

You're not Alone

Issue 34

May/June 2015

Greetings Fellow Campaigners

As ever lots has been happening for the outside **JENGBA** campaigners and we are happy to announce a **JENGBA** hub group has taken its early steps in Birmingham. I went to Birmingham and met the **JENGBA** families of Lynton Fletcher, Jermaine Lewis, Mikey Christie, Gary Narwain, Kulbir Singh-Bains. Tim Caines chaired the meeting, he was convicted of a joint enterprise with an unknown in 1995. The victim, who was Tim's business partner, was murdered and it was witnessed by his wife. She saw a 6ft blond, white man stab her husband and as Tim had seen his partner earlier in the day argue with a man, he went to the police to see if he could help. Tim is a Black man. They charged him and never even attempted to find the actual murderer but used JE to convict Tim. He is now out but still fighting to clear his name and a great asset to the campaign because of all his prison knowledge. **JENGBA** Birmingham will have an information stall at the Mela Festival in Victoria Park 25th and 26th July and if your family is from the Midlands please ask them to attend and support them.

Everything is gearing up to the Supreme Court hearing, The Queen v Ameen Jogee in November. **JENGBA** have submitted an application for permission to "intervene" (at a charge of £800, which we have to pay before we are told we can!) Simon Natas will be acting on our behalf with Tim Maloney QC Doughty St, those of you who have been following us for a while will recognise Simon as the human rights lawyer who has been supporting us from the start. We have been told that this intervention is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

The question we are addressing is 'Does Joint Enterprise over criminalise Secondary Parties?' Clearly it does because of Schedule 21 2003 (mandatory sentencing) which was the Government (Blair and Straw) interfering with the judiciary to appease public perceptions of being tough on crime. **JENGBA** are going to crowd fund for the intervention as it is too important to expect lawyers to do it pro bono. We have written to lots of your supporters asking for support – it doesn't have to be financial as we genuinely understand the hardships families face when their loved one is in prison but they can help by spreading the word on social networking and local media outlets. Please urge them to support us.

Thank you all who responded to the Questionnaire we have had a fantastic response – but those of you who have not sent please do – data is key to getting policy makers sit up! The information is being submitted (anonymously) for a study by Manchester Met Uni and Centre for Crime and Justice. We are currently inputting the questionnaires and it is throwing up some frightening/fascinating facts. One is the number of people who had no prior convictions yet wake up one morning as murderers. That report should be ready by September.

The Birmingham hub is important and we are going to do something similar in Bradford shortly, so ask your supporters from that neck of the woods to keep an eye on the website.

Finally your words of thanks and solidarity have been so moving and uplifting we decided to dedicate some space over to sharing them. We can only imagine how hard it is for you doing the time, but at least we are not lying down and letting it happen. Fighting the abuse that is joint enterprise and mandatory sentencing is all we can do and a new petition is being launched to demand that mandatory sentencing is abolished and those who were secondary parties (if they played any role at all!) at least have their sentences reviewed.

Gloria Morrison



JENGBA campaigners—never giving up!

KEVIN THAKRAR

It was Kevan Thakrar's day in Manchester Crown Court, so many of the **JENGbA** Campaigners took the step of arriving early so as not to be late for his 10.30am appearance. His **JENGbA** friends travelled from as far as Wigan, North Wales, Nottingham, Leicester and Bradford all in the hopes that Kev would see us in the Courtroom and know how much support we have for him.

At 10.30am sharp we all walked into Court 10, sitting quietly in anticipation of seeing this young man. An usher approached kindly saying the case would be adjourned and asked us to leave. When we asked why, we were met with 'Who are you?' I replied that we were the friends and family members of Kevan Thakrar. Which is absolutely true. The female usher looked at us all in disbelief and her comment that we couldn't all be his friends and family both amused and horrified each and everyone of us. There was roughly 20 people, a pitiful amount considering his event page had gathered hundreds of supporters in a matter of days.

It made me wonder why this woman thought we were too many. It made me wonder if she had far less friends and family herself. Politely we exited the courtroom. But seeing as we were already there we wasted no time and with the help of Jo and Tony I handed out **JENGbA** flyers.

Thankfully one of our members had stayed in the courtroom to make sure the case really had been adjourned. It turns out it hadn't, so we all trundled back inside.

Kev appeared on video link so he couldn't see his friends and family. I won't go into detail of the fiasco that ensued, but I will say that because of the continuing incompetence of our justice system, it was decided at the end,

rather than shout words of encouragement, we would instead gently clap our hands together so Kev would hear our presence and know of our concerns.

It was considered by all to be a more respectable thing to do than call out to him, and may I add, something that we wouldn't have needed to do if Kev had been there in person.

We do not know if he heard us, the video link was swiftly removed and all in attendance were met with glares of contempt and told we showed lack of respect for the court by our gentle actions of support.

Strangely enough on exiting Court 10 we were greeted by the presence of two Police officers. I say greeted in the loosest of terms. I may be wrong but for me their presence must

have been requested by someone, who or why I do not know. It was an open court, where members of the public are encouraged and allowed to view the functions of the day. Yet we were all made to feel that our presence was not welcome. I admit we were a rag tag bunch of individuals, of various ages, but surely that proves we come from all walks of life and represent a cross section of the public.

My experience of the day led me to one conclusion; our justice system does not want a varied cross section of the public to see what goes on in the courtrooms of Britain. It tells me they fear word will get out. The public will realise it cannot be working if vast amounts of money are being spent when cases like Kev's are continuing to be adjourned over and over again to the extent that it can linger on for years without a satisfactory outcome. I am not a judge, but if I had been the judge on that day I would have thrown this case out. I would have come down heavily on the prison service that ignored a judge's ruling that Kev should appear in person. I would have punished them for ignoring Rule 39 and not allowing Kev access to his own legal papers. I would have expressed sternly that they flaunted their lack of respect for the court and violated his rights and that I as a judge would not tolerate this. I would have told them that their utter contempt for justice had gone on too long and would no longer be tolerated.

The case yet again was adjourned, we were followed out of the building by the police, no progress was made and the taxpayer will foot the bill without the knowledge that any of it happened in the first place.

And yet it was Kev's family and friends who were considered lacking in respect and made to feel we had violated some rule of law.

Jan

The most important things in the world have been accomplished by people who kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.



Your Questionnaires

Over the past couple of months it has been my job to input all the information from the questionnaires you returned to us—over 350 so far, what a fantastic response! The info will be used, anonymously, to support our intervention in the Supreme Court to prove that JE over-criminalises. I already knew of course about the heartache and devastation Joint Enterprise can bring on families and their loved ones inside, but to read through every questionnaire and hear your stories has, at times, made my blood boil at our injustice system and at others made me weep for the lost time that should have been spent with your children, parents, partners, families and friends. JENGBA will never give up fighting for you, but your strength and solidarity, shown through your own words, keeps us going. Thank you, from your outside JENGBA family. We can't publish every letter or message of support, but please be assured they are all read and cherished. Stay strong, we need you!

Cath xx

And now, over to you

I THINK THE WILLPOWER AND DETERMINATION THAT YOUR TEAM HAS SHOWN AND THE DEDICATION IS UNBELIEVABLE. Fahim Khan

THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME AND OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE IN MY SITUATION. YOU ARE AN ANGEL FROM GOD Alexander Henry

GLORIA, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING! I'M COMING TO THE END OF MY SENTENCE, BUT WHEN I'M HOME I'LL WALK BESIDE YOU AND FIGHT FOR OUR JUSTICE! FREEDOM WILL NOT MEAN I GIVE UP THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE! Brad Allardyce

BREAK ME OUT AND I PROMISE TO HELP WITH THE NEWSLETTER :) THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME HOPE Dean Pinnock

STAY POSITIVE AND DON'T GIVE IN. THANK YOU. Jordan Towers

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING THAT EVERYONE IS DOING AT JENGBA, IT'S KEEPING ME GOING AND MY HOPE IS GROWING Callum Dickinson

THANK YOU TO ALL YOU WONDERFUL PEOPLE AT JENGBA, YOU ARE THE REASON EVERYONE HAS HOPE AND SO THEY SHOULD WITH ALL OF USE FIGHTING OUR CORNER. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, YOU ARE MAKING UP SO MUCH GROUND THAT THEY CAN'T JUST SIT THERE AND NOT LISTEN Patrick Brennan

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU AND I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING THAT JENGBA HAS DONE TO HELP INNOCENT PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF. IT'S AN ABSOLUTE JOKE THE WAY JE IS BEING ABUSED TO GET PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF BANGED UP IN JAIL FOR CRIMES THEY DIDN'T COMMIT

Mark Kincaid

MUST KEEP PRESSING ON, BECAUSE MORE AWARENESS IS THE KEY. FOR THE 11 YEARS I'VE SEEN THE CHANGE. WHEN I FIRST CAME TO PRISON IN 2004 YOU COULD COUNT HOW MANY WERE CHARGED WITH JOINT STITCH UP BUT NOW... IT'S CRAZY. Jermaine Labastide

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVING US, I'VE BEEN IN JAIL FOR 2 YEARS NOW AND I'VE ADAPTED TO JAIL BUT I REFUSE TO GET USED TO THIS LIFE BECAUSE I AM INNOCENT AND I HAVE FAITH IN YOU Loen Burton

I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO JENGBA. IT GIVES ME HOPE FOR ME AND MY FAMILY. IT KEEPS ME STRONG MENTALLY TO GO ON FIGHTING FOR MY FREEDOM. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL THAT IS CAMPAIGNING FOR ALL THE INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN THAT IS LOCKED UP IN PRISON

Conroy Smith

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND MAY GOD HELP YOU AT THE COURTS. GOOD LUCK AND THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE ARE LIKE ANGELS

Paul James

KEEP GOING JENGBA, THE SUPPORT REALLY DOES GO A LONG WAY!! Wesley Porter

I HAVE BEEN WITH JENGBA EVER SINCE IT FIRST STARTED AS "LONDON AGAINST INJUSTICE" IN 2008. I HAVE SEEN OUR CAMPAIGN GROW FROM A PARAGRAPH IN THE INSIDE TIMES AND AN INFORMAL QUESTIONNAIRE TO THIS GIANT ENTERPRISE (SORRY FOR USE OF THE WORD WE ALL NOW SHUDDER AT) FIGHTING FOR US, THE INNOCENT. MAYBE FALLEN BUT NO LONGER FORGOTTEN THANKS TO JENGBA. I HOPE WE CONTINUE TO GROW GREATER AND STRONGER UNTIL EVERYONE HAS TO STOP, LISTEN AND TURN WORDS INTO ACTION. IN OUR PLIGHT, THANK YOU JENGBA. Laura Mitchell

THE GOVERNMENT'S WAR ON THE YOUNG ETHNIC MINORITY FROM INNER CITY LONDON, NOW IT SEEMS TO BE SPREADING LIKE THE PLAGUE AND NO-ONE IS SAFE UNLESS DADDY HAS MILLIONS OR WENT TO OXFORD. KEEP YOUR CHIN UP AND STAY STRONG. GOD ONLY GIVES THE HARDEST BATTLES TO HIS STRONGEST SOLDIERS. OUR DAY WILL COME. INSHA ALLAH Rashid Tabali

IF IT WASN'T FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU HELPING US THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE WE'D BE A LOT WORSE OFF, SO THANK YOU ALL WHO BELIEVE AND SUPPORT US ALL WHO ARE LOCKED UP FOR NOTHING AT ALL, Ricardo Williams

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR ALL THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION YOU ALL HAVE BEEN DOING TO GET JUSTICE FOR EVERYONE SERVING LONG SENTENCES DUE TO JE. I WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN 2009. CAME IN TO PRISON IN 2008. YES, STILL HERE Diane Churchly

GLO, I'VE BEEN SUPPORTED BY YOU FOR OVER 5 YEARS. IF I CAN DO ANYTHING TO SPREAD THE WORD IN PRISON I WILL. WHEN YOU SEND ME COPIES OF PARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS OR JUDGEMENTS I PHOTOCOPY THEM AND PASS THEM ON. THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT. DON'T STOP FIGHTING Kevin Horlock

I BELIEVE YOU ARE DOING A GOOD JOB AND GETTING THIS HORRIBLE DOCTRINE REMOVED Kelly Taylor

WHENEVER I'M EVENTUALLY FREE I WILL GIVE MY ALL TO SUPPORT THIS CAMPAIGN BY WHATEVER MEANS POSSIBLE SO THAT NO-ONE HAS TO BEAR THE CROSS OF THIS LAW THAT IS DESIGNED TO GAIN RESULTS FOR THE POLICE, CPS and CORRUPTED LEGAL SERVICES.

George Romero Coleman

THIS LAW MAKES NO SENSE AND IT SURELY CAN'T BE JUSTIFIED? WORDS COULDN'T DESCRIBE HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO YOU GUYS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK! THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING AND FOR SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF US THAT CAN'T. Charlotte Coulson

ALL I CAN SAY IS I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND IT KEEPS US ALL IN HOPE THAT ONE DAY THIS LAW WILL BE CHANGED AND FAMILIES WILL STOP GETTING BROKEN UP BECAUSE OF IT. THANK YOU. Mark Billingham

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS JENGBA AS THIS LAW IS TEARING FAMILIES' LIVES APART AND LOCKING INNOCENT PEOPLE UP FOR LIFE. YOU ALL OFFER GREAT SUPPORT TO US INSIDE AND YOU HAVE CERTAINLY MADE ME FEEL LIKE I MATTER. KEEP GOING EVERYBODY, EVENTUALLY SOMETHING WILL BE DONE AND THE PROBLEMS RECTIFIED. Luke Anderson

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK GOD AND THOSE THAT HELPED. AND ALSO THOSE WHO DIDN'T HELP, BECAUSE THEY MADE US HELP OURSELVES EVEN MORE. WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN. GOD BLESS YOU JENGBA. Amisi Kihama

WE ARE NOT A NATION FULL OF MURDERERS, WRONG TIME WRONG PLACE CAN HAPPEN. THE WORK YOU AT JENGBA ARE DOING IS TRULY AMAZING. NOBODY SHOULD BE CONVICTED FOR THE CRIMES OF ANOTHER, ONLY FOR THEIR OWN. A CHARGE FOR THE POOR! Tony O'Toole

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL AT JENGBA FOR ALL THE HARD WORK YOU ARE DOING, IT GIVES MY FAMILY HOPE. THANKS. Henry Ballantyne

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE PEOPLE AT JENGBA FOR THEIR GREAT WORK. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK ARTICULATING THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE AND RAISING ITS PROFILE. Denzil Ramsey

THEIR CAMPAIGNERS HAVE DONE SO MUCH AND THE ONLY INPUT I CAN PUT IN IS THAT I THANK YOU. EVEN THOUGH IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT FOR US INSIDE, HOPEFULLY IT WORKS OUT FOR OUR YOUNGER GENERATION. I DON'T WISH THIS ON MY WORST ENEMY.

Larbi Mohamed

Bride & Groom



CONGRATULATIONS TO MR & MRS TINGLE
(our first **JENGBA** wedding) *Picture courtesy of Tillie*

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