## Long Time cont. from page 44

other two were not exonerated until 2001, after more than 30 years of imprisonment.<sup>8</sup>

Scotland Yard and others involved in the prosecution of Pinfold and MacKenney likewise remained silent and allowed the horrific misjustice of their conviction to occur. Furthermore, during the intervening two decades while they fought for their freedom, not a single one of the police and prosecutors who knew the truth bothered to exert the effort to pick-up a telephone and dial a few numbers to tip-off the men's lawyers of the concealed evidence undermining the soundness of their convictions.

At a minimum the tragedy that befell Terry Pinfold and Harry MacKenney highlights the inability to consider any conviction safe that hinges on the testimony of a sole prosecution witness, who like Bruce Childs may not be telling the truth, but simply saying what is necessary to receive an expected reward from the prosecution.9

Endnotes and sources:

1 The Ordeal of Terry Pinfold, The Guardian, July 14, 2003. See also, Lifer's 23-year fight to clear his name, Hugh Muir, The Guardian, London UK, October 27, 2003

2 Murder victim 'was alive' BBC News, October 28, 2003.

3 Id. See also, The Ordeal of Terry Pinfold, The Guardian, July 14, 2003.

4 Murder case pair convicted on word of liar are cleared, Hugh Muir, *The Guardian*, October 31, 2003. 5 £1m claim by two men jailed for 23 years on word of pathological liar, Hugh Muir, The Guardian, UK, December 16, 2003.

6 It has not been reported since the men's trial in 1980, that any evidence has turned up that any of the six missing people they were tried for playing a part in killing, was actually murdered by anyone. It has been reported that thousands of people yearly in the UK are known to "disappear" by moving and changing their name in an effort to start a new life.

7 See e.g., Four Men Exonerated of 1965 Murder After FBI Frame-up is Exposed, Justice: Denied, Vol. 1, Issue; Update On the FBI's Frame-up of Four Innocent Men in Boston, Justice: Denied, Vol. 2, Issue 8; and, FBI's Legacy of Shame, Justice: Denied, Issue 27, p. 24

8 Id

For an explanation of this process see e.g., Prosecu-tors Are Master Framers, *Justice:Denied*, Vol. 1, No. 9; Prosecutorial Lawlessness is its Real Name, Justice:Denied, Vol. 1, No. 6; and, The Ring of Truth, Justice:Denied, Vol. 1, No. 7.

## Justice: Denied Disclaimer

Justice: Denied provides a forum for people who can make a credible claim of innocence, but who are not yet exonerated, to publicize their plight. Justice: Denied strives to provide sufficient information so that the reader can make a general assessment about a person's claim of innocence. However unless specifically stated, Justice: De*nied* does not take a position concerning a person's claim of innocence.

## **British P. M. Tony Blair Apologizes To Guildford** Four and Maguire Seven

n 1975 four alleged Irish Republican Army operatives were convicted of participating in the 1974 bombing of a pub in Guildford, England that killed five people. All four were physically tortured into signing a confession that didn't mesh with the facts of the crime. Although there was no physical evidence or a single witness tying them to the crime, their jurors relied on the confessions to find them guilty. All four were sentenced to life in prison, and the judge openly wondered why they weren't charged with treason so that he could have sentenced them to death.

The four defendants became known as the Guildford Four, and in 1989 their convictions were quashed and they were released after 15 years of wrongful imprisonment. Gerry Conlon's autobiographical account of their ordeal served as the basis for the 1993 movie, In the Name of the Father, that starred Daniel Day Lewis as Conlon and Emma Thompson as the person most responsible for their exoneration - attorney Gareth Pierce. (See the review of In the Name of the Father, in Justice: Denied, Vol. 2, Issue 4.)

In 1976 seven people were convicted of "handling explosives" involved in a 1974 pub bombing in Woolwich, England that killed two people. The defendants became known as the Maguire Seven, because five were members of the Maguire family — and the other two were an aunt of Gerry Conlon and his ailing father, Guiseppe. The only evidence of their alleged guilt was supposed traces of nitroglycerin detected on their hands by a swab test. They all protested their innocence, but were convicted and given stiff prison terms.

By 1991 the nitroglycerin evidence used to convict the Maguire Seven had been discredited and their convictions were

quashed. However, by then all of them had completed their sentences except for Guiseppe Conlon, who died in prison in 1980.

Gerry Conlon and others have been demanding that British Prime Minister Tony Blair apologize on behalf of the British government for the "dreadful miscarriages of justice" committed by the British government.

On February 9, 2005 Blair officially apologized to the eleven people wrongly convicted of the 1974 bombings. Blair said in a nationally televised address:

"The Guildford and Woolwich bombings killed seven people and injured over 100. Their loss, the loss suffered by their families, will never go away. But it serves no one for the wrong people to be convicted for such an awful crime.

It is a matter of great regret when anyone suffers a miscarriage of justice. I recognize the trauma that the conviction caused the Conlon and Maguire families and the stigma which wrongly attaches to them to this day.

I am very sorry that they were subject to such an ordeal and such an injustice. That's why I am making this apology today. They deserve to be completely and publicly exonerated."<sup>1</sup>

Although it was a bold admission by the British government, many people, including Paddy Joe Hill — one of the Birmingham Six who were wrongly convicted of two 1975 Birmingham bombings and exonerated in 1991 after 16 years of imprisonment — criticized Blair for not also apologizing to the many other people wrongly convicted in Britain.

Endnotes:

1 Blair Apologizes to Wrongly Convicted Men, The

*Guardian* (UK), February 9, 2005. 2 Comment from Paddy Joe Hill – One of the Birmingham Six wrongly convicted in 1975 of an IRA bombing and exonerated in 1991, Miscarriages of JusticeUK (MOJUK) News Service, February 10, 2005.

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