

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE POLICE BILL

The Campaign has been set up to co-ordinate and mobilise opposition to the Police Bill and the extension and abuse of police powers generally. It is an independent organisation relying entirely on the contributions of its members and sponsors. It seeks and welcomes the participation of all individuals and organisations who support its objectives, because it believes that the broadest possible range of forces is necessary to defeat the Police Bill and defend democratic rights.

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE BILL

- * Join the National Campaign Against the Police Bill and get your organisation to affiliate.
- * Set up a local campaign, hold public meetings, get speakers to local community and labour movement organisations, plan street leaflettings and fund-raising gigs.
- * Support the national march and rally from Brockwell Park, Brixton to Trafalgar Square on 21st January 1984 (assemble 12 noon).
- * Contact your MP and local councillors and get them to oppose the Bill.

Honorary Presidents

Tony Benn
Lord Gifford
Harriet Harman MP
Michael Meacher MP

Ernie Roberts MP
Tony Lloyd MP
Dennis Skinner MP
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Sponsors include

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Indian Workers' Association (Southall)
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Haringey Independent Police Committee
Inquest
Radical Alternatives to Prison (RAP)
Wandsworth Policing Campaign
Oxford Campaign Against the Police Bill
Black Trade Unionists Solidarity

Movement
Sheffield Campaign Against the Police Bill
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New Horizon Youth Centre
Labour Campaign for Gay Rights
Manchester Polytechnic Students' Union
London School of Economics Students' Union
Newham Monitoring Project
Southall Monitoring Project
Asian Socialist Collective
Asian Women's Group, Harlesden
Liverpool 8 Law Centre
Brixton Defence Campaign

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE POLICE BILL SAYS

NO! TO

NO POLICE BILL!

- THE POLICE HOLDING PEOPLE FOR 96 HOURS (4 DAYS) WITHOUT CHARGE
- POLICE ROAD BLOCKS ROUND WHOLE AREAS WITH POWER TO SEARCH EVERYTHING THAT MOVES
- POLICE POWER TO SEARCH INNOCENT PEOPLE'S HOMES ('GUILT BY ASSOCIATION')
- POLICE POWER TO CONDUCT 'INTIMATE BODY SEARCHES' OF ANYONE ARRESTED
- NEW AND WIDER POLICE POWERS TO ARREST PEOPLE
- POLICE POWER TO USE FORCE TO FINGER-PRINT AND TAKE 'NON-INTIMATE SAMPLES' FROM ANYONE THEY ARREST
- POLICE POWER TO USE FORCE TO FINGER-PRINT CHILDREN OF TEN (10)
- NEW AND WIDER POLICE POWERS TO STOP AND SEARCH PEOPLE IN 'PUBLIC PLACES'
- NEW POLICE POWERS TO SEARCH AND SEIZE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION GIVEN TO DOCTORS, LAWYERS, PRIESTS, JOURNALISTS, SOCIAL WORKERS...

NO POLICE STATE!



Photo: John Sturrock

I/We wish to join/affiliate to the National Campaign Against the Police Bill.

I/We enclose £1 membership fee (individuals)
£5 affiliation fee (organisations)

NAME (block capitals)

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

(If organisation is affiliating, name of contact in organisation and position held)

Return to NCAPB, c/o 50, Rectory Road, London N16 7QY. Tel: 01-249-8334.

THE EXECUTIONERS SONG

The Home Office is pulling out all the stops to convince you and me that there is nothing new in their POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE BILL (POLICE BILL) for innocent people to worry about.

This is like an officer in charge of a firing squad telling those about to be dispatched 'not to worry' because (a) it's all perfectly legal, (b) his squad has done this sort of thing in the past with few complaints from the victims afterwards, and anyway, (c) some of their bullets are blanks.

1984: THE POLICE ACT?

If the Police Bill 1983 becomes the Police Act 1984, those who rule this country will have forced us into a police state. They want to kill our democratic rights. *The new 1984 police-state powers will mean:*

- **The police will decide the guilt of suspects.** They will have the power to keep people in custody for 96 hours (4 days) without charge. The so-called right to silence would be a farce. Only people trained to stand up to interrogation will survive 4 days in a police station without confessing to any crime the police want them to. Even after 4 days the police will be able to get magistrates to send people back to police cells so that interrogation about 'other matters' can continue.
- People held in custody for 4 days or more will be suspected of a '**serious arrestable offence**'. The way the Government defines this gives police officers discretion to decide that quite trivial offences fall within it by saying or agreeing with the victim that a 'serious loss' has occurred.
- **The police will be given new powers to stop and search innocent people all over the country.** This is not necessary. Their power of stop and search is already too great and much mis-used. Recent research by the Home Office itself as well as the Police Studies Institute proves this. The dangers in practice were

shown by the S.M.P '81 Operation which led directly to the Brixton Uprising of April '81. The police in the United States do not have these powers.

- **Innocent people will be treated as guilty.** The police will have powers to search their premises if they have any connection whatever with a suspect. It will not matter that the person whose home is searched is not even suspected of any offence.
- **The police will have the power to harass and pressurise whole areas** by throwing Road Blocks round them and searching everything that moves in them because of the alleged 'pattern of crime' there. The areas where black people live are the clear targets of this new power.
- **Whole areas of peoples' lives are to be subject to state definition and police search and seizure.** The information we give to our doctors, priests, lawyers, solicitors or journalists could be read, searched and seized by the police, who will decide on the basis of new rules whether the material is confidential or can be used as 'evidence'.
- **The police will have the power to conduct what are called 'intimate body searches' by force.** This is not the same as the power to 'strip search' which the police will also have. Intimate body searches refer to forced searches of mouths, vaginas and anuses by police officers to 'protect' the persons being so treated or to 'protect' the police. This would be to legalise humiliating and dangerous police assaults on people.
- The police will be given the power to take finger-prints and 'non-intimate' body samples by force from all persons in their custody, including children as young as ten.
- **The police will have greatly increased powers to arrest people.** Minor offences like dropping litter in the street will cause people to be arrested if the police decide they do not accept the name and address of the offender. These new powers of arrest

also extend to actions with a police officer says are likely to be 'an affront to public decency' (not in itself an offence). This is clearly directed against gay men and lesbian women.

A VOLLEY OF BLANKS

Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, has also fired off a volley of noisy blanks:-

- * New draft codes of practice governing police behaviour. They are no better than the codes which permitted the shooting and pistol whipping of Stephen Waldorf in the streets of London. They will be totally useless in a court of law and therefore no one will get any protection from them.
- * A promise to tape-record police interviews with suspects in their custody. When???
- * A promise to set up a Police Complaints Authority. But — surprise, surprise — this new QUANGO will allow the police to continue investigating themselves.
- * A promise to hand prosecution over to a new authority. When???
- * Police-community Consultative Committees like the one in Brixton which agreed to the police bulldozing the Frontline in 1982. They will be nothing but nests of spies, Uncle Toms and time-servers.

Such proposals simply distract attention from the abuse of existing police powers which day-to-day experience and each new research report confirms; from the new, dangerous 1984-type police-state powers in the Police Bill mentioned above; and from the ways in which the Police Bill seeks to legalise police lawlessness.

THE USE OF THE 'FIGHT AGAINST CRIME' TO DISGUISE GROWING STATE REPRESSION

Not a single one of the new or extended powers in the Police Bill can be justified by the state's talk about the 'fight against crime'. They will not help there. The simple truth is that the state has not put forward even one good argument in favour of the Police Bill. What they are really doing is tooling up a whole new machinery of repression.

Why else have they decided to make the Prevention of Terrorism Act run for periods of 5 years instead of one and to make it apply to other national communities living in Britain, if not to subject them to the sort of harassment heaped on the Irish in Britain since 1974? Why else have new riot laws been proposed by the Law Commission? Why is a new Trade Union and Labour Relations Bill being pushed through Parliament to restrict the hard-won rights of working class people and their mass organisations, the trade unions? How else can we explain the massive re-arming and retraining of all police forces in Britain since 1981, the establishment of new riot squads which go under the names of Instant Response Units, District Support Units or whatever? Why the experiments with water cannons? Why the CS gas and plastic bullets? Why the reinforced police personnel carriers on our streets? Why else the so-called multi-agency approach in which the state increasingly tries to make social workers, teachers, DHSS officers, rent officers perform policing roles? Why the massive growth in police numbers since 1979? Why the massive increase in police pay? Why? Why? Why?

RIISING UNEMPLOYMENT

The Police Bill and all the other components of the 1984 police state are being assembled at a time when more than 3 million people have been thrown out of work. Social benefits and social services are being cut. The Police Bill has as its central purpose the creation of the legal framework to control those groups and individuals who mount legitimate resistance to the attack on our democratic rights and our standard of living.

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE POLICE BILL BELIEVES THAT THE BILL CAN AND MUST BE DEFEATED

Every individual and organisation not part of the ruling class has a duty to take an active part in ensuring the defeat of the Police Bill.