

DEFEND OUR LAWYERS
PUBLIC MEETING 20 OCTOBER 2026:
DEFENDING DISSENT
DEFEND RAJIV MENON KC

Unison General Secretary, Andrea Egan, Baroness Helen Kennedy KC, Pragna Patel (Director Project Resist and formerly Director Southall Black Sisters), Friends of the Earth, Amnesty International and Liberty speak in support of Rajiv Menon KC on 20 October 2026, 6pm, Unison Centre, 130 Euston Road, London NW1 2AY.

Rajiv Menon KC is a highly respected and experienced barrister with a long record in fearlessly representing individuals subject to miscarriages of justice and in holding the state to account for abuse of power. His clients have included families of the Hillsborough victims and those spied on by the police in the Undercover Police Inquiry.

He faces contempt of court proceedings for his closing speech in the Filton 6 trial, January 2026. The case raises concerns about the right to a free and fair trial and the ability of lawyers to fearlessly defend those who protest and campaign. It also has wider implications. Many of the rights exercised by trade union and campaigns were won through protest, organising, trade union action and public campaigning. This meeting will examine the wider threat to our freedoms.

Journalists and media representatives are welcome to attend. It would be appreciated if they could book in advance. For further details, phone Kamaljeet Jandu on 07956 237178.

Notes:

- The Judge in the Filton 6 trial, Mr Justice Johnson, decided on 22 June that there was a prima facie case of contempt to answer. On 29 June Mr Justice Nicklin instigated contempt proceedings. Rajiv has brought an appeal against the decisions of Johnson J and Nicklin J (and subsequent orders made by the designated trial Judge Cheema-Grubb J). The date for the Court of Appeal hearing is not yet known.
- The prosecution alleges that he breached the trial judge's ruling by referring to the principle of jury equity (also known as jury nullification) during his closing speech. Rajiv Menon KC denies breaching the judge's order.
- The prosecution of a barrister for the contents of a closing speech to a jury is widely described by supporters as unprecedented and has prompted concerns that it may have a chilling effect on criminal defence advocacy. It is argued that, where a judge believes counsel has breached a court order, there are alternative mechanisms available to address the issue, and that none of those have been pursued in this case.

- Many members of the legal profession and others have expressed concern about what they regard as an unprecedented and heavy-handed course of action.
- Rajiv was interviewed by Democracy Now on 17 August 2026, his interview is here: [Exclusive: Palestine Action Lawyer Rajiv Menon Breaks Silence on Facing Contempt Charges in U.K.](#) His interview with the Observer on 23 August 2026 is here: [‘A chilling effect’: Palestine Action barrister speaks out.....](#) More information on Rajiv’s case is at [Garden Court Chambers](#).

13 October 2026