

Simon Jones Memorial Campaign

c/o PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX
01273 685913

PRESS RELEASE

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SHOREHAM DOCK SHUT DOWN IN PROTEST AT DEATH OF SIMON JONES

At 10am this morning, the Shoreham dock of Euromin Ltd was occupied and forced to shut down by 40 people on what would have been Simon Jones' 25th birthday. Protesters included Simon's friends from Brighton, people involved with *Justice?* and *Reclaim the Streets*, campaigns Simon was very involved in supporting, and a representative of the Liverpool dockers.

Simon died on 24th April 1998, his first day at work with Euromin. Emma Aynsley, who was Simon's girlfriend at the time of his death and took part in the occupation, says, "Simon had no experience of working inside a ship and should never have been allowed to work there. He was doing one of the most dangerous jobs in the country, for about £5 per hour, with no training whatsoever. It was like asking someone without a driving licence to drive an articulated lorry."

The protesters climbed 100 feet high lighting rigs to drop enormous banners reading 'Simon Jones RIP' and 'Casualisation kills'. A wreath was laid in memory of Simon. Everyone wore purple ribbons tied in a knot, the traditional sign of 'not forgetting' people killed at work. The protesters only left after Euromin were forced to stop all work for the day and promise the police that they would pay their casual workforce full pay for the day.

Joe Steele of the Simon Jones Defence Campaign says, "Simon Jones was killed by casualisation – he was unskilled, untrained, casual labour doing a skilled job for poverty pay. This government says it is tough on crime, but when it comes to holding cowboy companies like Euromin to account for the deaths of its workers it's a very different story. We will be continuing this campaign until those responsible for Simon's death are held accountable".

Simon's family, who are spending the day together at home, have given their support to the campaign. Anne Jones, Simon's mother, says, "Some employers seem to treat their workers like machinery. They're not. They have families and friends who are torn apart when things like this happen to them. The law must be enforced to stop more deaths like this in the future."

Bob Ritchie of the Liverpool dockers, who took part in the protest, says, "We went on strike for two years to prevent deaths like this, which are inevitable with an untrained, casual workforce. Before casualisation, this sort of thing would never have happened. If these companies are allowed to get away with employing casual staff to do skilled jobs the death toll will just keep rising".

This week's Big Issue has a 1,000 word article giving the background to Simon's death. A meeting will be held this evening to further highlight the case. For more detail phone (01273) 685913 or, on 2nd September only, 0403 452162.