THE BIRMINGHAM 6
FRAMED!

FREE THEM NOW

From the Irish Press, 24 November 1984:

WE ARE NOT TO BLAME!

We wish to correct the position that has been given to the public by the newspapers through our advertisements for the Industrial Action by the six men who are seen on television in their beds and in court. The six men who are seen on television in their beds and in court are being tried by the Birmingham Court of Appeal. The six men who are seen on television in their beds and in court are being tried by the Birmingham Court of Appeal.

We are not to blame. We are not to blame. We are not to blame.

For the past six years we have been maintaining a letter-writing campaign with 2,000 members of the House of Commons. We have been writing to our Members of Parliament and to the Government for the past six years. We have been writing to our Members of Parliament and to the Government for the past six years.

Due to our persistence and the persistence of a small number of members of Parliament, we have finally got a few small victories. A number of organizations have come to our campaign for the release of the six men. We have been writing to our Members of Parliament and to the Government for the past six years.

In pursuit, we are six innocent men who have been wrongly convicted. Please help us.

PADDY HILL
No 160406

184 Prince Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire

FREE THEM NOW
The six photographs two weeks after their arrest. Above: Dick McIlkenny (41), Hugh Callaghan (44), Paddy Hill (30), Billy Power (39). Below: Gerry Hunter (39), John Walker (39),

Scientists have proved that samples from playing cards, leatherette, picture postcards and cigarette packets will produce the Griess test as explosives.

THE CASE OF THE THREE MEN

The three men were taken to court on the morning of 25 November. They were assigned two solicitors, whichever one of whom had no experience of political cases. Some of the men immediately showed the solicitors their injuries and complained that the police had beaten them.

Solicitor Anthony Curtis said in a statement that Gerry Hunter’s chest had swollen, and with his shoulder with diagonal scratch marks. Curtis also saw John Walker. He described him as a “wilde frightened look... He had a very noticeable black eye.”

From the court, the men were remanded to Winson Green prison. On reception, they were violently beaten by police officers, who were left with marks on their faces which were visible to everyone when they appeared in court later that week.

After this beating, the men were threatened with additional violence, but they were not afraid of being killed, and they were prepared to die if necessary.

The three men were tried for assaulting the men, and for general aggression, which they were acquitted. They were released the same day, although they had beaten the men. In private statements made to the media, they expressed their belief that the police had beaten the police, and that they had beaten the police who had beaten the police. They made no mention of Power.

Then you’ve got McIlkenny’s account of how he was beaten in the Town, where he says that he was beaten with Hill. Yet Walker, who says that he also was beaten in the Town, says he did it with Hunter. You have then the ridiculous situation where you have Hunter saying he was beaten by both the police and the police.
sions suggest that the statements were true.

These statements also list the injuries that were already on the men's bodies on admission to prison. One prison officer said: 'The prisoner's tonsils were more or less covered with bruises...they were all colours and most of them looked oiled.' Another said the men's bodily markings 'were consistent with a systematic beating below the neck while in police custody.'

Further evidence came from Dr. David Paul, a world authority in forensic medicine, who examined sets of photographs taken of the men while they were in police custody and then in prison custody. He told World in Action that he was completely confident that they had been injured before leaving police custody, and had subsequently sustained further injuries.

YEARS OF CAMPAIGNING

The six men were convicted at Lancaster Crown Court on 15 August 1975. Each was given 21 life sentences. They applied to the Court of Appeal for leave to challenge their convictions, but on 30 March 1976 this was refused. Lord Widgery, sitting with two other judges, said there was nothing 'unfair or unsatisfactory' about their convictions.

In November 1977 the men tried to sue the police for assaulting them. Their action was stopped by Lord Denning in the Court of Appeal in January 1980. Upholding an appeal by the West Midlands and Lancashire police against the men's action, Lord Denning made an extraordinary statement: 'If the six men win it will mean that the police were guilty of perjury, that they were guilty of violence and threats, that the confessions were involuntary and were improperly admitted in evidence and that the confessions were erroneous. That would mean that the Home Secretary would have either to admit that they were pardoned or he would have to remit the case to the Court of Appeal. This is such an appalling vista as to make every sensible person in the land want to say: It cannot be right that these actions should go any further.' They should be struck out.

In essence, Lord Denning was saying that the action had to be stopped because the men might win, and the consequences of this were too 'upsetting' to be allowed to happen.

The case was then taken to the House of Lords, where in October 1981 Lord Diplock confirmed Lord Denning's decision. A few days later Paddy Hill began a hunger strike which lasted 42 days.

Following the World in Action programme in October 1985, Sir John Farr, Conservative MP for the district which includes Garthwaite prison on which Paddy Hill was incarcerated, submitted a dossier of new evidence to the Home Secretary, who alone has the power to re-open the case. 'The Home Secretary should certainly hold a retrial,' said Farr. His call has been supported by a number of prominent people including the Bishops of Derry, Down, and Connor, and Galway, and John Hume MP.

At the time of writing, Home Secretary Douglas Hurd's decision is not yet known. If he decides to re-open the case, it is still too early to guarantee that justice will be done. As things stand, in Paddy Hill's words, 'We are more or less condemned to die in prison.'

Please do all you can to ensure this does not happen, and that these six innocent men are freed from their living nightmares.