

PRESS RELEASE: 27/04/2012

SUBJECT: ABOLISH THE INDEPENDENT POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Dear ALL,

On Tues 1st of May 2012, (3pm - 6pm) at the Head offices of the IPCC there will be a mass protest calling for the following;

- A full & public Parliamentary enquiry into the IPCC and the wider Police Complaints system (a petition will be launched)
- The abolition of the IPCC as it currently stands

Whilst it is clear that a system for police accountability is vital and required in law, the current conduct of the IPCC falls far short of what we should reasonably expect. There is mass dissatisfaction from those people who have turned to the IPCC for help and complaint outcomes are of serious concern. Our view is that it appears both misconduct of the police and their criminal behaviour is regularly covered up.

It is not only the general public who have expressed concern over the IPCC. In 2008 the Police Action Lawyers Group resigned from the IPCC advisory body as a result of their serious concerns. [note 1] Furthermore in 2011 a Parliamentary committee investigated the work of the IPCC and once again found serious concern, Keith Vaz MP stating;

'As an idea, the IPCC is important', 'The committee has investigated its work several times, and unfortunately we have always found it wanting. It seems to have lost its way.'

Most recently a series of articles on the IPCC were published in the Independent, the IPCC admitting it was ineffective;

- **Police watchdog admitted system was ineffective** -

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-watchdog-admitted-system-was-ineffective-6297704.html>

Similar commentary has come from others on the inside, IPCC Commissionaire John Crawley;

- **The worst of all outcomes** - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/apr/08/police-complaints-commission>

Most recently an article in the New Statesman;

- **Lack of police accountability sees the institution which upholds the law virtually exempt from it.**

- <http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/politics/2012/04/more-sinister-bobby-beat>

This is just a snapshot of the widespread criticism of the IPCC and how it is failing to provide the lawful requirement for an effective system of redress for the public. It is not our demand that justice requires the malicious prosecution of police officers on non-existent grounds, but that the same standards of law are applied universally to all and sundry, without exception.

Only recently James Brokenshire the Home office minister is quoted as stating;

"It is essential that we ensure that the actions and behaviours of any corrupt police officers do not undermine public confidence in the police's ability to respond to, investigate and fight crime".

Our view is precisely the same, yet the IPCC repeatedly fails to deliver. In the face of demands for it's abolition the IPCC has sprung into life, today (26/4/12) requesting from Government more powers to compel officers to give evidence to it's enquiries. The question has to be asked, why is the IPCC only asking for these powers some 10 years following it's commission? We say too little too late, the IPCC has known it was ineffective for many years, yet sat idle and permitted injustice to prevail.

We wish to invite you to cover the protest which starts at 3pm and closes at 6pm. (see attached flyer for details) There will be many interesting speakers and victims of police corruption/IPCC cover up. It is expected to be a well attended event your coverage will be most appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Doherty

Campaign4Justice

Tel: 07722400593

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Notes to Editor:

Note1: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/feb/25/police.law1> [Police action Lawyers Group resignation from IPCC advisory board]

Note2: Confirmed speakers:

- Stafford Scott - Stafford Scott was a co-founder of the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign in 1985, and is now a consultant on racial equality and community engagement.
- Lee Jasper - is a British Black activist and former Senior Policy Advisor on Equalities to the Mayor of London
- Woman Against Rape - Campaigning for justice and protection for all women and girls, including asylum seekers, who have suffered sexual, domestic and/or racist violence
- Merlin Emanuel - Campaigner seeking to resign injustice and equality to the pages of history.
- Alastair Morgan - Brother of Daniel Morgan, whose murder 25yrs ago has gone unresolved as a result of admitted police corruption, probably biggest UK case of police corruption

- Eleanor O'Hagan - Freelance writer/blogger, Guardian, New Statesman and author of recent critical piece on the Police complaints system and failure of accountability.
- Sam/Marcia Rigg - Sisters seeking justice for their brother Sean Rigg who died in police custody at Brixton Police station in 2008. <http://seanriggjusticeandchange.com/>
- Michael Doherty - victim of police corruption and co-founder of Campaign4Justice - see article Justice is impossible if you cannot trust the police to tell the truth
- Ian Puddick - victim of police corruption and campaigner for justice - <http://www.ianpuddick.com/>
- Brian Paddick - CONFIRMATION YET TO BE RECEIVED but strong interest in speaking
- Maryam Abassi - rape support worker/journalist

there are other speakers to be confirmed on the day

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