

On Friday 12 August 2011 Tory-controlled Wandsworth council in London issued a press release which said: "A council tenant whose son has appeared in court charged in connection with Monday night's disturbances in Clapham Junction will today (Friday) be served with an eviction notice."

It is clear that other local authorities including Southwark, Greenwich, Hammersmith & Fulham and Salford, as well as housing associations, are queuing up to begin proceedings against their tenants too.

In Wandsworth, the notice beginning eviction proceedings has been served on a lone parent - she is the tenant. The young person accused is 18 years of age and is not the tenant, although he lives at the property.

The press release from Wandsworth council came within 24 hours of the Con-Dem government giving the green light to this kind of legal action. They don't spell out where they think these tenants and their children will end up.

Eric Pickles, the Communities minister, has said he will make sure they are deemed 'intentionally homeless' and will therefore be unable to get any further assistance.

The Con-Dem government has social housing in its sights for possible plans of privatisation, it has plans for short-term tenancies for people in social housing, plans to move people out who they deem to be earning 'too much' and plans to cut benefits for tenants they

believe are 'under-occupying'. If you live in social housing and you thought your home was 'yours' watch out; the government has other ideas. People's lives can be made a misery by anti-social behaviour and by riots. But the government is cynically using this misery to undermine social housing further, not to resolve the problems.

Campaign Against Riot Evictions

We believe that evicting rioters from their council homes will create more problems than it will resolve. It is an unjust measure as the convicted will be subject to double-punishment, one from the courts and a second from their local council. This will devastate both families and communities and is not a viable long-term solution to the issue of social unrest.

Hackney community
law centre



Contact: paul@hclc.org.uk

PUBLIC MEETING

Campaign Against Riot Evictions

Speakers:

Liz Davies (Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers)

Paul Kershaw (Unite Union Branch 1/1111)

April Ashley (Southwark Unison Union Branch, personal capacity)

Monday, 24th October 2011 – 7.30pm
at Garden Court Chambers,
57-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LJ



This meeting is organised by
Hackney Community Law Centre.
& **Unite Housing Workers Branch 1/1111**