

# NATIONAL LOBBY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

October 2005

*"The real threat to the life of the nation, in the sense of a people living in accordance with its traditional laws and political values, comes not from terrorism but from laws such as these."*

Law Lord Hoffman, 18 December 2004

## *Why we need to lobby:*

In October Parliament will vote on new 'anti-terror' powers, all of which should be opposed. These would create new crimes such as statements which 'incite' or 'glorify' terrorism, as well as extend detention without charge to 3 months.

Those proposals extend earlier attacks on human rights and civil liberties. Under the so-called 'war on terror', the UK government has waged illegal wars abroad and systematically terrorised migrant and Muslim communities at home. 'Anti-terror' laws have introduced punishment without trial. They have broadened the definition of terrorism to include normal political activities. They authorize stop-and-searches and even detention in the name of 'suspicion' or 'association' with terrorism. There is no credible evidence that the 'anti-terror' laws have made our lives safer; rather, these laws feed on and perpetuate a politics of fear. Now the government proposes to introduce even more extreme powers.

The Campaign Against Criminalising Communities (CAMPACC) is organizing a national constituency lobby for human rights and civil liberties – against the new proposed 'anti-terror' powers. The lobby is being supported by Scotland Against Criminalising Communities. We aim to mobilise local organisations and communities to hold MPs accountable for their stance.

## *What we want:*

- a) Stop the politics of fear and state culture of 'suspicion'.
- b) End 'control orders', which impose punishment without trial.
- c) No acceptance of evidence obtained through torture under any conditions.
- d) No extradition of suspects to USA, Algeria and other countries where human rights and freedom from torture are not guaranteed.
- e) Stop criminalising Muslim, refugee and minority communities under the anti-terror laws.
- f) No bans on political organisations and or crimes of 'association' with them.
- g) No further powers that erode civil liberties.

## *What we should demand of MPs:*

MPs should give a clear indication about their position towards the government's new proposals.

We should demand a public undertaking from each MP not to vote for renewal or extension of 'anti-terror' laws at any stage when such legislation comes before the House of Commons.

## *What you can do:*

- 1) Send your MP an email message or fax through <http://www.faxyourmp.org.uk/>
- 2) Take an active part in the lobby. Book an appointment to see your MP in October or any time convenient..
- 3) Inform us about the time and place of any meeting in your constituency, with your contact details, so that this information can be posted on our website.  
The **UK national** email address for the lobby is **humanrightslobby@yahoo.co.uk**  
Please copy information about about activities **in Scotland** to **humanrightslobby@sacc.org.uk**
- 4) Raise the human rights and civil liberties issues that most concern you.
- 5) Publicise the lobby (in your community, workplace, party, trade union, peace group, women's group, etc.) and ask others to join you for the lobby.
- 6) See our call and the Briefing Document on our website to help you make your case.
- 7) Join SACC's e-mail list to keep up with latest legal and political developments.  
– sign-up box on our website