

# THE CASE OF THE BIRMINGHAM SIX



**'The Home Secretary should certainly hold a retrial.'**  
**Sir John Farr, Conservative MP for Harborough**

Six Birmingham Irishmen have been in jail since 1974 for offences they did not commit. The suffering and bitter frustration they and their families have borne is incalculable. Unless massive public pressure is brought to bear, they will spend the rest of their lives in prison.

Hugh Callaghan, Paddy Hill, Gerry Hunter, Dick McIlkenny, Bill Power and John Walker were arrested in November 1974 in the wave of outrage that followed the bombing of two pubs in Birmingham. Twenty-one people were killed in the bombings, and 162 were injured. Anti-Irish feeling was fierce, and the Labour government took the opportunity to rush through the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which then Home Secretary Roy Jenkins described as 'draconian'.

The six were long-time Birmingham residents, working class men with families. Five were arrested within hours of the bombing as they boarded a boat for a short visit to Ireland. Forensic tests, which have since been conclusively discredited, suggested that two of them might have handled explosives. The men were savagely and repeatedly beaten by the police during two days of interrogation, and four of them signed false 'confessions'. The 'confessions' contradicted each other and did not match the evidence from the scene. The six were nevertheless convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The six men were victims of hysteria and vengeance, not recipients of justice. They were convicted because they were Irish and in the wrong place at the wrong time. They, and their families, have consistently proclaimed their innocence. **Please help to set them free!**



Hugh Callaghan



Bill Power



Gerry Hunter



Dick McIlkenny



John Walker

## A NEW PUBLICATION FROM INFORMATION ON IRELAND

### THE CASE OF THE BIRMINGHAM SIX

The Case of the Birmingham Six is a poster-magazine edited by the Troops Out Movement and published by Information on Ireland.

It outlines the horrifying case of the men wrongly convicted of the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings. Hugh Callaghan, Paddy Hill, Gerry Hunter, Dick McIlkenny, Bill Power and John Walker have now been in prison since their arrest in November 1974, and unless massive public pressure is brought to bear they could spend the rest of their lives in prison.

The Case of the Birmingham Six tells how the men were savagely beaten by the police, as a result of which four signed false 'confessions', and explains how the forensic evidence that was used to convict them has now been conclusively discredited.

It opens out into a striking black-and-yellow poster which calls for the men to be freed. The poster uses the famous 1933 photo-montage by John Heartfield of the statue of Justice broken, blindfolded and gagged.

The Case of the Birmingham Six is available by post from Information on Ireland, PO Box 958, London W14 0JF. One copy costs 60p + 20p p&p; ten copies cost £4 + 80p p&p. Please make cheque/PO out to Information on Ireland.

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