



# JENGbA

## Newsletter

You're not Alone

Issue 42

April—May 2017

Dear **JENGbA** Campaigners

A lot has been going on lately and we know that most of you are feeling very let down by the legal system AGAIN right now. But don't give up, the fight continues and in fact it is a different fight. We proved that 'joint enterprise' was WRONG and now we need to prove that the Court of Appeal are also getting it wrong. The Court are refusing to agree that convictions would be 'unsafe' because the law was WRONG because of the cost of appeals and retrials. This is what Lord Thomas suggested when he handed down the judgements of R v Johnson et al. It was about money not justice. **JENGbA** will make it about justice.

Thank you those of you who send us letters to Amber Rudd. Most were brilliant, extraordinary and incredibly moving. This was the same tactic **JENGbA** used when the Justice Select Committee announced when the Justice Select Committee held their first Inquiry into joint enterprise back in 2011. We asked our **JENGbA** prisoners to submit your stories to the Inquiry which we then keyed in and submitted to the Government along with your original letters. When JENGbA gave oral evidence at that first Inquiry, those 'voices', those letters, were what riled the MP's the most – including Liz Truss who was a member of the JSC at that time. As was Jeremy Corbyn. He was the MP who asked for the Inquiry to happen in the first place.

So these letters to the Home Secretary are as important because they reflect your 'voice', your pain your stories of wrongful convictions. One letter, from Charlotte Coulson, was particularly moving. She was given a 20year rec at the age of 20 so as she points out not only has she lost her freedom, her family, her future, she has lost her right to have a children herself and being a mum if she has to serve this sentence for something she was not responsible for. So a massive thanks to all of our Inside Campaigners who recognised the importance of this idea and gave us their voice. The letters are being keyed in by volunteers. When the snap election was announced we realised that if we send them in them to Amber Rudd they would probably be ignored as she would no longer be the Home Secretary. So we are going to have them all ready to be sent the day after the Election result and sent them to the new Home Secretary, Justice Minister, Prison Minister, Chair of Justice Select Committee and the Prime Minister. Any of you who want to add your VOICE get it to us soon.

Finally the 'innocence project' **JENGbA** have been striving to set up is happening! Myself, Jan and other outside campaigners have been going to Universities for several years now doing talks to Law, Criminology and Sociology students. The reaction is always the same – total shock and abhorrence that this is happening in the UK. In April, we were invited to the Greenwich Innocent Project to contribute to their Innocent Symposium and it was totally inspiring. The model the students work on there comes from the Innocent Project in the USA which after years of graft are finally getting results – in the USA – not over here yet. They investigate cases – not just a paper review like most lawyers are only able to do here because of limited resources. The reason for the increased numbers of exonerated prisoners in the US is because the Innocent Projects operate under a tight network and communicate with each member States Innocent Projects sharing information.

We have now got lots of Universities committed to helping us with practical assistance from Academics and Students. So we are setting up the Joint Enterprise Appeals Project (JEAP). Our first meeting with lawyers, academics of Law and Criminology departments is on June 29<sup>th</sup>. If you want your case to be considered please let us know so we can send you a form agreeing that you will allow your information to be shared.



**JENGbA** intend to give each University 3 cases each and ask them to write up a report on their understanding of how joint enterprise was used to convict, and after Joguee whether this conviction would still be safe. At this stage they will not be able to do an Innocent Project style investigation but they will be presented with quite shocking data that shows how easy it was to be convicted of really serious crimes under joint enterprise which wouldn't happen today. They will present their findings at a JEAP Conference in October and these findings will be put together in a report for Government to demand a full Inquiry similar to Orgreave and Hillsborough. This information is going to be key to understanding how and why these convictions were obtained by the police and the CPS. It is also a really good way of educating students about how wrong these convictions are and they can get as angry about it as us. And talk about it to friends and family.

The main reason for this snap newsletter is because of the snap election. We suspect that a lot of our Inside JENGbA Campaigners have supporters and families who do not see the point of voting in the General Election as it is 'same old, same old'. This Election is different! Please ask your supporters, families and anyone you can convince to register to vote. You will see by the pictures who we would suggest they vote for. Jeremy Corbyn understands and believes in our campaign. If we have a Labour Government under his leadership **JENGbA** believes we have the chance of a proper Inquiry into your cases, your voices and your innocence. John McDonnell, the Labour party's Shadow Chancellor was also on the Justice Select Committee when they did their follow up Inquiry in 2012. Please don't be complacent. Ask you loved ones to register to vote and vote! The deadline to register is 21<sup>st</sup> May and to register for a postal vote is 23<sup>rd</sup> May. As you will be aware the European Court of Human Rights has repeatedly ruled that banning prisoners from voting in Elections is a breach of their Human Rights.

In the next newsletter we will give you an update on where your letters have been sent and what reaction we receive. There are also a few more appeals coming up next month so remember that hope is there, we won't give up and we know you won't either.

As ever, in solidarity and strength, Gloria

### DON'T FORGET

**JENGbA** are going to get a book published and we want the chapters to be written by our Inside Campaigners. So get writing! Don't worry if you are not confident about grammar, spelling etc. We will edit for you so don't worry about length either. Just tell your story, what happened to you and your sentence. True-crime is having a very popular resurgence at the moment and the public is interested in grotesque miscarriages of justice they just don't know it is happening. If you are interested in submitting a chapter, write and let us know so we can start compiling the book with a foreword and chapter headings.

**MARK YOUR ENVELOPE "JENGbA BOOK"**

## NEXT JENGbA BIRMINGHAM MEETING

Next Birmingham Meeting will be 27th May 2017

London meeting 13th June - tell your loved ones to check our website for venues and any possible updates

**We now have a new petition— which is on our website and available to print off so your friends and family can gather signatures.**

**Also tell everyone to follow us on Twitter!**



## Contact Us

Write to us at:  
**JENGbA**  
**Axis Community Hub**  
**Office A**  
**Norland House**  
**9 Queensland Crescent**  
**LONDON W11 4TL**

**07709 115793 or**  
**07725 727520**  
Visit us on the web at  
[www.jointenterprise.co](http://www.jointenterprise.co)