

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

30p or a donation *Bulletin*

Free to prisoners

What is the ABC?

THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

The ABC is an international anarchist prisoners support organisation. There are active ABC groups in Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, USA, Ireland, Australia, Greece, England, and Scotland.

The ruling class who control this system have made certain laws to preserve their control. Prisons are there to isolate people when all other methods fail. Many prisoners are inside for breaking their laws in order to survive, others for political or social action against this society. We seek the abolition of all prisons as part of a social revolution, to be replaced by justice that comes from our class and communities. We support prisoners not because we feel that by supporting them we will destroy prisons - we feel that prisons will only be destroyed by revolution, so we work towards revolution and in doing so support revolutionaries who are captured.

Our aim is to give practical support to Anarchist/ Revolutionary and class struggle prisoners as well as being involved in general prison struggles and supporting 'social' prisoners in our own locales.



Our work includes letter writing, visiting prisoners, campaigning in support of prisoners demands, highlighting prisoner's cases, picketing prisons and embassies.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK

The E.R.N. is a structure set up in 1989 by the ABC to help prisoners as quickly as possible. For example if a prisoner is being roughed up by screws, denied medical treatment e.t.c. people in the network get the news by phone, which allows us to organise actions immediately to support/publicise the prisoners' plight. The E.R.N. being activated has produced phone blockades of prisons and embassies, leafletting or direct action depending on what has been appropriate. The E.R.N. has proved to be a thorn in the side of prison authorities, who will abuse prisoners as long as they can get away with it unnoticed. In 1990 two Greek prisoners were freed after international action, having been on hunger strike after being framed by the police.

Continued on back page

John Perroti

JOHN PERROTI was originally sent to prison when he was 19 for a \$7 robbery. He is now 36. He has had further time added to his sentence as a result of his activities as a self-taught "Jailhouse lawyer" and prison organising.

The prison system in America has grown into a multi-billion dollar industry, motivated by profit. Over the last decade the prison population has trebled to over 700,000 adult prisoners. The prisoners themselves are forced to work at slave wages; as little as 10 cents an hour, are fed on unsubstantial, unsanitary food, degraded, harassed, beaten down both physically and mentally and are given no future except the prospect of probable re-incarceration.

Figures for 1986 show that the state of Ohio employed 3000 prisoners in over 30 businesses and earned a 4-7% profit on \$23 million in sales, while prisoners got pay rates of a maximum of 31 cents an hour. It is against this background of private corporations taking over prisons and using the prison population as a cheap labour pool that John has worked as an organiser for the Industrial Workers of the World, in an attempt to get prison conditions improved. This activism has brought the worst excesses of the system down onto John. In 1984 9 guards attempted to kill him a month after they had murdered a fellow prisoner Jimmy Haines. On this occasion John got another conviction for "aggravated assault" on one of the guards. In 1988 a 12-15 year sentence was added for an alleged attack on another prisoner, when John was at the time locked in solitary confinement and despite the actual attacker confessing during the "trial". The only witness to the supposed attack, a known prison collaborator was immediately paroled after testifying against John, while his story was totally inconsistent and discredited in court. The judge openly assisted the prosecution, denied all defence motions and made faces, rolled his eyes and shook his head when any defence witnesses testified.

As well as additions to his sentence and attempts on his life John Perroti has been a regular target for beatings, being blasted with high pressure hoses and being "Maced" with aerosol CS gas. He has also spent over



7 years of the last 9 in solitary confinement. The J1 Supermax Control Unit at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility where John was held until last year was based on the notorious Marion Federal Prison, condemned by Amnesty International and the use of "boxcar" sensory deprivation cells, prolonged isolation and the above mentioned abuses represents a concerted "behaviour modification" programme aimed at breaking the spirit and personality of the prisoners.

In february 1990 John Perroti along with Eric "Sudan" Swafford and Michael Day; the "Lucasville 3", organised a hunger strike to protest at the brutality and repression of the prison regime. One third of the inmates of S. O. C. F (over 700 men) refused food on the first day in solidarity and further support came from prisoners throughout the system and supporters worldwide. John and Sudan Swafford were immediately transferred out of the prison to the Lebanon Correctional Institution in an attempt to defuse the situation but on 10th March the strike ended with the Ohio governor ordering a complete investigation of all the strikers demands.

Though forcing the "investigation" was a partial victory the regime at Lebanon continues to be miserable. John has been kept in a cell block identical to the Stammheim model in West Germany; white walls and bedding/clothing which causes psychological trauma, no set rules-they are made and enforced arbitrarily. He is handcuffed, belly chained and leg-ironed whenever removed from his cell and has several escorts, security guards and sometimes a video camera taping his removal. Visits are once a month

from 1-6 hours and are non-contact in a small wooden and plexiglass booth where talk is through a phone which is bugged. So the "behaviour modification" treatment continues and recently John's mail and visits have been severely restricted.

More recently the media and prison officials have spread rumours about John being involved in an "Aryan Brotherhood", allegedly controlling drugs, gambling and prostitution at the prison and also that he was a terrorist. This misinformation and lies allows them to justify keeping him in isolation and their efforts to silence him. It also detracts from the real issues of prison struggle and resistance that John Perroti has been victimised for.

We understand John Perroti cut his wrists on the 20th february. He is now recovering though still in isolation. It was the 19th day of hunger strike -12 months since his last hunger strike. He was visited by the prison psychiatrist just before his attempt and was said to be "close to going over the edge". He had despaired of his "fasts for justice" which had got nowhere. A visit by a friend was refused on 22nd january on the allegation that he had assaulted a guard - in fact, he had been clubbed by the guard. No way could his protests be heard. He had been in isolation for 22 months (the last year in Lebanon).

Send letters of protest to:
The Governor of Ohio,
Governor Richard Celeste,
Governors Mansion,
Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Warden William Dallman,
Lebanon Correctional Facility,
PO BOX 56, Ohio 45036 U. S. A
(tel 513 9321211).

Donations to
The John Perroti Defence Fund,
P/H C1, 11 Forth St,
Edinburgh EH1.

Letters of support to
John Perroti,
167-712, Lebanon Correctional Institution,
PO BOX 56, Lebanon, Ohio
45036 U. S. A.

REMEMBER WE'RE STILL HERE

"Here we remain, yesterday's urban
guerillas, abandoned in captivity"

Ojore N. Lutalo is a New Afrikan Prisoner of War locked down in Trenton, New Jersey, for actions carried out in the fight for Black liberation.

In his own words, Ojore is "serving a parole violation sentence (we received 14 to 17 years) stemming from a 1977 conviction for expropriating monies from a capitalist state bank (in order to finance our activities) and engaging the political police in a gun battle in December 1975 in order to effect our departure from the bank, and to ensure the success of the military operation..."

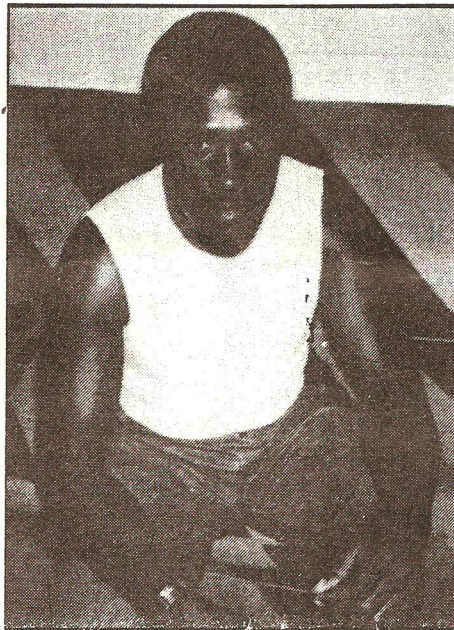
"After my parole violation term terminated in December 1987, I started serving a fourty year sentence with a twenty-year parole ineligibility (I was paroled in 1980, and I have been back in captivity since April 20, 1982) that I received in 1982 for having a gun-fight with a drug dealer. The overall strategy behind assaulting drug dealers is to secure monies to finance one's activities, and to rid the oppressed communities of drug dealers."

Ojore was originally arrested with New Afrikan P.O.W. Kojo Bomani Sababu, and was struggling with comrade Andaliwa Clark up until the point that Andaliwa was killed in action within the confines of New Jersey's infamous Trenton State Prison after he shot two of the prison's security guards in the repressive Management Control Unit (MCU) on January 19th, 1976 when they attempted to stop him from escaping from captivity. Ojore was a comrade of the late Kuwasi Balagoon, a New Afrikan anarchist P.O.W. "I've been involved in the struggle, the war against the fascist state since 1970. I've been an anarchist since 1975 without any regrets. Prior to my involvement in the struggle, I was just another apolitical lumpen (bandit) here in Amerika.

"I was ... influenced and highly motivated by the Black Liberation Army (BLA) here in Amerika. These sisters and brothers were New Afrikans just like me from the streets of the ghettos who took the initiative militarily, to start assassinating members of the state's security forces who were murdering Black people in our communities. From the inception of all revolutions, I feel that the people need armed combat units to check

OJORE N. LUTALO

New Afrikan Prisoner of War



state sponsored acts of terrorism by the government's security forces. In addition, I feel that these armed combat units are necessary to show the people that fascist acts of state-sponsored terrorism ... will be responded to militarily. In 1975 I became disillusioned with Marxism and became an anarchist (thanks to Kuwasi Balagoon) due to the inactiveness and ineffectiveness of marxism in our communities along with the repressive bureaucracy that comes with marxism. People aren't going to commit themselves to a life and death struggle just because of grand ideas someone might have floating around in their heads. I feel people will commit themselves to struggle if they can see progress being made similar to the progress of the anarchist collectives in Spain during the era of the fascist Bahamonde...."

Ojore is presently locked down in a Management Control Unit (MCU) in Trenton. "I'm encased in a cage of steel and concrete surrounded by high prison walls topped with gun towers and rows of razor wire while being watched by sadistic fascist pigs. Nevertheless, I'm not complaining because I have accepted revolution which is armed struggle for me, and I have come to terms with the prospects of death and captivity The vast majority of the Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners now being interned here in the concentration camps of North Amerika aren't receiving any assistance (eg: being liberated, assistance in liberating ourselves, financial assistance needed to obtain food packages, winter clothing, reading material and postage stamps) from the so-called progressive revolutionary organizations, groups and individuals here in Amerika. With our talents, we have been abandoned here in the state's numerous concentration camps and Management Control Units by those out there in what we call minimum custody..."

"We don't need moral support because we have purpose. We don't need anyone to tell us to stay strong because we are going to remain steady anyway because we have come to terms with the prospects of death and captivity."

SOLIDARITY

The Toronto Anarchist Black Cross is organizing ongoing assistance to Ojore. You can help purchase the needed material support by donating money to the ABC and specifying it for Ojore's material aid campaign. All donations will go directly to purchasing his material needs. Consider making regular donations to the campaign. Money can be sent to the Black Cross earmarked for Ojore at P.O. Box 6326 Stn A, Toronto Ontario, M5W 1P7, Canada.

You can write to Ojore directly at:

Ojore N. Lutalo
59860 M.C.U.
CN - 861
Trenton, New Jersey
USA 08625



Martin Foran Dying for Justice

MARTIN FORAN is a 45 year old Irishman, convicted and imprisoned in 1985 for a robbery that he didn't commit, a victim of the corrupt West Midlands Serious Crime Squad (WMSCS). Martin had already been sentenced to 10 years in 1978 on dubious robbery charges, serving 6 years before being released in february 1984. Seven months later he was again chosen for a frame up by the WMSCS.

There is considerable evidence available to prove Martin's innocence in both cases -until now this has been ignored. Last year, West Yorkshire police, who are investigating the WMSCS, visited Martin in prison, where they agreed that he had been framed. They have discovered that vital evidence relating to Martin's arrest and 'confession' statements have been lost, destroyed or fabricated in the cover-up by the squad. Martin was arrested and interrogated by some of the same officers who framed the Birmingham Six - further victims of the squad's anti-Irish racism.

Martin has become seriously ill in prison, resulting in him having to have a colostomy. He also developed a discharge from his left eye and as with problems relating to his colostomy this was left untreated. The Home Office has consistently claimed that Martin is receiving adequate medical care and even dared to claim that Martin is 'satisfied' with his treatment. However, regular photos of Martin's condition taken

by his solicitor and testimony of an independent consultant contradict these absurd claims. More recently Dr. Flood, Martin's doctor at Durham Prison who consistently denied him medical care, has been forced to resign following a series of allegations of negligence.

On top of this Martin has been systematically brutalised by prison staff. On one occasion he was kicked unconscious by 3 hospital prison officers. In a court action against these officers Martin was awarded compensation, yet he has still to receive the money. 'World in Action' have expressed an interest in covering this incident in a programme but such media interest is notoriously fickle and it remains to be seen whether the programme will go ahead.

Over a year after the W. Yorkshire police began their inquiry into the WMSCS they had still only dealt with 9 out of 90 complaints under investigation and in frustration at the delay Martin went on hunger-strike last november, coming off in the first week of January.

Since then Martin has been seen by another specialist and is awaiting medical treatment in march. Previously Martin had been given the choice of permanent discomfort and the likely gradual worsening of his condition or an operation which could quite possibly have killed him. A 'new' operation with more chance of success is now on offer.

With the Guilford Four and the Birmingham Six having been cleared and freed a precedent has been established that no one should be convicted on uncorroborated confession, on which Martin's imprisonment rests. Also on January 16th John Edwards, another victim of the WMSCS was released, being the 3rd man found guilty of armed robbery to have his conviction quashed as 'unsafe and unsatisfactory' since the squad was disbanded 18 months ago.

Following a well attended press conference in Dublin where Valerie Foran handed in a petition to the British Embassy, Desmond O'malley the Irish Republic's Minister for Industry and Commerce raised his concern with government colleague Gerry Collins the minister for Foreign Affairs. He said he was convinced that not only is Martin's conviction unsafe but that he should be released on humanitarian grounds alone and get proper medical treatment for his serious condition.

We believe that Martin should be released immediately and given the medical attention that he needs. The members of the WMSCS, for the numerous instances of false conviction they have perpetrated against innocent people, are the real guilty party, yet on june 28th last year four of the dismissed officers were reinstated and many others are likely to get off scot-free. The so-called system of 'justice' in this country is corrupt.

The latest news on Martin's operation is that it should still be going ahead, though money is needed to secure it. Martin and Valerie have made an appeal for money towards this cost. Make cheques out to Valerie Foran and send c/o CONVICTION, Send letters of support to Martin; noCS1796, HM Prison Frankland, Brasside, Durham DH15YD.

Protest to the Home Office (for what it's worth).

For further information or to make a donation; Martin Foran Support Fund/Group (London) BCM Foran, London WC1N 3XX.

Conviction, P.O. Box 522, Sheffield, S1 3FF

**FREEDOM NOW FOR MARTIN
FORAN!**



Martin's supporters picketing the Home Office

How can I support prisoners ?

WRITING TO PRISONERS

Prison isolates people from the outside world. Besides visiting, writing is the most important thing you can do to help break down that isolation, so that the prisoner does not feel forgotten. If you can't think of much to write just send a card wishing them well, it is the fact that you have bothered to write that matters. If you know a prisoner personally it is especially important to write as obviously contact from old friends is valued. But this does not mean that if you are a stranger to the prisoner that won't appreciate your letter. Remember all letter to prisoners are opened and censored so don't write anything that could jeopardise future actions or someone's freedom.

Don't expect a reply to your letter as prisoners are restricted as to how many letters they can write each week. Sometimes prisons restrict the number of letters a prisoner can receive, this is less likely to happen if letters are not too long. Generally it is best not to write more than 4 sides writing paper or 2 sides A4 paper per letter. Most prisons do not allow letters sent in with no senders address on them. It is possible to use a false address, but bear in mind that a prisoner may reply, so use an address you can get post from.

VISITING PRISONERS

Remand prisoners (that is prisoners who have not yet been tried) are normally entitled to a visit of at least 15 minutes every day except Sunday, although some prisons differ from this. Prisoners can normally have up to 3 visitors per day, but they all have to visit at the same time. If a prisoner does not have a visiting rota, try and let them know a week or so in advance that you are coming so that they can inform you if someone else is going that day.

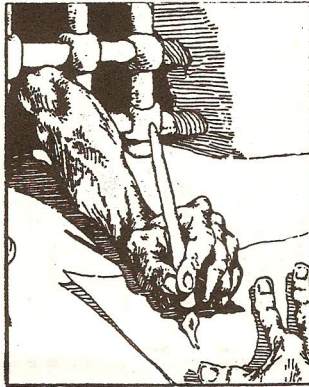
Convicted prisoners are entitled to one visit every 2 weeks if they are under 21. Over 21 are entitled to one visit per week, although many prisons allow one visit every 2 weeks. Prisoners have to send out a visiting order (v.o) to the persons they want to visit them. Visits are normally a minimum of 30 minutes and often 1 or 2 hours.

NEWSPAPERS

Most prisons have a newsagents nearby which supplies newspapers to prisoners. The prison will tell you where the newsagent is. Newspapers and magazines for prisoners will have to be ordered and paid for at the shop. The prison will also tell you how many papers and magazines each prisoner is allowed. Alternative magazines have to be sent direct from a bookshop or the organisation producing them.

BOOKS

Some prisons will accept books handed in or sent in by friends. Most prisons demand that the books are new and sent direct from the bookshop. Obviously you have to pay postage to the bookshop. Some community and alternative bookshops will send on books not bought in their shop so if you have a book that will pass as new, then it's worth asking if they will send it. It's important that it is clear to the prison that the books have come direct, so ask the bookshop to enclose some headed notepaper or stamp the parcel with their address. The procedure varies from prison to prison, so check with the prison in question.



WRITING PAPER

Remand prisoners are normally allowed to use writing paper, envelopes and stamps sent in to them. The writing paper should not be wire bound. Convicted prisoners are not allowed to use any writing paper etc. other than that supplied by the prison. They are also not able to use stamps sent in from the outside, but if they receive any they will be converted to cash and put in the prisoners account.

MONEY

Some prisons allow money to be handed in on visits. Otherwise, money can be sent in. It's not a good idea to send cash as it may go missing; Postal orders are acceptable as are cheques which should be made payable to the prisoner. They will then have to sign the back of the cheque and so they will know of any money received. The prisoner can use the money to buy food, tobacco, toiletries, stamps, etc.

FOOD

Since 1st March 1988 prisoners (both remand and convicted) are not allowed to have food sent or bought in from outside. Food sent in is normally destroyed or eaten by prison officers.

CASSETTES AND RADIO

Prisoners are allowed a radio with medium and long wave bands only. Some prisons demand that an earplug be supplied as well. Cassette players are often allowed with headphones. The cassette player must have no recording facility. Prisoners can have pre-recorded tapes but in many prisons they must be sent in direct from a shop. Both radios and cassette players must be battery powered - Duracell batteries are not allowed.

TOILETRIES

Most prisons no longer allow toiletries to be supplied from outside. Normally the prisoner will be able to buy them from the prison canteen or if not then some prisons allow them to be ordered from shops outside.

REMEMBER

Whatever you are thinking of sending to a prisoner (except money, stamps, paper) find out first what the prisoner wants as often there is a limit on what can be received. Also, as there is such a wide variation between what different prisons allow, always ring the prison and check what they will accept

SUPPORT THE PRISONERS

It is essential that prisoners are supported as they are inside for us. They have been imprisoned because they are struggling for a better world, like all of us. Furthermore, supporting prisoners can help to break down the myths and mystifications that surround prisons, creating fear in us. It is a good idea to set up local Prisoners' Support Groups to ensure that there is regular and organised support for prisoners. Even one letter can be a good boost for prisoners. And there is so much more that we can do - publicity, visits, financial support, regular letters, pickets of prisons (if the prisoner agrees), campaigning for better conditions for prisoners, continuing the struggle. We must never forget prisoners as they need our support.

THEY'RE IN THERE FOR US WE'RE OUT HERE FOR THEM

Info based on a leaflet by S.A.R.P. (Support Animal Rights Prisoners) and Plymouth ABC.



PRISONERS LIST

PRISONERS LIST

CONVICTED PRISONERS

PAUL JACOB, RA0711
HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Rd, Wandsworth, London, SW18 3HS.
Arrested 31st March in Trafalgar Square. Charged Section 1, Section 2, GBH. Paul is a traveller and his home and all his worldly possessions were in two vans which have since been towed away and destroyed. There is now a fund being set up by a supporter in Aylesbury to collect money for Paul to get a new van/home when he gets out. The address is: Box S, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford. Paul received 4 years on 12 March for the S2s and handling stolen goods. The remaining charges were dropped. EDR Nov 92.

ALAN CLARKE, MV2254
HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Rd., London, N7 8TT.
Alan was actually arrested from the demonstration against Hackney council's setting of the poll tax shortly before March 31st. His case came up around September last year when he and Neil Harding (who's now out) were sent down. Alan can't read so it would be best to send cards rather than letters. GBH, 2 years.

DANIEL ATTWOOD, KT1303
HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Rd, Wandsworth, London, SW18 3HS.
Arrested 20th October in Brixton. Got 12 months total for Section 2 and Section 4 POA and Criminal Damage on 22 Feb 1991. EDR 20 May 1991. Still awaiting trial in Leicester for ALF beagles raid.

ROBERT ROBINSON aka SIMON O'REILLY, RA0741
HMP High Point, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk.
Arrested on 31st March. Charged and convicted Section 2 POA. Sentenced 2 years. A police van ran over Roberts foot in Trafalgar Square but he was tried for kicking the police van. In the process of trying to appeal. EDR July 1991.

WAYNE CALDER, NT0082
HMYOI Huntercome, Huntercome Place, Nuffield, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 5SB.
Arrested 31st March in Trafalgar. Tried, convicted and sentenced to 2 years for Section 2 in October 1990. EDR March 1992.

NEIL ARMOUR, MV3338,
HMP Standford Hill, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4AA.
Arrested 31 March, charged Section 2 POA and GBH. Convicted on 12 December, remanded in Brixton for reports until 2 January and then sentenced to 2 years with one suspended (ie. serve 1). EDR 2 June 1991.

BRIAN TAVARES, MV3239,
HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Rd, Wandsworth, London, W12 0AE.
Arrested 31 March, charged Section 2 POA for throwing a missile at a police line after he had been batoned to the ground by

them without any provocation. Brian was sentenced to 3 years in November 1990. EDR Nov 1992.

MICHAEL NEAL, MV3973,

HMP Pentonville
Arrested on 31st March and convicted of two offences under section 3 POA on 21st January 1991. Michael was sentenced to 18 months and 12 months to run concurrently and was ordered to pay £850 costs. EDR Jan 1992

Poll Tax Prisoners

The prisoners listed below have all been arrested on protests against the poll tax. Since 31st March last year around 100 people have spent time in prison. This isn't a complete list - some prisoners didn't want publicity. The situation changes from week to week so for more information and the up to date situation contact Poll Tax Prisoner Group c/o Room 205, Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X Tel 071 833 8958.

Greatest Hits
Greatest Hits - a benefit 12" for the TSDC featuring Stitch, Gumbawumba, The Ex, Shelley's Children and The Robb Johnson Band was released a few weeks ago. Distributed through southern Cat. No. EFA03-17569-1

HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Rd, London, N7 8TT.
Michael was arrested as a result of March 31st. Sentenced to 18 months for 2 x Section 3 POA. EDR Jan 1992.

TIMOTHY DONAGHY, MW0105,
HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Rd, Wandsworth, London, SW18 3HS.
Tim was one of the first three people to be tried on Riot charges (Section 1 POA, max sentence: 10 years) from the 31st. He was accused of shoving a scaffolding pole through the window of one of the riot vans charging into people at speed in the Strand. Together with Darren Healy and Nicky Wadleigh, he was found not guilty of the riot charge, however he was sentenced to 3 years on a Section 2 POA charge at the end of the trial on 29 January. EDR Jan 1993.

DARREN HEALEY, RA2183,
HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Rd, Wandsworth, London, SW18 3HS.
Darren stood trial together with Tim and Nicky in the Old Bailey. In common with the other two he was acquitted of Riot, however he was found guilty of two counts of Section 2 POA and received 2 years and 6 months to run concurrently, ie 2&1/2 years. EDR Sept 1992.

TIM PAINE, MW0231,
HMP High Point, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk.
Tim was arrested as a result of March 31st. He was convicted of Section 2 POA on Feb 5 91 at Southwark Crown Court and sentenced to 16 months. EDR Dec 1991.

ZACHARY OSBOURNE, MW0245,
HMP Ford, Ford, NR. Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 0BX.
Zack was arrested on 31st March and was charged with Section 2 POA. He was convicted on Feb 5 91 at Southwark Crown Court and sentenced to a year with six months suspended (ie a six month sentence, serve 3). EDR May 1991.

ADRIAN PUGH, RC0627,
HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Road, London, SW18
Adrian received 9 months on the 13 February for two counts of arson from the Brixton demo on October 20. He was caught setting fire to a police motorbike. EDR June 1991.

MARTIN BENFIELD, PF2678,
HMP WANDSWORTH, Heathfield Rd, London, SW18
Martin got 15 mths for section 2 & 3 on Feb 12th from the March 31st demo. Send letters of support via PSG because otherwise would restrict letters from friends.

JAMES ATTWOOD, MW0834,
HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Rd, London, SW18
James received 8 months, 5 suspended for two counts of Section

2 for the March 31st demo. Sentenced on 13 March.

NEIL BREMNER MW0216
HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Rd, London, SW18
Neil got 30 months for sec.2.

N.B. Sentences of 12 months or under usually get half remission, ie. someone sentenced to 3 months will normally only do 6 weeks. Sentences over 12 months people are eligible for parole after the first third of their sentence and get the last third off on remission. Where we have listed EDR (Earliest Date of Release) above for prisoners sentenced to more than a year, it is the EDR without parole. Finally remission can be lost, two of our prisoners have already lost a month apiece. If in doubt phone the office.

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

Anti-Fascists Jailed

Three members of Anti-Fascist Action were sent down for a total of 11 years in september, for charges of violent disorder and GBH with intent. They were imprisoned for hospitalising nazi leader Nicci Crane, a skinhead with a nasty past of racist attacks, who was beaten up after the Bloody Sunday Commemoration last year.

The prisoners make no apology for their actions. They need support;

Donations via A.F.A., BM 1734, London WC1N 3XX.

Or write to them;

Tony David, (4 years) NT1338, HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Rd, London N7. Birthday 13th April.

David Phelan (3 years) NT1337, HMP Pentonville . Birthday 28th Jan.

Mark Malin (4 years) NT1335, HMP La Verne, Portland, Dorset. Birthday 7th Dec..

Nigerian Unionists freed

In 1988 workers at Nigeria's National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) went on strike for better conditions and in reply 11 of them were served with life sentences, which were then reduced to 10 years. After spending 2 years behind bars the NEPA 11 have been released thanks in part to demonstrations and solidarity actions by anarchists worldwide.

The Axe/Association of Libertarian socialists, who were working for the prisoners' releases, have asked for correspondence, radical publications and books from abroad. Please send material in plain envelopes to

The Axe GPO Box 12859 Dugbe Ibaden, Nigeria
and

The Awareness League 40 Samuel Mbah, PO Box 28, Agbani
Via Enunga, Nigeria

Danny McNamee Another frame up

Danny was framed up for 25 years in 1987 for "conspiracy to cause explosions". The state shifted the dates of the "conspiracy" and changed the charges to include the Hyde Park bombing in '82, which ensured press/jury bias. He denies IRA membership (the IRA insist he has no links with them). Charges were based on fingerprints found on bomb circuit boards, but Danny worked in a factory making circuit boards for fruit machines so his prints are likely to be on numerous circuit boards from working there. His case came up for appeal in November, after serious doubts were raised in court but the judges reserved judgment on the case, basically keeping Danny hanging on inside. Judgment is expected soon.

Danny McNamee, L48616, HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight.

London Danny McNamee Support Group, PO Box 447,
London SW9.



Padraig Murphy

Irish Anarchist sent down

Padraig is an Irish anarchist from Belfast. He got 5 years last year, after 18 months on remand, for alleged possession of explosives. He was convicted by a single judge in one of N. Ireland's rigged "Diplock" courts, despite the judge more or less accepting that he was not planning to use the explosives (hence the relatively "light" sentence for what's normally a 25 year offence in the Six Counties). His time inside has seriously affected his health - he now suffers from nausea and dizziness.

Padraig would like letters and cards, but please note that no books or political papers will get past the prison authorities.

Padraig Murphy A2837, H Block 2,
HMP Magilligan, Co. Derry, N. Ireland.

Belfast ABC is appealing for money to help towards the cost of Paddy's visitor's travel or to buy papers, magazines etc.

Send to Belfast ABC, PO Box 148, Belfast

Turkish Delight

Two new "European style" prisons have been built in Turkey. The first one in Eskisehir was completed. The second in Istanbul was almost finished when in October of last year a group of people from Dev Sol-Militante dressed up as police, "arrested" all the people working in the prison, locking them up in a room and then proceeded to demolish parts of the prison and blow the roof off with explosives.

Source: Angehoringen Info

Iraqis and Palestinians detained

Palestinian writer Abbas Shiblak and three others, detained by the Home Office under threat of deportation since the war began, were released a few weeks ago, while the majority of detainees who don't have being 'well-known' on their side have not been so lucky. The same week, four others had their deportation orders confirmed, though one remains in Britain and is seeking political asylum.

They were among 52 people detained on the grounds that they pose a security risk. Seven others have been required to report daily to the police while their cases are being considered. At least two others had similar restrictions lifted recently.

In all the Home Office has tried to deport at least 141 people under conditions which, needless to say breach a range of international 'human rights agreements'.

Eighty Iraqis and Palestinians served deportation notices have left the country already. Many have taken their families. Families who remain must

settle their affairs and leave the country unless they hold British citizenship.

Twelve of the detainees were being held at Full Sutton, Yorkshire. The rest were held at Pentonville Prison in London.

The Home Office insists 'national security' justifies its action and no other reason has to be given if people are deported in wartime. A panel of 3 men; Lord Justice Lloyd, David Neave and Sir Robert Andrew, who are all close to secret service circles, preside over the cases which have no appeal, and as under the Prevention of Terrorism Act the catch all excuse of 'protecting sources' means no proof has to be given at the hearings. Some of the detainees who sought asylum in Britain run the risk of arrest, torture or execution if they are deported and once identified as critical of Iraq in Britain face a real danger of violent reprisals from the Iraqi secret Police (Muhabarrat)

Details of Protest Actions and detainee support; Black people Against the War 071 3545200

John Edwards Released

On 16th January John Edwards, another victim of the notorious West Midlands Serious Crime Squad (WMSCS or should we say West Midlands Seriously Criminal Squad). He was the 3rd man found guilty of armed robbery to have his conviction quashed as 'unsafe and unsatisfactory' since the Squad was disbanded 18 months ago. John had been sentenced to 14 years for a robbery that took place in 1987. He claimed that W.Midlands detectives fabricated several unsigned confessions they said he had made. In early August last year the Court of Appeal decided to adjourn his case to 'a date to be fixed' on the grounds that further details

about the extent of the misconduct of the disbanded WMSCS were needed (how much more do they want!). In frustration at the delay John spent 3 nights on the roof in protest at Long Lartin in the second week of January.

So far only 9 of the 90 cases under investigation by the W.Yorkshire police have been completed over a year and a half after their inquiry began - at this rate perhaps they are hoping that most of the prisoners will have already served their sentences out before the enquiry is finished.

ALL THE VICTIMS OF THE WMSCS MUST BE RELEASED NOW AND FULLY COMPENSATED!

Prison 'Rioters' Vindicated

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

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

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

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

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

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

It shows what can be achieved.

"With the MUFTI on the ground floor corridor rushing up the stairs we had a serious head-on confrontation - we were seriously concerned for our safety, given the squad's reputation for gross violence and brutality, we were faced with the stark choice of either waiting passively to be brutalised and violated, or resisting and defending by any means necessary. We took the latter course". - *Wadi Williams*, one of the Risley 54

(the above is reprinted from *Stand Firm* no.5)



"If you want anything, just riot."

Media Lies- No Surprise

The Press Council released a report on 18th January that tabloid newspapers had presented speculation and unconfirmed reports as fact in reporting the Strangeways prison uprising last April.

There were sensational headlines and details of deaths and gruesome mutilations of prisoners that were found to be completely fabricated.

"11 people dead" said the *Daily Mirror*, "They died

screaming" harped *the Sun*. "Massacre at Strangeways - 12 Murdered" said *Today's* headlines. Press misinformation is a well worn tactic used to detract attention from the real issues involved in events; in this case a widespread revolt over cramped and inhuman conditions with rebellions and solidarity actions spreading to at least 27 prisons up and down the country during April of last year.

Conviction

CONVICTION came out of the Martin Foran Defence Campaign, and started operating at the start of 1990, originally with two members in Sheffield. We wanted to stress that Martin Foran's case was not completely unique by any means, and that there were other 'framed' prisoners suffering in British Jails who had little support.

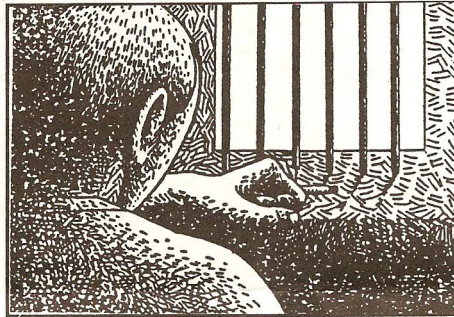
We wanted to carry on with Martin's case whilst highlighting other cases of a similar nature. Obviously with the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad malpractice being covered in the previous summer, there was also a practical need of a group who would support prisoners who had a chance of exposing their 'wrongful' convictions, but who had little outside encouragement to fight.

The emphasis of 'Conviction' is on Britain. This is deliberate because many people here, even the more radical elements, will ignore injustice when it takes place at home. There seems to be a whole section of the population who will have some knowledge of 'human rights abuses' when they occur thousands of miles away, but are unwilling to challenge the malpractice of the Judiciary at home. Any struggle for human rights begins here and now in this country, not in Latin America or Southern Africa; it is also hypocritical to protest about 'wrongful' imprisonment in foreign countries whilst arrogantly assuming that the British State is not capable of such behaviour. Besides at the end of the day we have the potential to change a situation we have direct contact with, and far less chance of resolving injustices which occur abroad.

'Framing', 'Miscarriages of Justice', or 'Wrongful Imprisonment' are terms used to describe a sentence imposed on a person for a crime s/he did not commit. 'Conviction' feels that these prisoners need particular support and coverage. Firstly there is a strong humanitarian argument to condemn the unbelievable suffering these inmates must go through. Being imprisoned for any offence can be a hard and brutal experience. Being jailed for something one did not do can mean a longer sentence in practice as to obtain parole a person has to confirm their guilt and express remorse for their action - something they can not do if they have not committed the offence in the first place. Moreover

they have had no personal gain whatsoever from the crime they allegedly were connected with. Also 'framed' prisoners who protest their innocence often get targeted for harassment within the prison system itself because they are challenging the whole right of the Judiciary to take away their freedom in the first place.

Secondly we feel that 'framing' is not always some sort of tragic mistake which the Legal System refuses to acknowledge, 'framing' is used deliberately by a class-biased elitist Society as a form



of social control. Certain sections of the Community are partly criminalised. For examples of this one only needs to look at the mass of 'framing' which occurred in Britain in 1974-5 after the IRA had killed a number of people in a bombing campaign; some eighteen Irish people were 'fitted up' in response to this, being Irish was and is somehow a pretext for being denied justice. Moreover the men 'wrongfully' jailed for the Carl Bridgewater murder were Working Class petty villains, and because of their background were somehow considered fair game by the Police to be in the frame for a very serious charge. For many years now Black British youth have complained about being harassed by the Police, and being 'fitted up' for offences. Other groups in Society are vulnerable; police harassment of Gay men has increased over the years and every summer we witness the Police and Courts trying all sorts of tactics to stop so-called hippies from getting to Stonehenge, 'framing' is thus part of a wider system to repress certain groups of people. A final comment on this matter; a 'Conviction' member was writing to people who had been jailed for offences relating to the March anti-poll tax disturbances regardless of their 'guilt'. He had a letter back from a young man who

had been 'framed' for assaulting a police officer outside Hackney Town Hall during an anti-poll tax picket. Fighting had broken out between the Police and a section of the crowd, the Police charged. This bloke did not run as he had not been involved in the trouble, but was assaulted and arrested and later 'framed'. The Police regarded anybody present as being criminal, and were interested in arresting a quota of protestors, the implication being that by joining such a protest people had placed themselves outside of the Law.

One criticism directed at our work is that by concentrating on 'framed' prisoners we somehow imply that every other inmate deserves to be jailed. 'Conviction' members as individuals often have a good record for supporting other prisoners' struggles and prisoners who are not fighting their convictions have sent in messages of support. This criticism rarely applies, and so far no prisoner has made such a view known to us. In fact our experience and our contacts have helped other groups, and we have tackled other issues which affect all prisoners, such as the denial of health care to inmates, in some depths.

The emphasis of 'Conviction' is on giving support to prisoners, we are not an academic organisation or intending to offer long and complex political ideological explanations for the current injustices we come across. Activists may well have their own political views on these issues, but our priority is active solidarity.

So far we have brought out three newsletters detailing cases of 'framing', corresponded with many prisoners and offered advice and support to them and their relatives. We have publicised cases to the media, and to a range of political and welfare groups. We also compiled a fund raising benefit L.P. *Justice Is Our Conviction* on State Injustice label cat. no. SIJ1. Members have also done some prison visiting. People are welcome to subscribe to our newsletter or to join.

Mike Shankland 'Conviction' P.O. Box 522 Sheffield S1 3FF

The above is a personal view from a founding member, and may not represent the views of all the people associated with 'Conviction'.

The ABC continued from front page

ABC work has also included support for Martin Foran and support and publicity for other prisoners framed by the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad.

Don't wait 'til you're banged up before you take an interest in prisoners struggles!!

If you are interested in knowing more about the Black Cross, would like to get involved or would like more information and our full prisoners list, write to your local ABC group;

ENGLAND

London ABC, BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX.

Liverpool ABC, PO Box 110, Liverpool, L69 6AU.

Preston ABC, PO Box 172, Preston, Lancs.

Bolton ABC, PO Box 47, Bolton BL 2 1QA

Leeds ABC, Box Jag, 52, Call lane, Leeds, LS1.

Sheffield ABC, Black Star, PO Box 446, Sheffield, S1 1NY

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh ABC, PHC1, 11 forth St. Edinburgh, EH1.

Glasgow ABC, PO Box 234, Glasgow, G5.

IRELAND

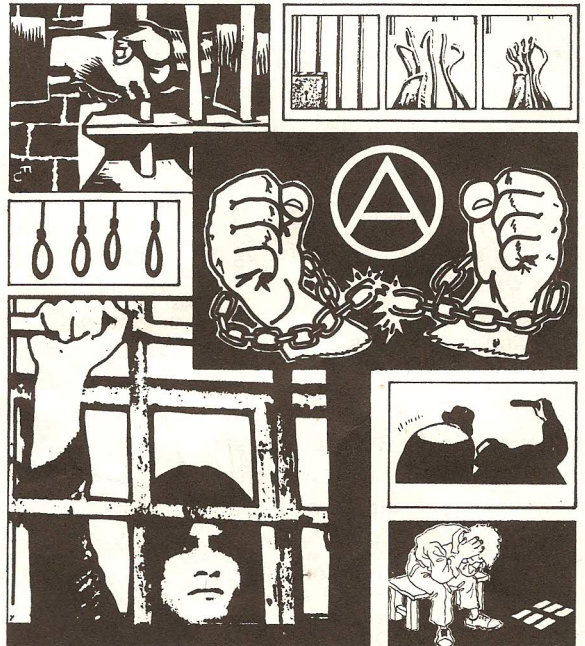
Belfast ABC, PO Box 148, Belfast BT1.

For international contacts contact your local group.

STOPPRESS

Urgent medical appeal for Martin Foran. Cheques made payable to Valerie Foran, c/o Conviction.

REMEMBER! We're still here



Illustrated by the Anarchist Black Cross & Friends, London W.C.1N 3XX, April 1985. For more information contact: BM Hurricane, London W.C.1N 3XX, England.

support class struggle & anarchist prisoners

The above poster is available in

black, red and white (size A3) from

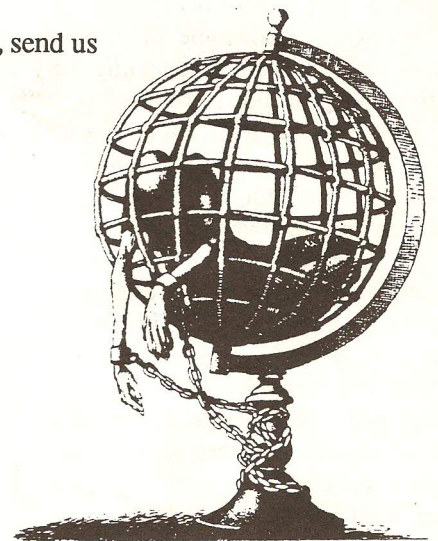
London ABC, send us

a donation

and we'll

send you

some.



Produced by London Anarchist Black Cross

London ABC, BM Hurricane, London, W.C.1N 3XX