

DEFEND THE FOUR

www.stopthewitchhunt.org.uk

**DAWN RAIDS ON
UNISON OFFICES!
BAN IMPOSED ON THE FOUR!**

PROTEST!

**As UNISON democracy goes up in smoke join
UNISON members outside Congress House
on Great Russell Street.**

Monday 15th March 6pm onwards.

Bring your letters from the Unison HQ to burn!

**Then come to a Defend the Four meeting
7pm at ULU (University of London Union),
Malet Street (just around the corner)**

DEFEND THE FOUR

DAWN RAIDS ON UNISON OFFICES!

Early morning 5th March, with no notice, 15 unelected Unison officials raided the Unison offices in Bromley, Greenwich, and the Tenant Services Authority. The officials have attempted to confiscate computer hard drives and other resources, which include important documents on on-going personal cases.

In Greenwich they have acted with the collusion of the New Labour employer, and have employed security guards to protect the offices from local union members! In Tory Bromley they have tried to get the council to act against Glenn Kelly.

Following mitigation hearings, Glenn Kelly (Bromley), Suzanne Muna (TSA), Onay Kasab (Greenwich) and Brian Debus (Hackney) have all been banned from holding any office in Unison. The officials intend to run elections for new branch officers but as has happened in other branches they may try to run the branches themselves, which has led to moribund Unison branches.

The four have conducted a determined and high profile campaign which has meant that it has taken nearly 3 years to get them banned from office. The mitigation hearings also concluded that the length of the bans will be reduced by between 1 and 2 years.

However, this action shows the vicious reality of the UNISON leadership's attacks on socialist activists within the union. The real aims of the bureaucracy are exposed - the attack on the four was only ever an attack on trade union militancy and democracy.

We face "savage cuts" in public services - Unison members need to fight to defend jobs and services in councils, the NHS, Further Education and Higher Education. This needs a fighting, democratic leadership - not a yellow union prepared to collude with the bosses. No Unison member can now feel safe.

We will not stand back and watch as the current Unison leadership hound socialists and activists, destroy democracy, and destroy the union's ability to fight to defend jobs and services.

The four are urging supporters to phone or e-mail UNISON Head Office now to protest against the ban and the raids of the branch offices.

Eye-witness account in Greenwich:

“Onay Kasab, Greenwich Unison Branch Secretary, was told to 'disappear sharpish' by Unison bureaucrat Dan Papiette. That is the shameful scene I witnessed last Friday morning at 7:50 in the morning as I shook with anger. This was without doubt an attack on every one of the 3,500 members in Greenwich. Six Unison political police officers marched into the branch office thinking that Kaz would be alone; he wasn't. They did this with the aid of Greenwich council head of HR - that tells a story in itself of collusion between management and the union at regional level.

The six New Labour enforcers then proceeded to try and humiliate everyone in the office especially Kaz and assistant branch secretary Sara Hackwood. They did not succeed as Kaz and Sara acted with great dignity in the face of adversity. We were then told that we must leave the office and that six unelected unison officials would now be representing our members and just a few branch officers would be allowed back to do the paperwork, another insult that Kaz and Sara had to withstand... It was the most disgraceful incident that I have witnessed in my entire working life.

On top of every thing else, when the members got home from work there was what can only be called an open insult waiting for them in the form of a letter from the witch hunter general herself, Linda Perks. The letter informed them how she was going to "improve" the branch that Kaz, Sara and the other branch officers have built over the last 13 years.”

What we need you to do:

1. Let as many unison members as possible know what is happening

2. E-mail letters of protest to:

- UNISON General Secretary Dave Prentis: d.prentis@unison.co.uk

- UNISON London Region: greaterlondonregion@unison.co.uk

3. Phone UNISON Head Office to express your disgust on 0845 355 0845

4. Pass a motion at your next meeting to be sent to Dave Prentis.

5. Funds are urgently needed for leaflets, publicity and legal costs.

Cheques payable to: 'Stop the Witch-Hunt' and should be sent to: Defend the Four Campaign, PO Box 858, London E11 1YG.

6. Please let us know details of your protests - e-mail us at: info@stophthewitchhunt.org.uk.