

## **A Presence on the Streets - 1995**

An account of the events LDMG have monitored and outcomes for those arrested.

(See also [this report](#) on the March For Social Justice, 1997)

### **4th March**

#### **Demo against the CJA**

North London

Organisers - Campaign Against the CJA

This was the first demo we monitored, so it was a test for us. About 500 people turned out for the demo which met at Stoke Newington Police Station, marching to Tottenham Police Station. A brief rally was held afterwards, in Tottenham.

No arrests were made.

### **18th March**

#### **'We Remember' Demo**

North London

Organisers - Colin Roach Centre

Starting in Hackney. 150 people marched and laid wreaths on the route to Stoke Newington Police Station.

There were no arrests.

### **17th April**

#### **C.N.D. Demo**

Central London

Organisers - C.N.D.

200 people, marched from Marble Arch to Trafalgar Square and then held a meeting in Central Hall, Westminster. C.N.D. failed to forward the £50 promised to L.D.M.G by the organisers.

There were no arrests.

### **30th April**

#### **Anti-C.J.A. Demo**

Central/South London

Organisers - Campaign Against the CJA

About 3,000 people marched from the Embankment, via Parliament to Clapham Common. There was a large police presence throughout the day.

There were 5 arrests. We only got details of 3. 1 was cautioned for Drunk & Disorderly; 1 disappeared while on bail; 1 was taken directly to Sussex as there was a warrant out for her arrest there.

There were police on the demo with photos of demonstrators they wanted from past demos. Demonstrators and organisers take note.

### **4th May**

#### **Protest at British Aerospace's A.G.M.**

London - West End

Organisers - Campaign Against the Arms Trade.

The protest took place at the hotel hosting the above's A.G.M. There was a static protest, but we were there to monitor a direct action "die in" by about 20 protestors

and a roof top protest.

Although some of the police and hotel's own security were heavy handed there were no arrests.

### **14th May**

#### **Reclaim the Streets I**

Camden High Road

Organisers - Reclaim the Streets

500 people blocked Camden High Road from 1pm to 7pm protesting about the excessive use of cars. Although most of the day passed off peacefully and in good humour, the police waited until the protestors' numbers were low and attacked the crowd that remained.

There were 10 arrests. 1 wanted to accept a caution against the advice of our solicitor; 4 got bindovers in court; 1 was found not guilty; 3 have "disappeared" while on bail; and 1 is about to have their case dropped. At the time of writing this 1 person is suing the police for wrongful arrest.

### **27th May**

#### **African Liberation March**

South/Central London

Organisers - A coalition of groups

The march started at Kennington Park and ended at Trafalgar Square, stopping very briefly outside Downing Street. The march was peaceful with around 200 protestors although there were over 500 police who expected trouble.

There were no arrests

### **Saturday 10th June**

#### **Brian Douglas March**

South London

Organisers - A coalition of groups

400 Demonstrators assembled in Clapham. A peaceful march followed, stopping outside Kennington Police station to lay a wreath in memory of Brian Douglas, and others who have died due to police brutality.

There was 1 arrest but this was not on the demonstration. However our solicitor visited the arrested person who decided she wanted to use her own solicitor once released.

### **11th July**

#### **Incapacity Action Picket**

South London

Organisers - Incapacity Action

A small & effective picket outside Balham Dole Office to demonstrate at the arrival of Peter Lilley (MP).

Lilley was pelted with an egg and liquids of various kinds but there were no arrests.

### **23rd July**

#### **Reclaim the Streets II**

Upper Street Islington

Organisers - Reclaim the Streets

Over 1,000 people took over Upper Street in Islington to protest against

environmental damage and death caused by cars.

After most protestors had left uni-formed police officers were replaced and reinforced by around 50 riot police in full riot gear (which increased to around 200). The conduct of these officers was aggressive and confrontational, with officers hitting demonstrators with batons, shields and fists. At no stage were demonstrators attacking the police.

By the end of the day there were 19 arrests. 3 who were not connected with the demo saw duty solicitors and were found guilty of drugs offenses; 2 using duty solicitors were held for 7 days and found guilty of Section 4 of the Public Order Act; 2 people were cautioned; 3 were bound over by the court; 1 person wanted to plead guilty to Criminal Damage; 6 people were found not guilty or had their charges dropped; 1 case is ongoing; and 1 person lost contact with us.

At least one demonstrator was hospitalised and a number of others were injured.

To our knowledge 2 people are now suing the police because of the police's actions.

### **12th August**

#### **March & Picket supporting Mumia Abu Jamal**

London - West End

Organisers - Anarchist Black Cross

70/80 protestors marched to the Disney store in Regent Street where a number of demonstrators entered the store, and effectively closed the shop for half an hour.

Police and shop staff were very oppressive and aggressive. 2 Legal Observers were assaulted - 1 by the police, the other by an employee of Walt Disney.

6 protestors were arrested. LDMG's solicitor on call spoke to all 6 that evening but 2 were held overnight without bail. At court 4 of those arrested accepted bindovers, while the other 2 pleaded "not guilty" and received "Conditional Discharges".

### **7th October**

#### **Justice Demonstration**

North London

Organisers - A coalition of groups

Over 500 people marched from Hackney Downs to Tottenham.

5 people were arrested outside Tottenham police station. 3 were released without charge; 1 was taken directly to Warwickshire as there was an arrest warrant for them there; the 5th was charged with Affray and released at about 10.30pm.

Our solicitor saw all 5 (including the person sent to Warwickshire) and is representing the one person charged.

### **7th November**

#### **Direct Action Network**

Parliament

Organisers - Direct Action Network

100 people with disabilities protested outside parliament against the Governments new laws relating to people with disabilities. They blocked roads around parliament. 1 person was arrested and seen by our solicitor.

### **11th November**

#### **Picket of Jenny's Burgers**

Crouch End - Haringey

Organisers - J.J. Fast Food Locked out Workers Support Group

Some 20 people picketed the Jenny's Burger Bar in support of the J.J. Fast Food strikers. There were no arrests.

### **24th November**

#### **Demo against Children In Need**

Shepherd's Bush - West London

Organisers - Direct Action Network

About 30 people demonstrated outside BBC TV studios in Wood Lane to demand that people with disabilities need rights not charity.

There were no arrests.

### **6th December**

#### **Stop Attacks on Asylum Seekers**

Central London

Organisers - A coalition of refugee & other groups

About 30 people protested outside the Social Security Advisory Committee meeting about the governments new laws to cut welfare benefits to Asylum Seekers.

There were no arrests

### **16th December**

#### **Stop the Immigration Race Checks**

North London

Organisers - a coalition of groups

About 2,000 people marched through Hackney protesting at the proposed cuts in Welfare Benefits to Asylum Seekers. Marchers stopped at locations where the new proposals would have special effects (schools, dole offices, etc).

There were no arrests.