

Defend the right to protest against war

This anti-war group/ union branch notes:

1. Seven anti-war protesters were arrested in Whitehall on 31st October during a peaceful “Halloween” demonstration organised by the Stop the War Coalition. The arrests were made after the demonstrators dispersed.
2. The protesters have been charged with a range of public order offences, including violent disorder – an offence which carries a sentence of up to five years imprisonment.
3. That all the protesters strongly deny the charges.

This anti-war group/ union branch believes:

1. That we must defend the right to protest – especially against the barbarism of continued sanctions against Iraq, which the UN estimates costs 90,000 lives every year and Bush and Blair” threats of war.
2. That arrests and charges such as these, of protesters on peaceful demonstrations, are draconian and aim to deter people from protesting in the future.
3. That the arrests and prosecutions of these peaceful demonstrators are made at the behest of the very people who determined to prosecute a bloody and destructive war.

This anti-war group/union branch resolves:

1. To support the call for all charges to be dropped.
2. To circulate the enclosed petition supporting the protesters.
3. To support the “Right to Protest” Defence Campaign of those arrested, co-ordinated by the Stop the War Coalition.
4. To send a donation of £..... to the campaign, to help towards legal costs and publicity.
5. To send delegates and union banner, where possible, to any protests called by the Stop the War Coalition in support of the protesters.

Send a message to righttoprotest@hotmail.com to let us know that you’ve passed this motion. And please send donations to Stop the War coalition, PO Box 3739, London E5 8EJ