

# CHECKLIST FOR ALL DEFENDANTS

- Plead not guilty.
- Get in touch with the Defendants Campaign, and send us the details we ask for below.
- Get your case adjourned so that you have time to view any video evidence that may be relevant, and trace witnesses to your arrests. This is vital if you are contesting the police account of your arrest or 'offence'.
- Meet your lawyers, and remember that you have the right to change solicitor if you are not happy with the one you are using.
- If you know 'respectable' people who can testify as to your truthfulness, upright morals etc., ask them if they will be a character witness for you.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

- You have the right to see any photographic evidence which relates or might relate to your case. This includes any video or stills that the police have that might show you being arrested, even if it does not show you allegedly committing an 'offence'.
- You should not have to view the evidence at a police station. Your solicitor can purchase copies of the relevant tapes and pictures (this should be payable from legal aid).
- If for any reason you do have to view the evidence at a police station, *it is vital that you do not identify yourself on the video or show any reaction.* If you do, you may be liable for arrest. If there is a bit of the video you would like to see again, ask them to show a large section, so that they will not know which bit it is.

## YOUR SOLICITOR SHOULD:

- Meet with you - regularly if necessary - and arrange for you to meet your advocate *before* the trial.
- Take a written statement from you and any witnesses.
- Get copies of statements from any witnesses testifying against you, and any video evidence that is to be used, and let you see it as soon as possible.
- Contact the other solicitors defending clients from the demo through Bindmans (071-278-8131).
- Discuss your case with you fully and sympathetically, and treat it with the urgency and consideration it deserves. *They are being paid a lot of money to serve YOU.*

**IF YOUR SOLICITOR WON'T, YOU SHOULD CHANGE.**

## YOUR ANTI-POLL TAX GROUP SHOULD:

- Provide financial help with your travel costs to court and TSDC meetings, and with your fine if you get one.
- If you have any problems with your local group, get the TSDC or the London Anti-Poll Tax Federation (071-737-3301) to approach them on your behalf.

## YOU SHOULD LET T.S.D.C. KNOW AT ONCE:

- Your name and address and 'phone number.
- The name, address and 'phone number of your solicitor.
- What charge(s) you are facing.
- The date of your next court appearance.
- Details about your arrest and the alleged offence: exactly where and when it happened, what you were wearing and what *actually* took place. If possible, send us a photo of yourself wearing the clothes that you were demonstrating in. We need this information so that we can match defendants to witnesses. *Many people saw arrests, but don't know the identity of the defendant.*
- The name and address of anyone you know who witnessed your arrest or any other arrests. *These people should send statements of everything that they saw on the day to us at once.*

Local  
Anti-  
Poll  
Tax  
Groups  
should

support all  
defendants locally..



**We're all in this together. The Campaign exists to help you, but it also depends on your involvement and support. It's going to be a long fight and we have to stick with it and support each other to the end. Solidarity!**



# APPEAL FOR WITNESSES

On 31st March 1990, the anti Poll Tax march to Trafalgar Square was subject to brutal attacks by the Metropolitan Police. These attacks continued into the evening, and many members of the public not involved in the demonstration were also assaulted.

However the police have made no effort to discipline the officers responsible. Instead have mounted a campaign against those demonstrators and other members of the public who defended themselves, or were merely unlucky enough to have been captured by the police at the time.

The Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign has been set up to defend over 500 people arrested as regards these events and expose what really happened that day. The campaign is independent of all political organisations and is run by and accountable to those arrested.

We are issuing an appeal to all those present to step forward with their account of the events of the day. We have been drawing up a chronology of events and even if you are unable to give an account of specific cases of police brutality, what you saw may be important in establishing the chain of events. However, if some particular event struck you and you are prepared to be a witness in court this would be particularly important.

We see that it is essential that mass resistance continues when individuals are victimised, fined and imprisoned. We face a hostile media and a malicious police force involved in a cover-up. Failure to properly defend those arrested weakens our ability to take to the streets when we need to. Please support this campaign. We desperately need donations and support if we are to prevent a police cover up and persecution of the Anti-Poll Tax movement.

## **Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign**

The National Defence Campaign for all those arrested as a result of the  
200,000 strong Anti-Poll Tax Demonstration on March 31st  
c/o Haldane Society of Lawyers, 205 Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant,  
London WC1X 0AP Tel: 071-833-8958







APPEAL FOR WITNESSES:

# DID YOU SEE ANY ARRESTS?

As usual when demonstrations are broken up by police, the majority of those arrested were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. We urgently need to hear from anyone who witnessed police violence of any kind, unprovoked arrests, justified actions by protestors to defend themselves or the demonstration, etc.

## YOUR TESTIMONY COULD SAVE AN INNOCENT PERSON FROM JAIL.

We need to hear from you *today*. Let us have your name, address and telephone number, along with an account of everything you saw. *Be as detailed as possible, and leave nothing out.* Try to be exact about times and places, and give full descriptions of any people you saw being arrested/assaulted.

### MODEL MOTION FOR ANTI-POLL TAX, LABOUR MOVEMENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS.

"We applaud the magnificent 200,000-strong national march against the Poll Tax in central London on March 31st 1990 and condemn the police attempt to violently break it up around Trafalgar Square.

We also condemn the arrest of over 400 demonstrators and passers-by; the order issued seizing all video and photographic records of the demonstration; the media witch-hunt that has followed; and the oppressive use of bail restrictions and heavy sentences against protestors.

We consider that these measures are an attack on our right to demonstrate.

We demand that there be no cover-up of the police violence on the day, and that those responsible be brought to justice.

We resolve to continue opposing the Poll Tax, to support those arrested, and to affiliate to the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign."

## FINANCIAL APPEAL

FOR DEFENDANTS' LEGAL AND WELFARE COSTS, AND PUBLICITY

**£50,000**

The Campaign estimates that it will need £50,000 to meet initial costs. We can only raise this money with your help. We need donations, affiliations and fundraising initiatives from every Anti-Poll Tax Campaign, as well as from labour movement, student and community organisations. No matter how little or how much you can raise, **your contribution is vital.**

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

I/My organisation can help with the following tasks (please tick):

Printing and distribution

Court monitoring (London)

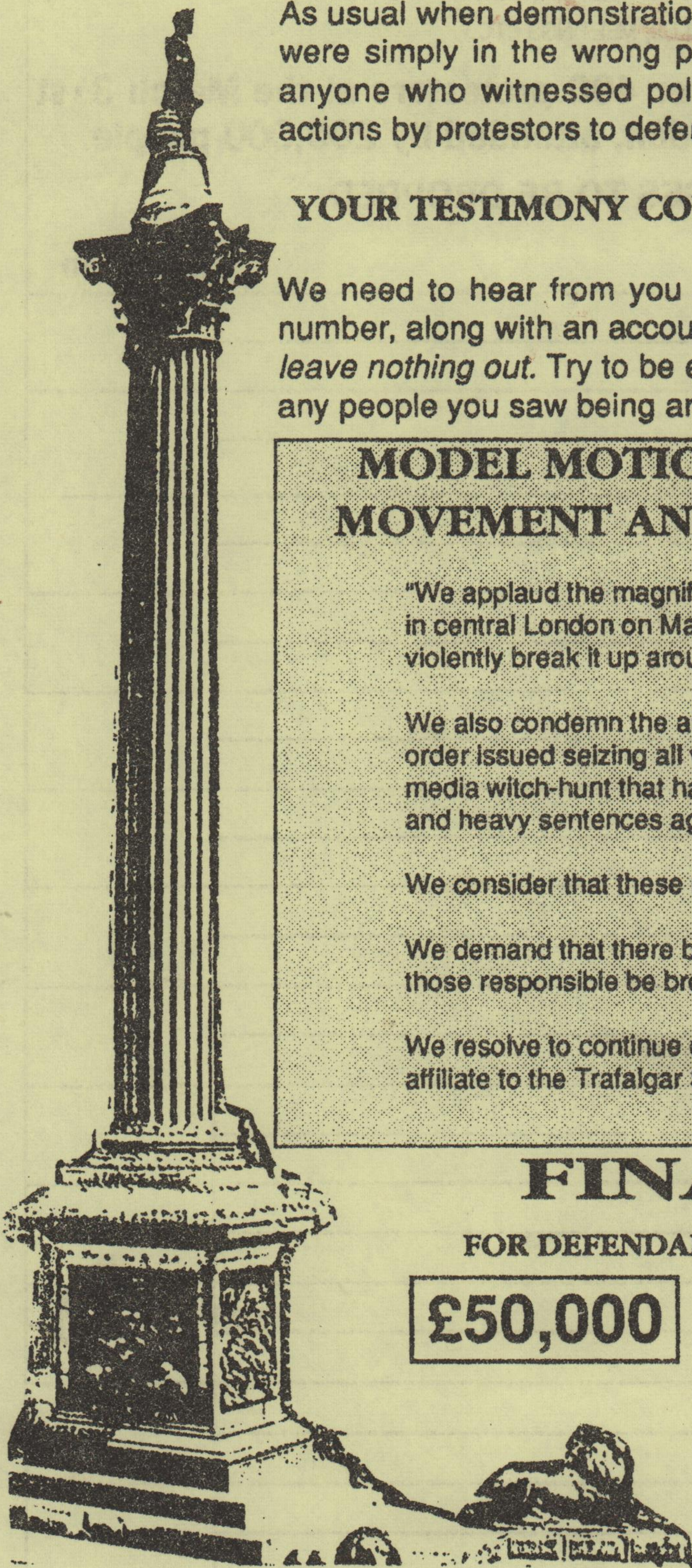
Fundraising activities

Donating stationary

....office supplies

Building support for TSDC in the following organisations/movements  
(Please specify)

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# TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN

THE NATIONAL DEFENCE CAMPAIGN FOR ALL THOSE ARRESTED AS A RESULT OF THE 200,000 STRONG ANTI-POLL TAX DEMONSTRATION ON MARCH 31ST.

c/o Haldane Society of Lawyers, Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X OAP. Tel: 071-833-8958 (messages)

dear friends,

On March 31st, 1990, the eve of the implementation of the poll tax in England and Wales, 200,000 people demonstrated in central London. It was a lively and good-humoured protest, calling for mass non-payment of the hated tax.

Due to incredible police stupidity and brutality in driving horses into an ordinary sit-down protest at Downing Street, and later launching a wave of baton charges by riot police into a packed Trafalgar Square, a huge night-long battle was provoked.

According to the latest figures, 409 demonstrators and passers-by were arrested and charged that day, and the courts have been imposing severe penalties. For the first time ever, the Crown Prosecution Service have set up a special unit to deal with the cases. Police have siezed 90 hours of video and 30,000 photos. 125 officers are are working full-time on the case – the largest investigation ever mounted by the Met. A further 39 people have been charged on the basis of this evidence, and in some cases as a result of the hysterical media witch-hunt. Police harrassment of anti-poll tax activists and events has been stepped up.

### The Fightback is Launched.

On May 3rd, a National Defence Campaign was launched, involving defendants, solicitors, anti-poll tax activists and supporters.

It was agreed that the Campaign would:

- Unconditionally support all those arrested.
- Be run by and accountable to those arrested
- Be independant of all other organisations
- Demand the support of the whole Anti-Poll Tax Movement and other sympathetic organisations. (The All London Anti-Poll Tax Federation has unanimously affiliated)

It was also agreed to:

- Seek out and contact all defendants
- Co-ordinate legal defence (all defendants should now demand adjournment of their case)
- Publicise what happened at the demonstration from the point of view of those arrested
- Call for donations/fundraising to a Bust Fund for legal/welfare costs

We meet weekly in London. We urgently need to contact every defendant and witness.

SOLIDARITY WITH ALL DEFENDANTS. DROP ALL CHARGES NOW.  
FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE. PAY NO POLL TAX.

**Saturday, June 16th, 12-6pm, TCP Hall, 628 High Road, London N17.**  
(Seven Sisters Tube, then bus 259, 76, 279 or 149: call 081-801-9464 on the day)

**NATIONAL DEFENDANTS AND WITNESSES MEETING**  
TO CO-ORDINATE LEGAL DEFENCE ETC.  
Essential for *all* defendants. Fares should be paid by local anti-poll tax groups.  
Accomodation available

**Sunday, June 17th, 11-4pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1**  
(Holborn Tube)

**NATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE**  
FOR ALL DEFENDANTS, SUPPORTERS AND AFFILIATES  
Legal and welfare issues; Mobilising mass support / publicity; Fundraising

I/We wish to affiliate to the TSDC:  
Name of Organisation / Individual.....  
Address.....  
Contact Person..... Phone.....  
We enclose £..... (£5 - Local / £10 - District / £25 - Regional, & TUs)  
**Donations desparately needed.**

### A MESSAGE TO ALL CAMPAIGNERS

It's *essential* that all local organisations, and town and regional federations back this campaign.

As opposition to the poll tax grows and becomes more effective, the authorities are getting worried. They are looking for ways to frighten and discredit the movement, especially at a time when millions are preparing not to pay their first bills.

**'Outrage'** – Following the mammoth demonstration on March 31st (and the wave of earlier protests at Town Halls around the country), the hysteria and 'outrage' of the police, media and politicians was carefully orchestrated. They aimed to give the impression that our movement, the largest campaign of mass civil disobedience in Britain this century, in advocating non-payment and non-cooperation, is somehow a 'threat to society'. It is in fact a threat to the Government's Poll Tax! And it is backed in varying degrees by the majority of the population, even if they don't all feel able to join in yet.

**Show Trials** – By opposing the show trials of Trafalgar Square protestors, which are coming up this Summer, we will undermine the authorities' efforts to divide and discredit the movement. We will also re-affirm that the legal system of this country is far from the all-powerful monolith it likes to pretend it is.

In Scotland, Sherriff's Officers trying to steal non-payers' furniture face angry doorstep crowds. In England and Wales, the courts are preparing to force people to pay their bills.... BUT THEY WILL BE OVERWHELMED! THE TAX IS UNWORKABLE!

**Resistance** – Successful mass defiance of unjust laws, and refusal to be intimidated by oppressive policing and hostile propaganda is a great part of our traditions, from the original Peasants' Revolt up until today. That's how workers won the right to organise, women won the right to vote and so on.

In all these struggles, it was essential to support those victimised, fined and imprisoned.

**THIS WE MUST DO NOW - BY SHOWING UNCONDITIONAL AND COMPLETE SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE ARRESTED.**

- WHAT YOUR ORGANISATION CAN DO:**
- Affiliate, publicise the campaign, raise money (we need at least £50,000)
  - Send us details of all defendants and witnesses.
  - Pay their travel costs to court and TSDC meetings (especially for June 16)
  - Attend the National Conference, June 17







**TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN**

THE NATIONAL DEFENCE CAMPAIGN FOR ALL THOSE ARRESTED AS A RESULT OF THE 200,000 STRONG ANTI-POLL TAX DEMONSTRATION ON MARCH 31ST

c/o Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, Room 205, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X OAP. Tel: 071-833-8958 (messages)

# DROP ALL CHARGES NOW!

On Thursday 21st June at 6:00am police raided 6 flats and houses in the Stamford Hill and Dalston areas of Hackney. 11 people were arrested on suspicion of offences ranging from theft of a traffic sign to violent disorder and criminal damage. The raid was carried out as part of Operation Carnaby, which was set up following the March 31st Poll Tax demonstration in London. Some of those arrested are involved in their local anti-poll tax group. The raids were carried out in a paramilitary fashion with at least 60 police officers involved, some plain clothed, others wearing bullet proof vests.

They entered premises using extreme force and intimidation. Doors were smashed down with sledgehammers and people dragged out of bed. The police also: entered with axes raised, gassed a dog, took up a floor, smashed furniture and fittings, broke telephones, left homes open, took belongings, entered through windows, threatened occupants, smashed a heating duct, took money and in one case 9 men charged screaming into a bedroom where a mother was sleeping with her 10 day old baby.

Four people were charged with violent disorder and seven were released on police bail pending possible public order offences. One person was not granted bail and is held at Wormwood Scrubs due to allegations of assault in the process of his arrest.

Due to the seriousness of the raids (ie damage to property, assault and intimidation of defendants and other occupants of the flats), reports appeared in the national newspapers and on t.v. and radio. Also, questions were raised in Parliament. Scotland Yard issued a press statement claiming the area was "a hotbed of anarchism" and claimed all those arrested were anarchists or animal rights extremists. In a radio call-in, Commander Roy Ramm (in charge of Operation Carnaby) stated "the minimum amount of force needed to deal with these type of people was used". When questioned further about allegations of doors being sledgehammered down, he stated "when you're dealing with barricades, this action proves necessary".

All the addresses were ordinary homes in Hackney and as it was 6:00am when people were still in bed stories of barricades are total fabrication. This is clearly an attempt to criminalise and intimidate a local community where there are active anti-poll tax groups. We must



not allow local communities and anti-poll tax groups to be criminalised. We will be fully supporting all those arrested from the raids.

For further information, contact Hackney Community Defence Association at [redacted] Road, London, [redacted] tel 07 [redacted] 3).

(P.S. Please discount previous press release due to factual inaccuracies)



(IF you would like a copy of this photo, please phone above number.)