

Support the Campaign

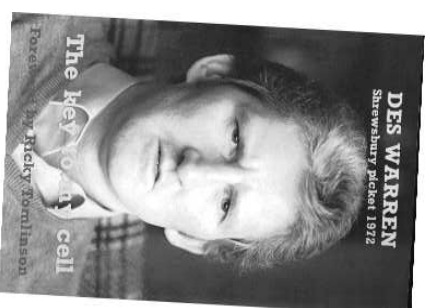
Update July 2007

'The Key to My Cell' by Des Warren.

First published in 1982, it has a clear relevance for workers in today's casualised construction industry with its appalling safety record.

Foreword by Ricky Tomlinson

Cost: £10



Justice for the Shrewsbury 24 'T' shirts

Cost: £8



'Shrewsbury Whose Conspiracy' by Des Warren

Des Warren lays out clearly here the real conspiracy of the government, in league with the building employers.

Cost: £2



JUSTICE FOR THE SHREWSBURY PICKETS

35 years have elapsed since the 1972 Building Workers' National Strike, after which 24 Trade Unionists were convicted, in a hostile act perpetrated by a Tory Government to criminalise picketing. A number of these men were given severe prison sentences. Best known were Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson, who became known as the "Shrewsbury 2." Des died as a direct result of the treatment meted out to him during his lengthy incarceration.

Successive Governments both Tory and Labour, have remained unresponsive to the calls for these perverse judgements to be set aside, and for these men to be cleared. There is now a renewal of the campaign, even after all this time, and the death of some of those involved, to secure justice for these Trade Union Comrades.

The campaign is also calling for a Public Inquiry to expose the role of successive governments and the secret services in the events surrounding this important time in labour history.



To join the campaign, or to purchase any of the above, please fill in the form below and post it to the address on the front of this flier.

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For more details contact: Mike Abbott (Campaign Secretary)

c/o Merseyside Hazards & Environmental Centre

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email: justice4pickets@yahoo.co.uk

or see: www.shrewsburypicketscampaign.org.uk

Why We Want a Public Inquiry

The Justice for the Shrewsbury Pickets Campaign demands a full public inquiry to lift the lid on the political conspiracy behind the jailing of the Shrewsbury pickets.

Below are some of the questions that the Campaign want answered:

- How much influence did the construction companies exert over the government and the judiciary? In particular what was the involvement of the hugely influential McAlpine building family?
- Why did the trials proceed even though two separate police forces had advised against prosecution?
- Why were some of the pickets approached, before the trials, to see if they would become prosecution witnesses only to be charged when they refused?
- Why did the government send a message to Maurice Drake, the prosecuting counsel in the trials, saying that on no account should there be any jail sentences?



Poster from 1974

- Following recent press reports that MI5 suppressed the campaign to release the pickets from jail, what exactly was MI5's role in the political conspiracy against the pickets?

The Justice Campaign are determined to identify any legal mechanism that might serve to further our demands that the names of the men convicted be cleared and that a wide ranging public inquiry be established that will expose the true conspiracy, that which was perpetrated against these trade union members.

Questions in the House

UCATT sponsored MP Michael Clapham (Barnsley West & Penistone, Labour) raised the following with the Ministry of Justice:

“To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if he will initiate an inquiry into the arrest, prosecution and conviction of the 24 building workers in 1972, known as the Shrewsbury 24, and the subsequent treatment they have received whilst serving their jail sentences; and if he will place copies of the documents held by his Department relating to the case in the Library.”

The answer from Gerry Sutcliffe (Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Ministry of Justice) didn't answer the question:

Any person who believes they have been the victim of a miscarriage of justice can apply to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) for a review of their case. The CCRC has the power to review possible miscarriages of justice... (for full text of answer see Hansard case 143701).

Events

A successful event was held in May at Ruskin House, Croydon, organised by the SW London Shrewsbury Defence Committee.

A London wide campaign group has now been launched, and there will be a meeting in September. For more details contact:

Mick Dooley of UCATT 07960 032 101

Campaign activities will be posted on our website as soon as arrangements are confirmed. Please keep in touch with us in this way.

www.shrewsburypicketscampaign.org.uk