

Who are we?

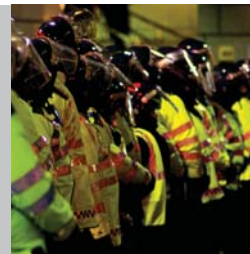
The families and friends of Sunderland fans caught up in an incident at Newcastle Central station returning from a pre-season friendly in Scotland on the evening of Saturday 8 August 2009. Four fans ended up in hospital with injuries caused by police dogs and batons.

Why are we campaigning?

We believe Northumbria Police over-reacted. Supporters have been injured when not posing a threat to themselves, others or the police. That's inexcusable. The police have labelled many fans returning on the special train as thugs and hooligans. Some have had their pictures printed by local media. These fans face public humiliation and possibly even losing their jobs.

We say the accusations made by Northumbria Police don't add up and that the subsequent investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) was too quick and incomplete. **WE WANT THE TRUTH.**

CENTRAL STATION **SUNDERLAND FANS WANT THE TRUTH**



PTO...

The police say:

- An announcement at the Hearts game said the train was going back to “the Northeast”
- “Fans arrived at the station intent on (pre-arranged) violence”. About 40 fans started kicking and punching injuring police dogs
- No supporters were injured but police dogs were. Northumbria Police “dogs have never faced that level of assault before”
- The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is happy for local police to investigate the incident as the police action was “understandable, proportionate and justifiable”

We say:

- The tannoy announcement gave “Sunderland” as the destination
- The police instigated the violence by setting police dogs on supporters and aiming baton blows at the head
- Three fans were hospitalised with head wounds, another with dog bites. No police dogs received veterinary treatment
- No eye-witnesses were interviewed before the IPCC rushed to judgement and by clearing the police’s actions the IPCC have already prejudiced the results of an inquiry

WERE YOU THERE? We would like to hear from any fans caught up in this incident – your identity and anything you tell us will be totally confidential

SUPPORT SUNDERLAND FANS: To find out more about this incident visit the Football Supporters’ Federation website at www.fsf.org.uk/sunderlandfans

PHONE US

0191 551 0256

EMAIL

info@fsf.org.uk

VISIT

www.fsf.org.uk/sunderlandfans

This leaflet is funded by the Football Supporters’ Federation – a voluntary and democratic organisation that campaigns on behalf of football supporters with over 170,000 members.



**WATCHING FOOTBALL
IS NOT A CRIME!**