



Morning Star

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60p



JOHN LISTER

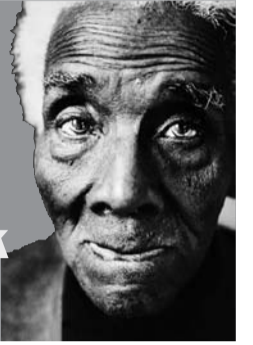
The Tories' NHS shame: p7

GATHERING MOMENTUM

The Democrats battle it out in the presidential race: p8

CRICKETING COMRADE

Exploring the work of CLR James: p9



Haw beaten up by police

POLICE thugs beat up and arrested Parliament Square peace protester Brian Haw at the weekend merely for watching a protest at Downing Street.

by JAMES TWEEDIE

Saturday's unauthorised sit-down demonstration was part of a national day of action against government proposals to extend police powers to ban protests near Parliament across the country.

The plans are contained within a government "consultation" on the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (SOCPA).

The London demonstration began with an unauthorised rally in direct defiance of the law concerning Trafalgar Square.

Civil liberties protesters then decided to "go for a stroll" around Westminster, protesting at various Whitehall ministries, Parliament Square, MI5 headquarters and New Scotland Yard, before gathering at the gates of Downing Street.

Members of the notoriously violent police territorial support group swiftly moved in to drag away around a dozen protesters who had lain down and linked arms in the road.

Mr Haw was filming the demonstration on his video camera when an officer bashed the camera, forcing it



BRUTAL: Blood streaming down Brian Haw's cheek after police smashed his video camera into his face.

into his face with such force that it cut his cheek.

"He used my camera as a weapon," Mr Haw recounted yesterday.

He attempted to report the incident with the officer in charge but was instead seized, dragged into the roadway and manhandled into a police van, arrested for being "likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress."

Mr Haw cried out: "Police brutality! Police state! Tyranny!" as two burly officers frogmarched him away.

He said that, once inside the van, officers had forced his head down and punched him in the testicles.

Protester Steve Jago tried to push through the police line in an attempt to aid Mr Haw but was himself assaulted, forced to the ground and handcuffed by four officers.

Mr Jago — described by Mr Haw as "a gentle giant" — told the Morning Star that he had been kneed and punched throughout, including two blows to the face as he was pinned to the ground.

Journalist Rikki Blue of news website Indymedia said: "At no time did I see a single act of violence towards the police from the peaceful protesters and yet police used completely disproportionate and aggressive tactics."

Mr Haw was later strip-searched "just for the purpose of humiliation and degradation" and had his camera confiscated with no legal justification given.

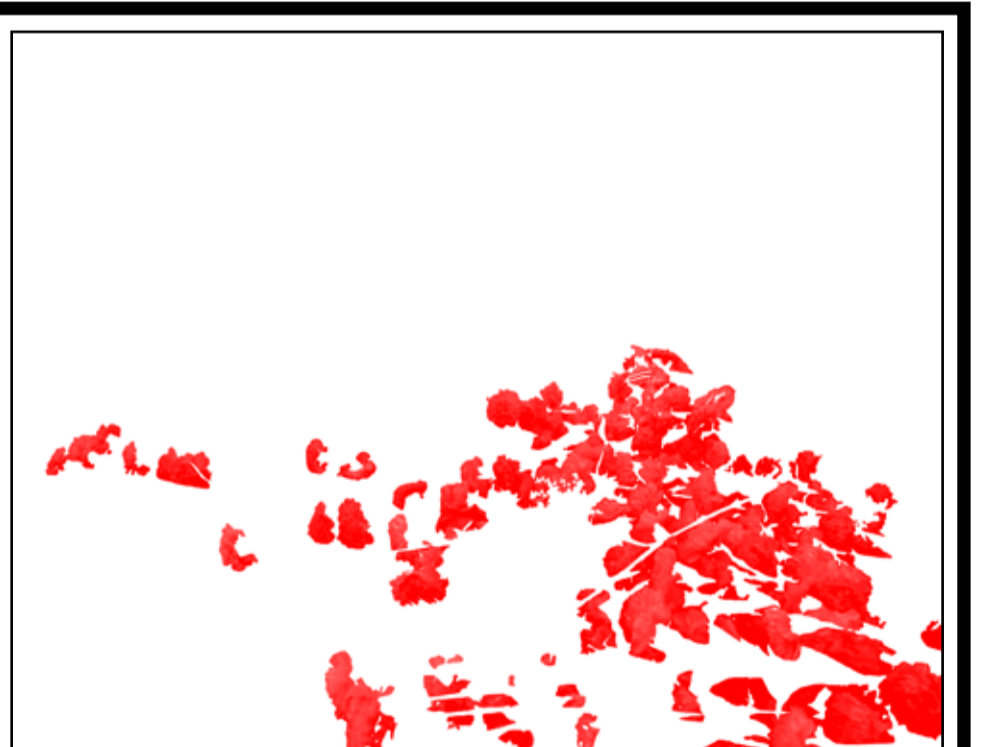
He and Mr Jago were later released from Belgravia police station on one month's bail, along with five others.

"I wouldn't call it an arrest, I'd call it a kidnap," Mr Haw stormed.

"They are fascist thugs. There's no other word for them. They are completely corrupt. They know we stand for peace.

"The irony is that I wasn't even in that demonstration and the law does not apply to me," said Mr Haw, who has won a court judgement that his continuous Parliament Square protest was exempt as it predated the SOCPA legislation. **Turn to p4**

Protester arrested while watching rally for civil liberties



RED LINE: Germans at the Friedrichsfelde cemetery beside the graves of Communist Party founders Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, who were murdered by far-right militia on January 15 1919 during a failed uprising. The rally brought together 50 left groups under the slogan: "Nothing and nobody is forgotten, rise and resist."

8,000 turn out in memory of German socialist heroes