

The Official
**Shrewsbury 24
Campaign**

We Never Gave Up

To Overturn a Miscarriage of Justice

Chairperson: Harry Chadwick
Researcher & Secretary: Eileen Turnbull
Shrewsbury 24 Campaign
PO Box 92
Liverpool
L19 3WD
Tel: 07927-937773

The Shrewsbury 24 Campaign is delighted to announce that after 15 years we have finally achieved victory

On the 3 and 4 February 2021 three appeal court judges heard the appeals of the pickets in the Royal Courts of Justice in London. Convicted pickets Terry Renshaw and John McKinsie Jones, with his wife Rita, joined Campaign Researcher and Secretary, Eileen Turnbull, Campaign Chairperson Harry Chadwick and supporters in Court 4 to view the proceedings. Terry and John said on the steps of the court, “We have waited over 47 years for this day and nothing would have stopped us attending the Royal Court of Justice in London for the hearing”.

We had to wait a further agonising six weeks after the two-day hearing for the appeal court judges to hand down their judgement. On the 23rd March 2021 they held, unanimously, that the prosecution’s destruction of witness statements and the withholding of that information from the defence denied the pickets a fair trial. The convictions therefore could not be allowed to stand.

The Campaign had instructed Bindmans solicitors, the leading Human Rights lawyers. Our legal team was headed by Danny Friedman QC of Matrix Chambers and junior counsel Ben Newton of Doughty Street. Jamie Potter and Kate Goodman, senior partners at Bindmans, were also in attendance.

Danny was on his feet for the whole of the first day, addressing the three judges, headed by the Vice President of the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Fulford. All the evidence relied upon by the pickets at the hearing was obtained by the Campaign’s researcher, Eileen Turnbull, over a period of 12 years.

Grounds of appeal

The pickets’ appeal was based upon two grounds, each of which sought to show that the pickets were denied a fair trial:

- 1. Original handwritten witness statements had been destroyed by the police and this fact was had not been made known to the defence counsel or the court.**

Shortly before the first trial at Shrewsbury Crown Court in October 1973 the police had told the prosecution team that they had destroyed a number of original witness statements:

“So that Counsel would be aware it was mentioned that not all original hand written statements were still in existence, some having been destroyed after a fresh statement had been obtained. In most cases the first statement was taken before photographs were available for witnesses and before the Officers taking the statements knew what we were trying to prove.”

This denied the pickets' lawyers the opportunity of questioning witnesses about their earlier recollection of people and events on the building sites visited by the pickets. This was a crucial issue as the case hinged upon identification of specific pickets carrying out specific acts.

2. **A highly prejudicial documentary, *Red Under the Bed*, was broadcast on ITV halfway through the first trial. A covert agency within the Foreign Office known as the Information Research Department made a significant contribution to the contents of the film.**

The judge failed to ask jury members if they had seen the programme. If they had, he should have taken further action, which may have included discharging the jury.

Danny Friedman QC gave an excellent account of our case in court, which was recognised by *The Lawyer* magazine when they named him Barrister of the Week for his outstanding presentation of the case. Jamie Potter of Bindmans who had acted for the pickets and Campaign was named Lawyer of the Week in *The Times*.

All convictions of all pickets in all three trials were quashed

The convictions of all the pickets at all three trials in 1973-74 were quashed. This is a magnificent victory for the pickets and the whole of the trade union and labour movement. The pickets and the Shrewsbury 24 Campaign are absolutely overjoyed.

The families of the pickets speak about the dreadful times that they went through in 1973-74 when the media demonised the North Wales building workers. Six of the pickets were sent to prison for periods ranging from six months up to three years in the case of the leading picket, Des Warren. All the convicted pickets faced great hardship after the trial as many were blacklisted. They never thought that the day would come when the truth would come out and they can now hold their heads up high in their respective communities.

Our victory was won with your support – thank you

The Shrewsbury 24 Campaign and the pickets wish to thank all the 21 national trade unions, hundreds of trade union branches, trades councils, Labour Party branches and many individuals who have supported us over the years. We also had unwavering support from many past and present Labour MPs, notably Jeremy Corbyn, John McDonnell, David Anderson, Ian Lavery, Diane Abbott, Richard Burgon, Ian Mearns, Dan Carden, Ian Byrne, Grahame Morris, Andy Burnham and many others.

We would also thank other justice campaigns that have helped us even though they were working tirelessly to achieve justice, with special mention to the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign and all the Hillsborough justice campaigners – **they never gave up.**

Without this support and solidarity, we could never have succeeded.

Affiliations

As a result of our historic victory at the Court of Appeal we will no longer be seeking re-affiliations or donations from our labour movement affiliates and supporters. We greatly appreciated the contributions that we received as this enabled the pickets to fund the case over the past fifteen years. For further information please see our website or contact our Secretary, Eileen Turnbull. Details are at the top of this Information Sheet.