

Defend the Four Campaign

Defend Union Democracy



THE FOUR BANNED FROM OFFICE

OUTRAGEOUS 'RACISM' CHARGE

Four outstanding Unison activists have been found guilty on trumped up disciplinary charges and banned from holding office in Unison. Glenn Kelly (NEC member and branch secretary of Bromley Unison) and Onay Kasab (branch secretary of Greenwich Unison) have been banned for three years. Suzanne Muna (branch secretary of Tenant Services Authority) has been banned for four years and Brian Debus (branch chair of Hackney Unison) for five years. The bans will come into effect if the forthcoming appeal hearing year upholds them.

They are accused of attacking "the integrity of the members of the Standing Orders Committee" for questioning the removal of key motions from the conference agenda.

The charge of giving "racist offence to members" refers to the cartoon of the three wise monkeys on the leaflet, despite the investigation accepting there was no racist intent.

DISGRACEFUL CHARGE OF RACISM

To find four members who have always opposed, fought and campaigned against racism of effectively being racist themselves is not only

outrageous but a terrible accusation for these four Unison members to have to bear. Such a racist slur is bound to cause difficulties in the future, especially when working and applying for jobs in the public sector.

This has provoked anger and outrage both within Unison and in the wider trade union movement. The priority of every union should be to defend its members from job losses, reduced hours and worse conditions which are being foisted on workers during this recession. However the Unison bureaucracy are instead narrowly focused on silencing any opposition to the Unison leadership, especially socialists with a track record of fighting for their members.

TWO YEARS OF "TRIAL" OF FOUR

For nearly two and a half years the four have been through tortuous, money-wasting investigation and hearings. Five were originally investigated but only those who are Socialist Party members faced disciplinary hearings and bans from office, clearly revealing that this is an attack on Socialist Party members.

www.stopthewitchhunt.org.uk

GLENN KELLY RE-ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE

The fact that Glenn Kelly was re-elected to the NEC this year with a bigger majority than before demonstrates the support for his views from the membership.

The Unison bureaucracy is only interested in maintaining their hold on the union and propping up New Labour – opposition to which is growing in the union. This is the reason for the expulsion and bans of Unison activists that dare to question and oppose the leadership.

This is a desperate attempt by the Unison leadership to maintain their positions as they become more isolated from the mood of their membership. The need and struggle for an accountable, democratic fighting union will intensify in a period where public sector workers fear for their jobs, conditions and pensions.

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Support needed

1. Appeal Hearings

Please support Kas on the first day of his appeal hearing - Monday 16th November, 8:30am, Holiday Inn, Carburton Street, London. Near Warren Street tube station.

We also need a lobby for the beginning of Suzannes appeal hearing - Thursday 19th November at 8.30am at the same venue as Kas.

Brians appeal hearing will begin on January 11th 2010 (no venue details yet.)

The four will find out if they have won or lost their appeals after the 13th January 2010. Until then they still maintain their union positions.

2. A groundbreaking Employment Tribunal is taking place where the four are claiming that they are being discriminated against by the Unison leadership on the basis of their Philosophical beliefs (i.e. being members of the Socialist Party.)

An Employment Appeal Tribunal has just ruled in favour of Tim Nicholson who has argued that he was sacked for his environmental beliefs. The judge ruled that Nicholson's beliefs were "a philosophical belief" and therefore unlawful for his firm to sack him because of this. This makes the case that the four have taken to the ET even stronger.

Next dates for Tribunal are 15th to 18th December. The public are allowed in the court and we need

supporters to attend:

London Central Employment Tribunal
Ground Floor, Victory House
30 - 34 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6EX

See website for further details.

3. More lobbies and protests will be organised soon. See www.stopthewitchhunt.org.uk for the latest details.

4. Donations

Please send in donations so that we can produce more leaflets, book rooms for meetings and keep in touch with supporters.

Cheques payable to: "Stop the witch-hunt" Send to: Defend the Four Campaign, PO Box 858, London, E11 1YG.

6. If you would like to receive e-mail updates on the campaign please send your e-mail address to: info@stopthewitchhunt.org.uk.

**Please check out our website:
www.stopthewitchhunt.org.uk before
attending any of these events in case of
changes in times, venues etc.**