establishment is unparalleled, as is use of mechanical restraints. Between May-July 1994, there were numerous incidents involving 'C&R' squads and invariably resulting in the use of 'special accommodation'.

## CIGARETTE PAPERS

On 8 June 1994 a prisoner was subject to assault by 'C&R' and special cell detention for the informal offence of passing items - known at the time to be two cigarette papers - to another prisoner. The prisoner remained segregated in strip cell detention until 10 June





# Feature

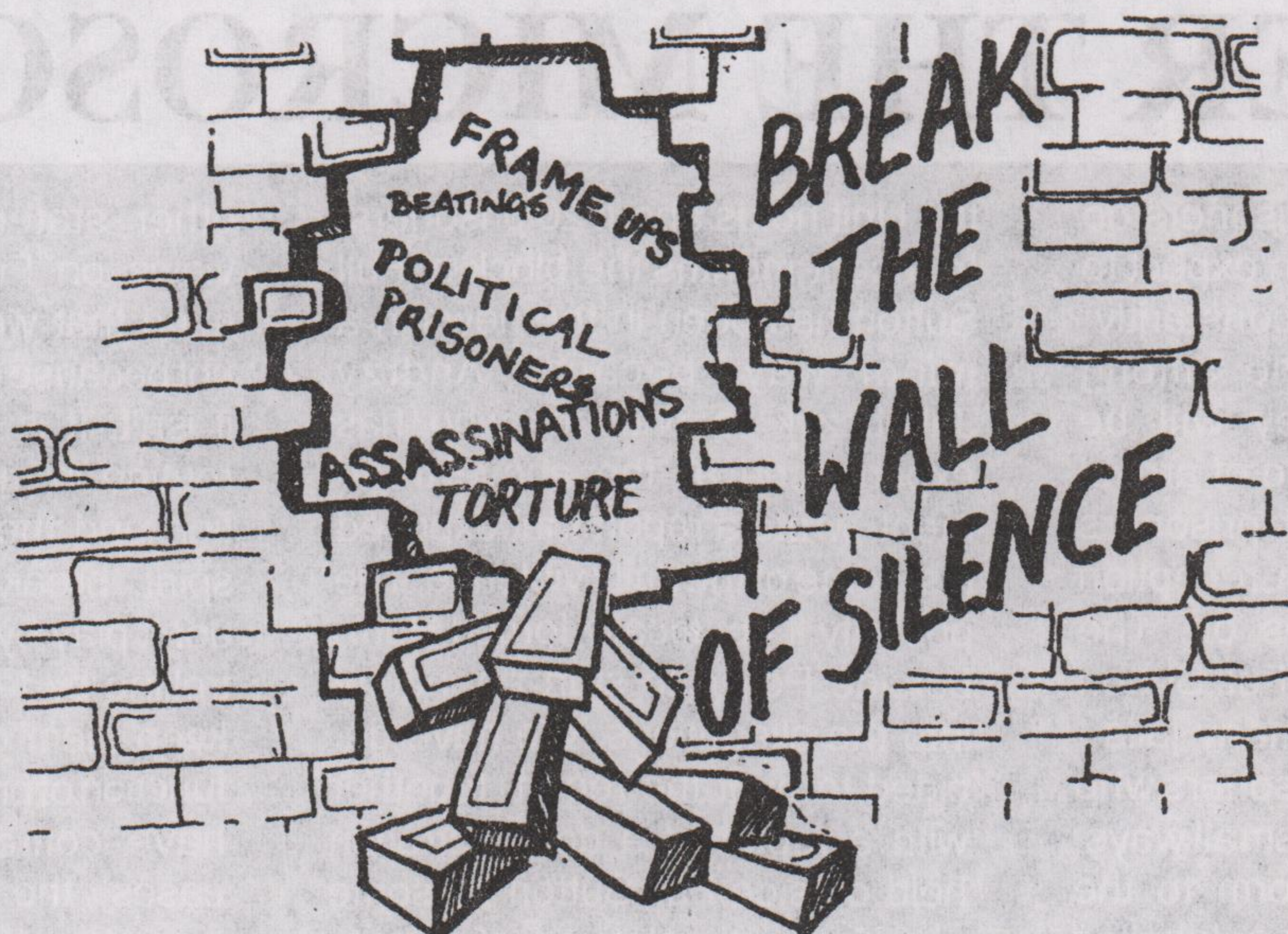
when he was transferred to Liverpool Segregation Unit for 14 days under the provisions of IG. 28.1993. In this instance the use of force and special accommodation resulted in a demonstration by other prisoners, consequently two other prisoners were similarly forcibly removed to special cell accommodation.

On the 9th June, the prisoner located in a strip cell the day before was forcibly removed from the strip cell and subjected to mechanical restraint (body belt), and literally dragged naked, within the hearing of other prisoners, to a waiting van by prison officers in riot clothing. The prisoner was driven to an old, disused segregation unit and put in a special (strip) cell, where he was detained in conditions of total social and sensory deprivation.

This isolation of a prisoner in a part of the prison not used for location of prisoners was an unprecedented occurrence. The ini-

**Stephen Foster was detained in a strip cell for twelve days, three of which were under mechanical restraint, i.e. body belt.**

tial location of the prisoner in the special accommodation for passing cigarette papers to another prisoner could in no way be justified and prison officers were aware of this. In an attempt to justify the use of force and special accommodation, officers alleged the prisoner had assaulted one of the staff; significantly no internal charges were ever offered to support the allegation. The prohibition on passing articles between prisoners could not be justified on



security grounds as such items would pass through officers' hands anyway. The prohibition was a local imposition enforced by means of the penal disciplinary code (Rule 47 (21)).

On 9th June 1994 Anthony Bush and Stephen Foster were forcibly removed by 'C&R' to strip cells following yet a further protest regarding conditions and practices in the Segregation Unit. Stephen Foster was detained in a strip cell for twelve days, three of which were under mechanical restraint, i.e. body belt.

## DIRTY WAR

On 14th July prisoners commenced a 'dirty protest'. This demonstration was then the latest response to segregation unit conditions and use of protracted administrative isolation for prisoners who under normal circumstances would not qualify for such, under existing criterion. In an attempt to defuse the situation and deter a possible escalation, one of the protesters was forcibly removed to special cell accommodation by 'C&R' under the pretext of threatening conduct. He sustained injuries not consistent with formal regulations (minimum use of force. SO 3E). Subsequent medical examination and complaints of assault confirmed again that the overriding consideration of the Prison Medical Service in cases of excessive staff violence is to protect staff's interests; in this instance it

was alleged that the injuries were not formally documented as regulations required.

## HM PRISON WARNING: BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH

Many prisoners have had to wait up to three weeks for a bath despite the one bath per week minimum requirement; a requirement adhered to at every

other establishment. Outside the segregation block, but in the main area surrounding it, the grounds are littered with debris, burnt cell furnishings, food utensils, waste food, human excrement, etc, that has accumulated over months with each protest. Such a sight is mute testimony to the unhealthy and repressive regime.

Full Sutton employs a multi-disciplinary staff: Head of Medical Services, psychiatrist, psychology department, Head of Regimes (including 'Regime Monitoring Clerk'), all of whom are aware of the conditions and occurrences within the Segregation Unit. Despite the incidents of self-harm and attempted suicide, clearly a medical responsibility, the medical authorities have indicated a reluctance to intervene or investigate the situation; and yet it has ultimate authority over management. Indeed on Sunday 17 July the matter (attempted suicides) was raised with a civilian doctor by aforementioned prisoners on 'dirty protest', only to be dismissed as "a prison problem not a medical issue". The role of the Chaplaincy in the situation has been abysmal; periodic complaints elicit only embarrassment on the part of chaplains. Boards of Visitors are merely an extension of senior management whose role appears restricted to protecting the interests of staff rather than fulfilling their purported duties as 'watchdogs'. Significantly, the BoV have remained conspicuously si-



lent and absent during the many protests and incidents described above.

One prisoner, Frank Wilkinson, has spent months recording incidents of officer misconduct and prisoner's protests and collating documentation in an attempt to focus attention on conditions. Complaints were forwarded to organisations and individuals, including Inquest, Prisoner's Advice Service, *FRFI*, etc.

In July, the situation was escalated to the point where prisoners' telephone calls were being cut off with no prior warning or mention of any complaint. This included two legal calls (to Atter Mackenzie and co., Evesham). This was a flagrant and unprecedented violation and resulted in a solicitor formally complaining to management. Every effort has been made to suppress complaints/allegations, including opening of confidential legal correspondence.

On 8th August, Satpal Ram was assaulted by a number of prison officers. Both prior to and after the assault, he had been subjected to racist comments and threats from officers. He was subsequently transferred to Durham Prisons's Segregation Unit under IG.28.1993. Satpal Ram is serving life imprisonment for the accidental killing in self-defence, following a racist attack on him. [See Satpal's statement elsewhere]. In July Alan Byrne, another miscarriage of justice, commenced a hunger strike, the latest of many similar protests over the past two years at Full Sutton.

## KEVIN O' NEILL

Aside from the attempted suicides, one case doesn't merely summarise the situa-

tion in Full Sutton's Segregation Unit, but provides an accurate view on how little has altered since the Woolf Inquiry/Report. In June 1994, Kevin O'Neill was put into administrative isolation, initially in a strip cell, following a demonstration in which he set fire to his cell. Kevin is serving life imprisonment

**The sight of prison officers in C&R equipment...the sounds of screams from strip cells, have become familiar aspects of life, invariably resulting from protests by prisoners.**

for a crime he was wrongly convicted of. He has persistently proclaimed his innocence and there is evidence substantiating this. However, in common with other miscarriages of justice (Birmingham 6, Guildford 4, Maguire Seven, Judy Ward, and the many others campaigning from inside prison), Kevin O'Neill's case appears destined to remain an issue of concern for many years. His

case has been publicised by a number of organisations concerned with miscarriages of justice, and has been the focus of periodic media publicity.

In June Kevin O'Neil was visited by his wife, who he had married while in prison in 1991. The marriage had remained unconsumated, to the despair of both, who wanted a child. The opportunity to consummate the marriage occurred during the visit, within the toilet area. Unfortunately, this act of love/procreation was discovered by a prison officer, with the result that Mr and Mrs O'Neill were informed that future visits would be conducted under closed conditions with glass partitions separating both partners. The imposition of visiting restrictions consequent on this act was unlawful. [*Taking Liberties* note: Britain breaks European Commission on Human Rights law, by refusing prisoners conjugal visits, choosing to pay the fine the European Court imposes.] In protest Kevin set fire to his cell, destroying valuable documentation relating to his case. This was not a suicide attempt, attested to by the

fact that the prisoner rang his cell call bell immediately after setting fire to the accommodation. However, he was subject to detention in strip conditions and subsequently to administrative isolation.

## SCREAMS FROM THE STRIP CELLS

The sight of prison officers in C&R equipment, the sounds of prisoners being forcibly removed to strip cells, the sound of screams from the strip cells, have become familiar aspects of life, invariably resulting from protests by prisoners. In effect prison

cont/d on back page

WATCHDOG?

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

BOARD OF VISITORS

FULL SUTTON

LAPDOG?



## PRISON BRUTALITY: NO COVER-UP!

TEXT OF LEAFLET HANDED OUT ON DEMO AT FULL SUTTON 3-9-94

Supporters of prisoners' rights are holding this demonstration to highlight the following issues:

- continuous brutality and neglect by prison officers staffing the block;
- arbitrary and punitive moving of prisoners on spurious grounds of 'security' or 'discipline';
- flagrant refusal of the Prison Service to observe Woolf Inquiry recommendations to locate prisoners near to their families and communities.

Following the submission of a detailed report into alleged brutality and abuse in the segregation unit, Humberside police have been forced to launch a criminal investigation into alleged offences against prisoners by prison officers at Full Sutton Prison in York.

The report, written by prisoner Andrzy Jakubczyk for the Quaker Commission on European Affairs, details one suicide, five attempted suicides, a series of serious assaults and a general regime of continuous harassment. In the case of three of the attempted suicides in which prisoners set fire to their cells, there were delays of 10-15 minutes before any action was taken by staff.

On 8th August, Satpal Ram, a life sentence prisoner who had been at Full Sutton several months, was violently attacked by prison officers and taken to the Segregation Unit. Two days later he was moved to Durham where friends visited him and reported that he was covered in 'scratches and bruises'.

One prisoner who is still in Full Sutton says: "The Prison's Inspector, Judge Stephen Tumim, was right when he said this place is in a state of anarchy and violence. But much more than half the violence comes from the side of the prison officers. In the block it is a reign of terror. At least one screw there was moved from Armley after he'd been tried in court for brutality against prisoners there. It's a real hell-hole."

We demand that the police investigation, unlike many others into prison regimes, does not begin and end with a cosy chat between a police inspector and the prison governor; that the allegations made by Andrzy Jakubczyk, which numerous prisoners can confirm to be true, are investigated fully and all prison officers found to be implicated are immediately sacked.

### THE GUILTY MEN

The following are among those responsible for the regime of oppression in the segregation unit (The 'Block') at Full Sutton:

- Senior officers Tilson and Edwards, in charge of the day to day running of the 'block' - notorious ex-Leeds and Wakefield screws. Both have a history of involvement in brutality in the punishment blocks of the afore-mentioned prisons.
- Principal Officer Cole, I.C. security at Full Sutton - ex-Wakefield.
- Governor Grant - ex-Wakefield; knows about - and sanctions - the brutality.
- Doctor Kumar: regularly inspects - and explains away - the injuries suffered by inmates at the hands of the home office thugs.

## FULL SUTTON DEMO REPORT

On the 3rd September Full Sutton was picketed by a group of prisoner solidarity activists, including relatives of prisoners being held there, some ex-prisoners and others involved in prisoners' support work, including the prisoners fightback correspondent of the communist paper, *Fight Racism, Fight Imperialism*, and a member of the ABC.

Since the report on the goings-on in the Full Sutton block had sparked a lot of press interest in the York/Hull area, and had forced the cops to start their inquiry, it was decided that we should show the prison authorities that it wasn't just a handful of prisoners concerned here, but that they have active support outside.

All in all there were about 15 people on the picket, though not all at the same time; we gave out leaflets to visitors, calling their attention to the brutalities of the segregation unit, and named some of those responsible; as well as waving some hefty placards denouncing the screws, the Home Office, and the attacks, at screws driving off and passers-by.

For a prison picket the demo was attended by a huge amount of press, and got in the Yorkshire Post, the Hull Daily Mail, and on the radio as well. Eileen Byrne, whose brother Alan is in Full Sutton, and John Quigley, stepson of Kevin O'Neill, and ex-prisoner Eric Allison gave interviews to the papers. The response to the demo from visitors was good. Even if we spent most of the day stuck in a traffic jam on the A1, we showed the Full Sutton screws and governor they can't get away with their dirty deeds without response.



# Feature **MENTAL BLOCK**

Prisoners are still being beaten up in the Full Sutton Segregation Unit. Humberside Police were pressured by Andry Jakubczyk's original report on the Unit, and the press it received, into beginning an inquiry into the goings-on there. As Jacko writes though, they are showing little enthusiasm for it; not pursuing what might be thought of as vital internal prison documents. It looks like it will be a white-wash, as was Full Sutton's own internal inquiry in September. We would be naive to expect anything else, perhaps; the branches of the 'justice' system protect each other.

Many people might say, "Well all those violent and dangerous prisoners are getting what they deserve." It is true there are plenty of violent men serving long sentences in Full Sutton and other jails. As to who made them violent, look at the system that we live in. It encourages violence, especially in young men, it socialises us to be macho and competitive, and 'hard'. But at the same time, it denies us any real control over our lives, forces us to work or be grateful for handouts, waves flash cars, expensive clothes, huge riches in our faces; most of them out of our reach, unless we turn to 'crime'. Much of the violence in us comes from the way we grow up, the anger and frustration in our lives. Unable to reach or even identify all the people responsible, we turn on each other, robbing, attacking, taking out the feelings of powerlessness

on ourselves, or on weaker people around us.

This is not to excuse some of the sickening things that people do to each other, some of which are beyond belief. These people and the acts they carry out need to be dealt with. But by us, not by the state, which creates and encourages more brutality, to keep us down.

**The worst individual crimes we commit pale beside the legal crimes they call law and order, war and business.** If we get too violent against the wrong targets, we get the heavy hand of the law: from coppers, screws, security guards, all licenced to be violent, armed to the teeth, protected by their promises to serve the state and protect the property system. They know they won't be had up for their violence because of the uniform; they are vital to the powers that control our lives. Their violence is legalised by the class that pulls their strings; ours is illegal if we don't play by the rules that class have set down for us.

Prisons mean violence, especially long-term prisons, where prisoners often feel they have little to lose by fighting back. It's up to us on the outside to show these prisoners that they are not screaming alone, to show the authorities that they can't get away with it and keep it quiet. And to build a working class movement that includes prisoners, that will change the way we look at prisons and make real changes.

**As we've said, for many prisoners the dispersal system means a process of constant moves, assaults, false charges, and isolation from loved ones. One prisoner who knows this process well is Alan Byrne.**

Alan went on a two-week hunger strike in Full Sutton Segregation Unit in July, after being transferred there from Parkhurst. He was protesting against the move and demanding to be returned south. Alan, who is serving life, had been moved to Parkhurst from Long Lartin just two weeks before. After more than 30 moves in ten years, he'd been settled at Long Lartin for two and a half years, when, on June 21st, he and ten other lifers were suddenly and violently shifted to other jails. They were all later told they were suspected of dealing heroin; this is not only untrue, but, in fact, no charges were ever brought against any of them. In the course of the transfers, Alan and the others

## **ALAN BYRNE**

were given the usual round of beatings by screws, and thousands of pounds-worth of their personal property was destroyed. Alan was moved to Parkhurst, but after only two weeks, just as he was getting over the move and beginning to settle down, he was again without warning ghosted to Full Sutton - over 200 miles away from his family. He immediately went on hunger strike.

Family, friends and supporters of Alan held a demo outside the Home Office on 21st July, protesting against Alan's treatment and supporting his hunger strike. Over thirty people attended the picket. The protestors also demanded that he be transferred south again nearer to his family. On the 22nd of September, following this picket, the demo at Full Sutton, and intensive campaigning by Alan, he was finally

moved back to Parkhurst. A small victory. Shortly before the move however, he was told that his tariff - the number of years a lifer has to serve before being considered for release - had been upped from 20 to 30 years. This effectively puts him back at the beginning of his sentence. The Home Secretary seems to have done this to several life sentence prisoners, possibly as part of the current crackdown on the mythical easy life prisoners are said, in the pages of the press, to live. A number of lifers who have had their tariff increased are considering a collective appeal to the European court of human rights.

Write to:

Alan Byrne, B71850  
HM Prison Parkhurst  
Newport  
Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX.



Satpal Ram is serving a life sentence for the 'murder' of a man who racially attacked him in a restaurant in Lozells, Birmingham,

## ANGER AND FRUSTRATION

It was at this point that I was grabbed by one of the other officers and thrown to the floor. The

## SCREWS LEFT LAUGHING

I was then taken out of the cell and dragged down the corridors, which are about a quarter of a mile long, towards the Segregation Unit. While on our way down to the Unit, I was again placed in another headlock, stopping me from breathing properly. All this time the chain was constantly being pulled up and down, causing the cuffs to cut deeper into my wrists. I was in great agony. On arrival in the Unit I was placed in the Strongbox and the handcuffs were finally removed. I was then forcefully stripped naked. My watch and a religious bracelet were removed from me. I was then subjected to more brutality; they were continuously shouting and swearing at me. One of them trod on my neck and I received further blows to my body. My head was repeatedly banged against the floor before they eventually left the cell, laughing on their way out.

After several minutes I managed to sit up and cover myself with a blanket and a loose fitting gown that were on the floor. My head was throbbing, I could barely move, my wrists were swollen and bleeding. I also had other bruises about my body. Another twenty minutes passed, before the door opened again. The doctor, accompanied by several prison officers, asked me whether I had any injuries. I informed him that I could not move my wrists and I requested photographic evidence of all my injuries. The doctor didn't even bother to enter the cell, he stood in the doorway and said he would arrange for my wrists to be x-rayed. He told me that he could not authorise for photographs to be taken, and with that they closed the cell door and left.

## CHARGED WITH ASSAULT

Later that day I was visited by the Board of Visitors and the Governor. I immediately informed them that I had been subjected to a

# SATPAL RAM: BEATEN BY SCREWS

ham, in 1986. After being glassed by the racist, Satpal picked up a knife, defended himself. The attacker died in hospital. With British courts' usual flair for supporting racists and attacking black people who fight back against them, he was convicted of murder. The following is the text of a statement from Satpal on the events of 8th August, 1994, in Full Sutton Prison.

"On 8-8-94, at approximately 10am, I was summoned for a routine cell search. I was approached by five prison officers, who searched my cell on 'C' Wing Two's landing. The cell search lasted approximately fifteen minutes, after which I was ordered to strip for a body search. I asked one of the prison officers to close my cell door as people were walking past looking into my cell. The officer who was in charge told me that if I didn't comply with the order to strip, he would have me removed from normal location and taken to the Segregation Unit. I informed the officer that prison rules stated that a search of this nature should only be carried out in total privacy. The officer was not the slightest bit concerned as he again threatened to have me removed from normal location. In frustration I requested to see a copy of prison rules.

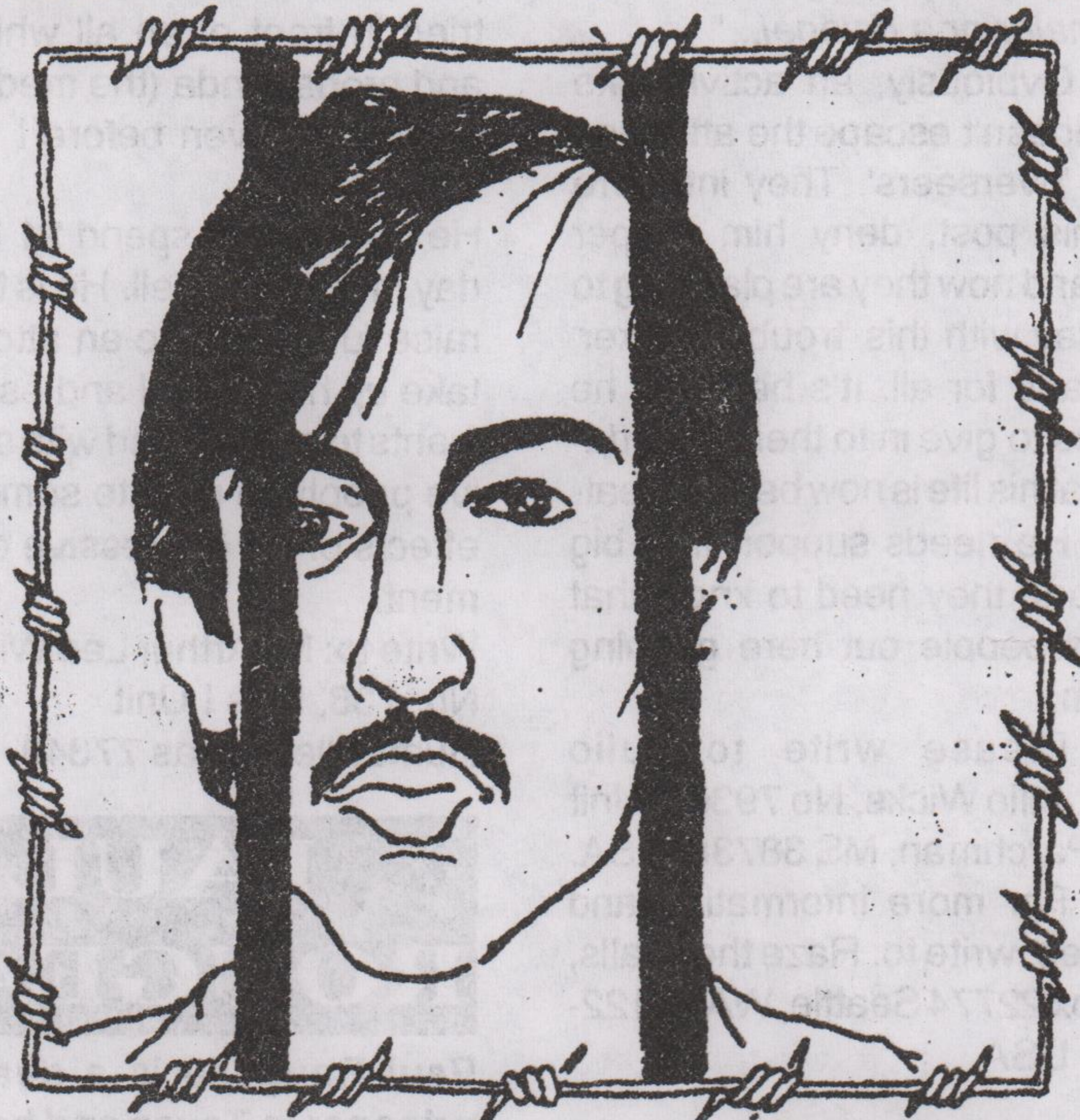
other officers joined in the attack. My thumbs were bent backwards and my arms were twisted and forced behind my back. Somebody grabbed me by the hair and forcefully pulled my head backwards, they then proceeded to rain down blows on my body. One of the officers shouted out to one of his colleagues to get a pair of cuffs. Within seconds the wing S.O. was at my door with a pair of ratchet handcuffs and they then proceeded to handcuff me behind my back. As soon as the cuffs were applied, one of them started to yank the chain in between the two cuffs, causing the cuffs to tighten and cut my wrists. I was in great physical pain and I screamed out for them to stop. One of the officers tried to muffle my screams by placing his elbow around my neck and applying pressure. I started to choke and I was having great difficulty in breathing. All this time the chain was still being yanked causing the cuffs to tighten even more. The pain was unbearable. By now I was gagging for breath and I feared for my own safety. It was at this point that the officer released pressure from my neck and raised his elbow toward my mouth; he was still blocking my air supply. In anger and frustration I bit out, I wanted them to stop what they were doing. This seemed to enrage them even more as they again yanked my head back and I was again subjected to more brutality.



vicious attack by prison officers and I requested photographic evidence of all my injuries and a telephone call to my solicitor to notify him that I had been assaulted. My request were once again denied. In protest I informed them that I intended to refuse all food and water until they allowed me to contact my solicitor. I spent all day Monday without food and water; I then spent a long night in the box having to endure total deprivation. I had to sleep on the floor in freezing conditions. I did not have access to a toilet or sink. The following morning (Tuesday 9th), the cell door opened and I was informed that I would have to

## TRANSFERRED TO DURHAM

The following morning (Wednesday 10th), I was transferred to Durham Segregation Unit. I was issued with a piece of paper by a Governor, which stated that because I had been involved in acts of indiscipline and because of my continued refusal to conform to the regime at Full Sutton I was being transferred for the period of one month. Prior to leaving Full Sutton, I made an official request to the Governor to be allowed to get my legal paperwork from my cell up on the wing, and I requested the return of my watch



appear on an adjudication. I had been charged with assaulting a prison officer. I refused to appear in front of the Governor, as I could barely move. As a result of this the adjudication was held in my absence. The Governor found me guilty as charged and I was sentenced to 14 days cellular confinement, with loss of bed and all other personal possessions.

By now I was very disorientated. I still hadn't received any medical attention, I was feeling very weak as I hadn't eaten or slept properly. Lying on the floor all night long had taken quite a lot out of me. It wasn't until Tuesday night, approximately 7pm, that I was finally allowed back into a normal cell.

and bracelet. My requests were once again denied and I was transferred to Durham. Under normal circumstances the doctor should first have passed me fit for travel; however I was transferred without being seen by him. On my arrival at Durham Segregation Unit, I was again placed in a cell without a bed, toilet or sink. I received further threats and intimidation. I was not seen by a Governor until Thursday 11th. This was now the fourth day of my hunger strike, I was very weak. The Governor asked me why I was refusing to eat or drink. I explained to him what had taken place and I again requested to speak to my solicitor. The Governor finally allowed me a two-minute

call and after I was allowed the phone-call, I decided to end my protest.

Back at Full Sutton, friends of mine managed to get word out about the attack on me, and as a result my campaign were contacted. They immediately started to ring the prison inquiring about me. As soon as they realised that people were aware of what had happened to me, they started to change their attitude towards me. I was allowed to make phone-calls to my family and friends. At the time of writing I have been here at Durham for over a fortnight and I still haven't received the x-ray which was ordered by the doctor at Full Sutton on the 8th August. This incident is not an isolated case; many other prisoners have been subjects to similar treatment in Segregation Units up and down the country. We are often subjected to psychological abuse, intimidation, deprivation and brutality is a daily occurrence. I would like to stress that I did not provoke this incident in any way. I did not seek any confrontation, this was a totally unprovoked attack." Satpal Ram, 28-8-94.

**UPDATE:** After a month's 'lay down' at Durham, Satpal was transferred back to Full Sutton. He was picked up from Durham by a van of Full Sutton screws. Twenty miles outside York, they jumped on him, beat the shit out of him again, put a body belt on him and claimed he'd attacked them. As a result he again went on hunger strike. On the 22nd of September, Satpal's supporters held a demo outside the prison, then marched up to the gate and demanded to see the governor. They forced a meeting with him, at which he finally agreed to allow Satpal on normal location and to start an internal and police inquiry. Satpal then called off his protest. Satpal Ram, HMP Full Sutton Moor Lane, York, YO4 1PS  
FREE SATPAL CAMPAIGN  
C/O Handsworth Law Centre,  
101 Villa Rd., Handsworth  
Birmingham, B19 1NH  
Tel 021 551 4518.



# International Parchman Plantation

The population of Mississippi's infamous Parchman Penitentiary is about 10,000. According to the Mississippi State code, 'penitentiary' is substituted for the more accurate word, 'plantation': 8,000 of the 10,000 prisoners are black.

Julio Wicks is a prisoner who refuses to be silenced by the usual routine of violent intimidation and isolation, or the fact that for two years he's been in a maximum security cell, 23 hours, 45 minutes a day. He's filed numerous lawsuits that have slightly improved conditions for prisoners' civil rights and to expose the corruption that serves to protect officials at Parchman and generally in the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

One example is the 1991 beating of prisoner Larry Floyd Jr, and 11 officials have been charged with perpetrating or covering up the attack. Five have pleaded guilty and are doing time. How sad.

As Julio states in a recent letter: "The corruption here starts at the top. Marijuana, crack, co-

caine, etc, could not get in this prison in the volumes it does without approval from the top. Once in a while they think it's time to sacrifice an employee and they will. Right, they sacrifice a black officer.

"...last night a birdie came to my bars and informed me there was a 'contract' out on me...not initiated by any gangs, but either by a major or a colonel..."

Ovviously, an activist like Julio doesn't escape the attention of the 'overseers'. They interfere with his post, deny him proper food, and now they are planning to do away with this 'trouble-maker' once and for all. It's because he refuses to give in to their intimidation that his life is now being threatened. He needs support in a big way, and they need to know that there's people out here gunning for him.

Please write to Julio direct: Julio Wicks, No 79367, Unit 32B, Parchman, MS 38738, USA.

For more information and updates, write to: Raze the Walls, PO Box 22774 Seattle, WA 98122-0774, USA.



## ARTHUR LEE WILLIAMS II

Arthur Lee Williams II has been on death row in Texas since 1983 for shooting dead an undercover police officer. He admits the shooting but maintains that it was in self-defence and that he didn't know that he was a policeman. Arthur says: "My trial was tainted with politics (the judge was up for re-election), economics (I couldn't afford the \$50,000 to \$75,000 to hire an attorney), racism (the policeman was white and I was tried in front of an all white jury) and propaganda (the media 'convicted' me even before I went to trial)".

He now has to spend 21 hours a day in a 5' by 9' cell. He is trying to raise funds to hire an attorney to take up his appeal and especially wants to correspond with supportive people to negate some of the effects of his oppressive environment.

Write to: Mr Arthur Lee Williams II  
No. 736, Ellis I Unit  
Huntsville, Texas 77343, USA

## PAUL ROUGEAU

Paul Rougeau is a death row prisoner in Texas and has been for the past 17 years. However, it appears that his time is running out. The State court of Appeal Fifth Circuit has denied his appeal and he now urgently needs funds to file an appeal in the US Supreme Court. Constitutional rights don't mean shit if you don't have the money with which to defend them.

Send money to: Inmate Trust Fund  
PO Box 60, Huntsville, Texas  
77342-0060L USA

Make International Money Orders payable to Paul Rougeau, No 603, and indicate your name and address.

Letters of support to:  
Paul Rougeau, No 603  
Huntsville, Texas 77343, USA



# From off the back of a Group 4 lorry comes... The Anti-Prison Merchandise Page

## SUBSCRIBE TO TAKING LIBERTIES

£3 a year unwaged  
£5 a year waged  
£10 a year rich/organisations

If you live in the South East  
join London ABC Support  
Network - same rates.

### PAMPHLETS

**No Comment - The Defendant's Guide to Arrest.** Advice on what not to say if arrested. Send a small donation and say how many you want (perfect for Xmas and birthday gifts).

**One Off.** Written by prisoners Paul Ross and Andy Jacubczyk, this booklet is a detailed account of brutality and suicides in the British prison system. £2 plus 50p P&P.

**A Day Mourful & Overcast.** Written by a member of an ex-cons militia in the Spanish Revolution - against hierarchies and prisons. 50p plus 30p P&P

**Until All Are Free.** The trial statement of US revolutionary prisoner Ray-Luc Levasseur. A searing tale of oppression and resistance. 50p plus 30p P&P.

**On the Borders of a Police State.** HCDA's latest pamphlet, looking at the latest attacks on us from the police, the law, in the form of far-reaching changes to police powers, and proposing ways to resist. £2 plus 50p P&P.

**The Privatisation of Prisons** Four different opinions on privatisation, from 3 prisoners and one ex-prisoner. 30p plus 30p P&P.

### POSTERS

**Remember We're Still Here - Support Anarchist/Class Struggle Prisoners** - an ABC poster in red and black. 50p plus 30p P&P.

### BADGES

The Black Cross Fist is now out as a metal badge - send £1.20 plus 30p P&P. For a small extra donation we'll shove in a bundle of leaflets on prisoners and prison issues.

### PRISONERS LIST

A list of prisoners the ABC is supporting, is in touch with or knows needs support. Names, addresses, info, so you can write to them. Will be regularly updated. Send in any news or names you know of and we'll try and add them.

**A Crime is a Crime is a Crime...and Fighting the Lawmen**, both published by Hackney Community Defence Association, exposing police corruption, frame-ups and drugdealing in the East London rotten borough of Hackney. 75p each, plus 30p P&P.

If you want any copies of **Taking Liberties** to sell, let us know how many you want and we'll send you them at a knockdown price. Back copies of the **ABC Bulletin** are available for 10p each plus 20p P&P. Issues 2-7 and 9, 11 & 12 left.

### LEAFLETS

**Crime - Together we'll crack it?** The ABC's response to the current crime scare and the Criminal Justice Bill. Send some stamps for a bundle - and give it out in your street, at work, in your community centre, in your mailout, on buses, trains, in the pub, wherever - we've got 1000's!

**Solicitors Leaflet** and **Suing the Police**. A leaflet on how to deal with solicitors and barristers if you're going to court should be ready soon, and also one on suing the police.

**Supporting class struggle prisoners:** the ABC intro leaflet: what we see around us, and what we do to change it.

**Writing to prisoners:** a basic guide for people who haven't written before and want advice.

**Practical Support for Prisoners:** the ins and outs of visiting, sending in books, papers, tapes etc - what gets in, what gets out.

If you want to distribute any of the above, let us know.

## ABC GROUPS

Birmingham ABC c/o Box 3241, Saltley, Birmingham B8 3DP  
Bradford ABC c/o 1 in 12 Club, 31 Manor Row, Bradford BD1  
Devon ABC c/o SWAN, PO Box 4, Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0YZ  
Essex ABC c/o Box A, 12 Mill Rd, Cambridge  
Huddersfield ABC c/o Bradford ABC address  
London ABC c/o 121 Bookshop, Railton Rd, London SE24  
Manchester ABC Box 8, 1 Newton St, Manchester M1  
Oxford ABC Box A, 111 Magdalene Rd, Oxford  
Sheffield ABC Black Star, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY

### IRELAND

Derry ABC c/o Organise, PO Box 5, Derry BT48 6PD  
Inside Information c/o Pigeonhole Cl, 11 Forth St, Edinburgh EH1

John Perotti Defence Fund, 45a Bedford Ave, Aberdeen, Scotland  
Conviction PO Box 522, Sheffield S1 3FF.  
(Organisation that supports framed prisoners)

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



**Report into Segregation Unit  
at Full Sutton** *cont/d from page 9*

ers are conditioned to react with hostility and violence, which in turn 'justifies' formal disciplinary action and is also used as justification

to prolong administrative isolation in many cases.

O.H. Mowrer, an american psychologist, has illustrated how language was used as a conditioning device to influence and alterception. This technique is a crucial part of the institutional labelling process, perand is the crucial element of disinformation in deflecting criticism and regimes by visiting bodies. This practice, ie assigning 'labels' (disruptive, violent, diturbed) legitimises regimes and abuses such as described above. In the words of a colleague (Paul Ross): "...when you assign negative labels to people and treat them in accordance with those labels over a protracted period, it is unrealistic to expect them not to

justify them to some degree. This is basic psychology....under the right conditions anyone can be made to do anything. Administrative isolation is acknowledged as a psychological damaging experience. It 'conditions' hostility, overt aggression, thereby justifying the labelling process. Summarised, it reinforces anti-social traits and behaviour. For those with no prior experience of isolation it can have tragic consequences." The events detailed above confirm this latter observation.

**POLICE INQUIRY**

On 18th August, North Humber-side Police commenced a criminal inquiry into events at Full Sutton. One of the witnesses emphasised during an interview, the importance of relevent 'internal documentation' (medical evidence - attempted suicides - C&R reports - use of strip and special cell reports). This documentation should have been obtained by thr police authorities as part of their investigations but was in fact not to be

applied for by police on the grounds that "that was a Home Office matter". The result is that the inquiry will concentrate on 'individual complaints', which the Prison Department will undoubtedly justify under a pretext. Once again nothing will result from the this latest inquiry, except perhaps another death in the future.

It is four years since the 1990 prison riots; little has changed as a consequence at some establishments. In 1993 the government promised more 'austere regimes'. Whilst undoubtedly appeasing the reactionary element of the electorate, it ensures that conditions/practices such as detailed above are permitted to flourish - the very conditions that resulted in the 1990 disturbances.

**Report by:**  
**ANDRZY JAKUBCZYK, C59058,**  
**HM PRISON WAKEFIELD,**  
**LOVE LANE, WAKEFIELD, WF2.**  
**You can write to KEVIN O'NEILL**  
**at HM Prison Full Sutton, Moor**  
**Lane, York, YO4 1PS.**

BLACK ECONOMY BOOKS INCORPORATING AK PRESS  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

a BORIS DUMONT booklet

# FIGHTING TO WIN

In September 1985, Boris Dumont was arrested at a police checkpoint whilst in possession of subversive literature. He was arrested for the robbery of a security guard whilst attempting to raise funds for further political activities. Boris' own story tells of his youth, gradual politicisation, and the decision to become a fully fledged revolutionary. Step by step the story builds up to his arrest and attempted escape from prison.....

box 8  
1 newton street  
manchester  
m1 1hw  
england



**AK  
PRESS**

22 lutton place  
edinburgh  
eh8 9pe  
scotland



## JOSEPHINE SMITH - ADDRESS

(see article on Page 5)

**HM PRISON BULLWOOD HALL,**  
**HIGH ROAD, HOCKLEY, ESSEX.**  
**SS5 4TE.**

## Escape from Butlins?

*cont/d from page 4*

and been knocked back. The others will have seen the refusal to consider amnesty for IRA prisoners, whatever the ceasefire comes to. Small wonder they tried to take the matter into their own hands.

Send messages of solidarity to:

Andrew Russell, JA0223; Gilbert MacNamee, L48616; Liam McCotter, LB83693; Liam O' Duibhir; Paul 'Dingus' Magee, BR3783; Peter Sherry, B75880; all at HMP Whitemoor, Longhill Road, March, Cambs, PE15 0PR.

## DEMO

On 23rd September 20 people picketed the Home Office in protest at the beatings handed out to the escapees. The protest included Stephen Russell, Andy's brother, ex-prisoners and other supporters.

Security at all high security jails and many other prisons was tightened after the escape - and more repression on the way. Proposed are more searches, glass screens separating prisoners and visitors, increased restrictions on 'non-co-operative' inmates.

That all this will not go thropugh without prisoners fighting back has already been seen in a night of rioting at Highpoint Prison in Suffolk, sparked off by the new security regulations. 120 prisoners were moved to other prisons after the 'disturbance' over the night of the 25th-26th of September. Highpoint has a record of distinction: in November 1992, cons did £1 million worth of damage to the jail, and in February this year 60 prisoners held barricades against 250 screws for a night.



## SUPPLEMENT TO TAKING LIBERTIES NO. 13 (Oct 94)

### **SATPAL RAM IN COURT**

Satpal Ram is serving a life sentence for the 'murder' of a racist who attacked him in a restaurant, and died after Satpal defended himself. He has also faced attacks and racist abuse in prison (see this issue pages 12/13). Earlier this year, after nearly eight years in prison, Satpal won his case for a Judicial Review, which, if he wins it, will hopefully enable him to force the Home Secretary to refer his case back to the Court of Appeal.

Satpal and his supporters are asking people to join their picket of the High Court on the morning of the start of the Review. Get down there:

*FRIDAY 4TH NOVEMBER, 10am, at THE HIGH COURT, THE STRAND, LONDON, WC2.*

### **PRISON REVOLT IN GERMANY**

On Sunday 29th July, a german prisoner in the JVA/Elwe Prison in Kassel, Germany, tried to escape, threatening screws with a dummy bomb. He was caught, but 40 other prisoners took advantage of the confusion to revolt, taking a screw hostage. Most of them were asylum-seekers from other countries, mainly Algeria, who had been detained pending decisions on their cases. During Sunday, a small number of people demonstrated outside the jail in support of the prisoners, while others turned up to support the cops! Ninety-nine other inmates were moved out that night, as cops armed with water cannon and guns laid siege to them and nicked demonstrators. Some prisoners gave themselves up.

On Monday morning, the remaining prison rebels agreed to surrender if they were moved to another jail in Wiesbaden. Together with their hostage, a lawyer, an interpreter and an islamic cleric they got on a bus, which was then suddenly stormed by the paramilitary GSG 9 'anti-terror' squad. At the same time riot cops broke down other prisoners' barricades in the jail. The captured prisoners were taken to an old police station in Kassel - an ex-Gestapo building - and many were beaten up and tortured.

The pro-prisoner demonstrators were then released, but another demo a few days later, outside a different prison, organised by **Kassel Anarchist Black Cross and the 'Anti-Repression Group'**, was met by a huge police presence with water cannons.

Cheers to the FAU International News Bulletin for the above info.



## **PRISON MUTINY TRIAL**

The trial at Hull Crown Court of nine prisoners for the 1992 Full Sutton 'Mutiny' has ended. The nine were charged with the offence of 'Prison Mutiny', introduced in 1991 (after Strangeways and the other 1990 prison revolts) - the first to face this charge in court. It arose from a sitdown protest over conditions in the recreation yard at Full Sutton in summer 1992. The protestors were locked OUT by the screws, in the hot sun, despite asking to be let back into their cells! Other prisoners passed out water and food. The sitdown was broken up by the MUFTI Squad, with the usual round of violence, and alleged ringleaders charged with Prison Mutiny. The end result was that four were acquitted, four pleaded guilty in return for a three-month sentence, (we're not sure what happened to the ninth). While the prisoncrats haven't exactly used this test case to make an example of the Full Sutton mutineers, it remains to be seen how the charge will be used in the future.

## **CRIMINAL DAMAGE TRIAL**

Strangeways prisoner Tony Bush and Matthew Wainright went on trial in October, for criminal damage to an office in Whitemoor Prison. It arose from an incident last summer when they locked themselves in the office in C Wing in a protest, and were surrounded by 50 screws after the riot bell was pressed. Funnily enough, after they were removed and dragged down the Segregation Unit, the office somehow got trashed worse than they'd left it! We'll keep you posted on the result of the trial.

## **MORE MERCHANDISE.....**

*Not only have we still got loads of the lush ABC t-shirts, in two designs, but we have just printed up three new ABC pamphlets:*

**IN THE STRONGBOX**, by Robert Mawdsley. An account of life in the Strongbox cells in Parkhurst prison. 40p plus 30p postage.

**MECHANICAL RESTRAINTS**, by Paul Ross and Patricia Ford. On the brutal use of ratchets handcuffs and leg-irons. 25p plus 30p postage.

**BUILD A WORKERS PRISON**. A critical look at leftwing groups and their attitude to supporting prisoners. 50p plus 30p postage.