

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

Justice for Alfie Meadows

- Drop all the charges against student protester
- Investigate and prosecute officers who attacked him

The case of Alfie Meadows highlights the scale of violent and political policing.

Alfie was hit so hard by a police baton during the student fees protest on 9 December that he required three hours emergency brain surgery. An IPCC investigation into that attack is now underway. Now that the Ian Tomlinson jury has returned a verdict of “unlawful killing”, we hope that the officers responsible for Alfie’s life-threatening injuries can be identified, exposed and prosecuted.

Despite the IPCC’s investigation into what happened to Alfie being ongoing, the Metropolitan Police have charged with violent disorder. This came just days before the royal wedding, thus allowing the Met to issue an exclusion order on Alfie, banning him from the whole of Central London throughout the Bank Holiday weekend. In the same week the police raided squats and pre-emptively arrested Professor Chris Knight and others for planning a peaceful protest.

As far as violence is concerned, it is the police and not Alfie who should be in the dock.

The comments by the President of the Police Superintendents’ Association last year that the police will be required to deal with ‘disaffection, social and industrial tensions’ that result from the ConDems’ cuts gives us an insight into how the police see their role today. The cuts are the centrepiece of this government’s political agenda. They will severely affect the lives of millions. People have every right to protest against them. We cannot tolerate the police using violent beatings, kettling and other intimidatory tactics to undermine this right to protest.

We stand with Alfie and all those who have been targeted by the police in recent months for exercising their right to protest. We demand that all charges against Alfie are dropped, and that the police officers responsible for his injuries are investigated and held to account.

NAME	UNION / POSITION	PHONE	EMAIL