

# Racism, Police and the State



# WE DEMAND JUSTICE!

## Monday 12 March

## 7pm

## Friends House

(Euston Road. Nearest Tube: Euston)

Initiated by: London Underground Engineering Branch, RMT

Janet Alder



Sam Rigg-David



Paddy Hill



Gerry Conlon



Wilf Sullivan



Billy Hayes



Bob Crow



John McDonnell



Helen Shaw



Weyman Bennett



# A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM JANET ALDER



Dear sisters and brothers,

The bedrock of trade unionism is solidarity and social justice.

I would like to invite you to a meeting, based on those principles, which aims to expose the relationship between racism, police and the state.

In a way, the Stephen Lawrence Campaign has already, singularly, exposed that relationship. Justice was served recently when a judicial verdict found two of five prime suspects guilty in that case.

But, that is not enough. At least three of Stephen's killers roam free. Moreover, we cannot allow the Police, an integral arm of the British State, delude themselves into believing they have corrected past mistakes and helped serve justice. The Police, then, as now, are racist, corrupt and incompetent.

Furthermore, and most importantly, we cannot permit the Stephen Lawrence case to be reduced to a 'court room drama'. Stephen's parent's near twenty years of tireless campaigning for justice was the key to that guilty verdict. That twenty years of campaigning was sustained by trade unionists like you and activists that offered solidarity and demonstrated in their thousands against the fascist British National Party.

And so, once again, an appeal goes out to the trade union movement, to both continue and step up the fight for social justice in a time of deepening economic crisis that is hurting working people, their families and communities, across the board.

This special meeting aims to secure your solidarity in two immediate ways:

1) We need to raise awareness and solidarity for Justice Campaigns. For instance, on the night, you'll hear about Sean Rigg. Sam, Sean's sister, will explain that, Sean, a young talented musician, was arrested and detained by Brixton police in August 2008. Shortly after he died. Why? This a question that needs an answer. This is a question that cannot be left to Sean's family to ask alone - we must *all* demand an answer and justice!

2) Christopher Alder was my brother. Christopher, a former paratrooper, died in police custody in 1998. An inquest in 2001 recorded his death as unlawful killing. A year later, a court cleared the five police officers of manslaughter and misconduct. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in 2006 found the officers guilty of a "most serious neglect of duty" and "unwitting racism".

Just last year, it was revealed that it was never Christopher at all who was buried in the family grave but the body of an elderly woman named Grace Kamara who died of natural causes in 1999.

Christopher's body had remained in the mortuary for the past 11 years!

I too am seeking justice. I have secured video evidence from two separate Police forces and wish to have those tapes transcribed. I believe those tapes contain vital evidence that could re-open Christopher's case. I seek your solidarity to assist in that work.

I sincerely hope to see you there, as a delegate from your branch, an activist or campaigner. The trade union movement is a family that must stick closely together in these difficult times.

It is as true now than ever in the past: an injury to one is an injury to all.

In Solidarity,

**JANET ALDER**

Justice for Christopher Alder Campaign

## Speakers

### **Janet Alder**

Christopher Alder  
Campaign

### **Sam Rigg-David**

Sean Rigg Justice &  
Change Campaign

### **Paddy Hill**

Birmingham Six  
Founder member of  
Miscarriages of  
Justice Organisation  
(MOJO)

### **Gerry Conlon**

Guildford Four  
Miscarriages of  
Justice Organisation  
(MOJO)

### **Wilf Sullivan**

TUC Race Equality  
Officer

### **Billy Hayes**

General Secretary,  
Communication  
Workers' Union  
(CWU)

### **Bob Crow**

General Secretary,  
Rail Maritime and  
Transport Union  
(RMT)

### **John McDonnell MP**

### **Helen Shaw**

Co-Director, Inquest:  
a charity founded in  
1981 whose  
casework priorities  
are deaths in custody  
(police, prison,  
immigration detention  
and deaths of  
detained patients)

### **Weyman Bennett**

Joint Secretary UAF