



JENGbA

Newsletter

You're not Alone

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Dear Fellow **JENGbA** Campaigners

We had to wait to send this newsletter on the outcome of the last batch of Appeals heard in June 14th/15th concerning Alex Henry and his co defendant Janhelle Grant-Murray & Andrew McGill, Corey Hewitt and AJ Hewitt. These appeals post-Jogee were using Jogee points but with Alex and Janhelle it raised the point that Alex has been diagnosed with Autism since being sent to prison. His only offence was to throw his phone on the ground to stop his friend Janhelle being attacked by the victim and his friend. It was a 47 second spontaneous affray which unfortunately resulted in the death by another co-defendant who used a knife concealed in a JD sports bag that nobody else was aware of. The prosecutor at the appeal tried to insinuate that because Alex's mum Sally is a psychologist she 'coached' him in how to be Autistic. Wow the depths the CPS will go to.

The other case involved two 14 year old boys and a 13 year old child none of whom were the principal in a murder involving a sharp stick being stabbed at another boy which hit an artery in his leg. The points in this case: the case was heard in adult court and the children were put in the dock together with no appropriate adults between them. The defence brought the original 'mediator' to the appeal and she expressed her deep concerns that the children, all with ADHD, could not have had a fair trial as they were being asked leading questions by the CPS that they simply wouldn't have understood. I told this to Maureen Smith who was convicted along with her sister Kelly, and she said they often looked at each other during the trial because

they didn't understand the questioning. So a highly educated Prosecutor pitted against children with learning difficulties, bent on getting a conviction, as is the way in joint enterprise trials, and when the mediator complained she was told by the trial judge she was being 'over-cautious'. NO! she was doing her job, but that doesn't matter in the interests of injustice.

To be honest, even though it was Lord Thomas hearing the appeal, **JENGbA** campaigners attending the appeals with the lads' families were hopeful that there might be a good outcome, surely children and learning difficulties can't just be brushed under the carpet? But we found out on Friday 11th July they had all been refused. As ever the CoA hide behind the mantra "the Jury would have reached the same conclusion". How, when the law was wrong?! So if a vulnerable child and young person can be found guilty of murder which they didn't plan, didn't foresee, or indeed commit, but the Court of Appeal will not recognise it, I think we can say we are all well and truly f****d! Or so it might seem...

You may be aware that these newsletters have been sent to you to offer hope as well as info as to what's going on in the outside campaign. And I have struggled to put this into words so it is not depressing. And then I had a call from Arza Khan this morning saying No, we ARE making progress, which is true, no-one knew anything about JE just 6 years ago and now the establishment are so rattled they are making appalling decisions involving vulnerable children who were given Life sentences (one of the

children in this case asked his mum what Life meant) just to cover up the “misapplication” of the law!

Also interestingly enough ITV filmed these appeals in a documentary to show the workings of the CoA. And at one point Lord Thomas was having such a hissy fit, the production crew wondered if he remembered he was being filmed. And if the general public get to witness what we did then at least we will get more publicity for how bad these trials and convictions actually were. And still are as you will see in Jan’s piece. Joint Enterprise has not gone away and we still have a mountain to climb to get convictions overturned but as Arza said “just keep going!”

There was a JE conviction overturned on 23rd May, Courdell Reid. This was a burglary where Courdell was outside in a car when his 4 co-defendants entered a flat with the intent of robbing a drug dealer of his money and drugs. On the way in, one of them picked up a bar bell from the porch. It wasn’t used and no money or drugs stolen but it became an aggravated burglary and all of them received 12 years including Courdell. His appeal was that he didn’t know someone would pick a weapon up on the way in and he was acquitted. The logical me says rightly so and we are very pleased for him, but the cynical me wonders why in the case of a burglary will they do the right thing but not in cases of murder, which I can hear you all answering “floodgates!”

Recently we have been sent proposed Guidance to Joint Enterprise charging by Alison Saunders, but it is not called that anymore because joint enterprise has gone apparently! It is now accessory liability and it is interesting that the law changed in February 2016 but it has taken the CPS till now to come up with Guidance. We have sent that document into about 60 prisoners who regular correspond with us and who answer our requests for letters to Allison Saunders. We want Inside campaigners’ views on the Guidance and we will submit them along with the response from the JENGbA lawyers helping us. If anyone wants to contribute and needs to see a copy please ask your sup-

porters to send in or write to us and we will send it to you.

We had a good **JENGbA** meeting in Birmingham in June and that ‘hub’ is firmly established. We have decided that **JENGbA** need to relaunch our ‘brand’ in the House of Commons most likely October with a new constitution and Aims and Objectives. We will still fight for wrongful convictions and we also want to get Homicide Reform as was suggested by the Law Commission in 2007 and ignored by successive governments. Also abolition of Schedule 21 (mandatory sentences). We know this is winnable because when people are informed of the length of sentences of secondary parties (which now average 26years) they are outraged. Also and this one is very important, abolition of Life sentences for Children. The UK is the only country in Europe that do this and it is abhorrent that we think it is ok to lock up children as young as 13, and many of those boys because of their learning difficulties are also held in solitary confinement for 23 half hours a day. Shocking and a disgrace especially when inflicted on an innocent child.

Speaking of Solitary Confinement we launched another CrowdJustice to raise funds for Kevan Thakrar to be independently assessed as he has now be in SC for over 7years. Another disgrace when the protocols are max one year, then reassessed and moved back into main estate. Kev is just moved on to another CSE prison. We raised the money needed and await the psychologist’s assessment for a legal challenge.

The launch of the Joint Enterprise Appeals Project happened on June 29th and it was very successful with 12 representatives from Universities attending and taking away paperwork. This is the beginning of getting students to look into cases to learn what we know, how easy it was to be convicted of joint enterprise murder. We want to roll it out around the country with more Universities so if you want your case to be looked into let us know. The plan is the students will do a presentation (probably Feb/March because of Academic calendar) on the cases they have studied to a large audience in BPP Auditorium Holborn. We will then compile a report based on their findings

and get it to the Justice Select Committee. We are calling for a full Government Inquiry into Joint Enterprise Convictions so it is really important to engage with your MP and get family to visit in their surgeries. They used to hide behind can't look at individual cases but now the cat is out of the bag we need their help to address and overturn convictions.

And finally, (for someone who didn't know how to write this sure have had a lot to say!) we have installed a landline in the office for you to add to your pin if you wish 0203 562 6444. The office is not manned everyday – although we might change that if JEAP becomes a charity – so Monday and Thursday is best as students volunteer those days. But it has an answer machine that will be checked on regular basis or my mobile which is busy (and expensive) is 07709115793. We have been trying to get more visits recently but as you can imagine that is tricky with over 800 JE prisoners.

As ever in love, strength and solidarity

Gloria

MOSS SIDE 13 young people charged

I've watched a local case unfold over the last few months. Thirteen young people charged with murder for a single death. The youngest was just 14 years old at the time, he was clearly not the knife man, (cctv footage proves this, and not just with him, but also with the others), yet all were still charged with murder.

I'm not going to go into detail about this particular case, it's very recent and those concerned want to appeal. I have met with the families of the young people convicted, before trial, during trial and since the verdicts have been reached. I'm astounded with the love and strength that is clearly visible as they talk about the case, questioning how this has happened to their loved ones and how they can fight to set them free. If **JENGbA** didn't already exist I'm certain that these 11 families from Manchester would have made

it happen. When I first met them they were already calling themselves NGbA (Not Guilty by Association) and designing a logo.

Last time I saw them I asked if I could take a photograph for the newsletter along with the names and numbers of their loved ones.

Jan



JENGbA Moss Side Families—
NEVER GIVING UP!



Wigan Diggers is Saturday 9th September and as always **JENGbA** have a stall. Please let your families, friends and supporters know, it's a great opportunity to spread the word with thousands of people who are not only willing to listen but also willing to help.



There is to be a National Demonstration against Austerity & Cuts on Sunday 1st October in Manchester during the Tory Party Conference.

Please urge all your **JENGbA** outside campaigners to attend so that we have a huge presence.

We must get the Unions behind us as people think problem has been solved by Supreme Court decision.

More info will go out on website and social media, especially transportation via coaches.

JOINT ENTERPRISE IS A COURT FULL OF LIES!



Above: Andy Burnham agreed to take our letter in to the Home Office to present to Amber Rudd personally.,

He's onside and sympathised with our struggle.

WE MADE SOME NOISE!

JENGbA's march in March 2017 coincided with the Miners' Make Some Noise for Orgreave demo.

JENGbA supporters sure made some noise to let everyone know about our Inside Campaigners' fight for justice. They couldn't help but hear us coming with our pan lids and metal spoons, drums, whistles etc and they gave us a big welcome as our march joined the demo outside the Home Office.



Gloria waiting to address the crowd to tell them about our struggle for justice. Of course she got a huge applause!

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