

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

The right to protest is under serious threat in Britain today.

The police are increasingly resorting to extreme tactics including kettling, mounted horse charges and battering protesters with extreme force. The results have been horrific. For Alfie Meadows, a student on the anti-fees protests last year, this led to severe wounds to his head and emergency brain surgery to save his life. For Ian Tomlinson, an encounter with police on a demonstration proved to be fatal.

Peaceful activists have been targeted for arrest and arbitrary detention. 145 members of UK Uncut were arrested and charged for a sit-in at Fortnum and Mason during the mass TUC anti-cuts protest on 26 March. The extent of damage caused by them appears to have been one smashed chocolate rabbit. For this they have been charged with 'aggravated trespass' for which they could be sent to jail.

On the day of royal wedding, protesters and others celebrating an alternative party in Soho were arrested and detained on suspicion that they *might* be about to commit a 'breach of the peace'. Here we are in an Orwellian world of 'pre-crime', arrested for something that you may do in the future.

We stand with all those who have been targeted by the police in recent months and those who are now facing jail terms simply for exercising their right to protest. The attack on Alfie Meadows, the Fortnum and Mason 145 and all the rest, is an attack on all of us and our democratic rights.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Encourage people to sign up to the Defend the Right to Protest petition and the petitions for Alfie Meadows and Bryan Simpson.
2. Build support for the campaign. Invite a Defend the Right to Protest speaker to your trade union or student union, campaign group or organisation. Pass a motion to affiliate to the campaign.
3. Contact us with ideas for future actions, or to let us know about any support you can give whether its web and press skills or just hours to dedicate to the campaign.

If you have been arrested or witnessed arrests or violent behaviour by the police please get in touch confidentially.



DROP THE CHARGES!

Show support at the hearings of arrested students

City of Westminster Magistrates Court, 70 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2

9 June, 9am

Hearings of students including Alfie Meadows

10 June, 9am

Hearings of students including Bryan Simpson.

4 July, 9am

Hearing of Fortnum & Masons occupiers

Send your accounts and footage to info@defendtherighttoprotest.org

For petitions, model motions and other resources, see our website.

www.defendtherighttoprotest.org

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