

Anti-Fascist Action

On Monday 13 September after a week-long trial at Wood Green Crown Court 3 members of Anti-Fascist Action were found guilty of violent disorder and Grievous Bodily Harm with intent. They were jailed for a total of 11 years. The charges arose from an incident involving one Nicholas 'Nicci' Crane after the Bloody Sunday commemoration in Kilburn last year.

Crane, a 6ft heavily tattooed skinhead, was spotted in the vicinity as the march (often a target for fascists in the past) was breaking up. Suspecting some skullduggery, he was challenged by some anti-fascists leaving the area. After a brief scuffle, Crane ran off. Shortly after, he was again spotted in the back of a taxi, heading back into the area. Once again he was confronted and this time a serious fight broke out which resulted in Crane being knocked unconscious. All 3 were immediately arrested.

Crane's career as a neo-nazi organiser stretches back to 1978 when he led an attack by 200 skinheads on the Asian community around Brick Lane. In 1980 Crane was branded as 'worse than an animal' by a judge at the Old Bailey when sentencing him to 12 months for an unprovoked attack with a bottle on a black family waiting at a bus stop. During the 1980s he did another 4½ years for politically motivated and violence related offences.

In between prison terms he was a member of the British Movement's Leader Guard, a National Front activist, and most recently a leading spirit and head of security for the neo-nazi music group Blood and Honour.

Nobody, least of all the prisoners, would deny that the offence was political - what is equally clear is that the verdict and particularly the sentence were political as well. Throughout history to be effective in fighting the fascists usually means breaking the law and always means rejecting the power and legitimacy of the forces of law and order. Thus the actions of the anti-fascist street fighters will always be seen to be dangerously radical in the eyes of the state, especially when it involves a form of behaviour, i.e. physical violence, which the dominant culture avoids and condemns in everyday life on the part of everyone except itself.

In her summing up the judge, who was Jewish, stated that in her opinion, the actions of the anti-fascist defendants did most damage to the rule of law and as a consequence carried the greater potential threat to the status quo. "Though we might find the political attitudes of Mr Crane repellant, nevertheless it is your actions that will cause them to win and then we have anarchy."

So in the same week as a pimp got 6 years for beating a woman with a hammer, David, a 21 year old Irish building worker with a clean record, was sent to prison for 3 years, Tony, 22, a hospital porter, and Mark, 24 and unemployed, got 4 years apiece.

There is no legal basis for appeal and because of the nature of the offence, little likelihood of parole.

The prisoners made no apology for their actions then nor do they do so now. What they do need, and we on their behalf ask, is for your support, political, moral and financial. Financial support in cases of this kind is of course mandatory and something that at the end of the day we in Anti-Fascist Action guarantee. All donations to help them or their family are gratefully received.

What is perhaps even more important in the long run, with the fascists once again limbering up across Europe, is that they receive your political support; are seen to get it, and that you or your organisation are seen to be willing to give it.

London Anti-Fascist Action, BM 1734, London WC1N 3XX



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THREE ANTI-FASCISTS have been sentenced to a total of eleven years imprisonment following fight with leading fascist Nick Crane. To help support them and any others who are fined or imprisoned due to anti-fascist activities Anti-Fascist Action is setting up a defence fund. We urge readers to contribute to it and send messages of solidarity to:

Tony, Mark and David via
AFA BM 1734 London WC1N 3X

BIRTHDAYS

TONY: 13th April

DAVID: 28th January

MARK: 7th December



Political organisations £25.00 per year
Trade union branches £20.00 per year
Waged individuals £5.00 per year
Unwaged individuals £1.00 per year