

FIGHT RACISM

ANWAR DITTA - APPEAL REJECTED

Writing of Anwar Ditta's fight to bring her three children home from Pakistan, we said in *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!* 4 that:

'The British state is guided neither by human consideration nor by concern for legal formalities. It has only one aim and that is to crush the resistance of the oppressed.'

The truth of this was proved on Wednesday 30 July, when the adjudicator at the Manchester Immigration Court cold-bloodedly rejected Anwar's appeal for her children.

For four years the Home Office has denied Anwar Ditta and her husband the right to be united with their children on the 'grounds' that 'the couple had not established that they were the parents of the children'. These 'grounds' are nothing more than a corrupt, hypocritical and racist legal cover-up for breaking up the family. There can be few better examples of barbaric imperialist legality and of the utterly vile and racist immigration courts, than that demonstrated on Wednesday 30 July. Anwar Ditta had all the evidence necessary to refute the Home Office's lies. Yet the adjudicator, that paid agent of British imperialism, contemptibly **case aside** this evidence. A vast amount of documentary evidence was simply dismissed for being 'related mostly to peripheral matters'. Indeed, for imperialism, relations of black parents and children are only 'peripheral matters' of no importance. What concerns imperialism is ensuring the continued oppression of black people and the continued exploitation of their labour. Everything else, family life, democratic rights are 'peripheral matters'. The adjudicator dismissed birth and marriage certificates with the racist slur that they were only 'the usual local' ones. Not being rubber-

stamped by British imperialism they were not accepted as evidence.

Having cast aside the evidence the adjudicator turned on the parents and witnesses with a barrage of vicious racist slander and character assassination. Two examples are sufficient to demonstrate this. He stated:

'... I could not accept that Anwar Ditta and Hamida Rafiq (Anwar's sister) were simple Asian village women... they... were far more westernised and sophisticated in their demeanour than the average member of the immigrant community.'

And referring to Anwar's sister:

'The impression given by her was adversely affected by her scarcely concealed hostility to not only the proceedings in general but also to the sponsor's representative. Her frequent statements that she was illiterate and had no education became parrot-like.'

Such is a clear example of imperialist British justice. Black people who stand up and fight for their rights have their evidence dismissed, are subjected to vicious racist personal trials, and their appeal is rejected.

Political police

The outcome of the appeal has not altered Anwar Ditta's and the Anwar Ditta Defence Committee's determination to continue the struggle. But it has become clearer than ever that only a revolutionary campaign directed against the British state and its immigration controls, a campaign based on the black community and the working class movement, can win justice for Anwar Ditta's family. It is in response to the prospect of such a campaign that the Rochdale police, immediately after the appeal result, once again began their campaign of political intimidation. At a successful meeting to denounce the appeal result and intensify the campaign, two plain clothes police attended to spy on the meeting and gather information about the campaign. The meeting voted unanimously to expel them as agents of the British state and as instruments of oppression. Following this, the police visited Anwar's home to protest at the ADDC leaflet for its demonstration of 6 September. They 'objected' to the leaflet's exposure of the racist role of the police in oppressing black people, and sought permission to attend the ADDC meeting!

In fighting for her right to be united with her children Anwar Ditta is also facing attacks from unidentified racist thugs. She has received letters full of racist abuse and on 27 August racist thugs smashed her car window.

False Friends

The adjudicator's rejection of Anwar Ditta's appeal, the role of the Home Office, the harassment by the Rochdale police and attacks by racist thugs are all part of a systematic attempt to try and destroy the revolutionary campaign to bring Anwar's children home. In this aim the state has been able to rely on the opportunists within the Anwar Ditta Defence Committee,

who since the appeal result was announced have shown their worst and most despicable features. The Manchester Law Centre whose cowardly role was exposed in the last issue of **FRFI**, on finding themselves dismissed by Anwar Ditta initially **refused** to return all her documents thus delaying the submission for leave to lodge a further appeal. Only the threat of occupying the Law Centre forced them to return the documents. When Anwar Ditta and her husband decided to expel the Law Centre and the CRE from the Defence Committee for being 'spies of the Home Office', the ANL, SWP and Rochdale Labour Party walked out of the Defence Committee... in solidarity with the agents of the British imperialist state!

It is against these opportunists, who at decisive moments have deserted to the side of the agents of the state, that the ADDC has had to wage consistent battles – battles to ensure the publication of principled anti-racist leaflets, to win the right for anti-imperialists such as the North of England Irish Prisoners Committee to speak at demonstrations. Yet Socialist Challenge, who have **never** been to a single Defence Committee meeting, in keeping with its own opportunist and compromising nature, blamed the adjudicator's decision on 'internal conflicts' within the ADDC. How characteristic of the petit bourgeois socialists – British imperialism's racist act is blamed on the revolutionaries who have consistently fought imperialism and its paid agents – the CRE and the Law Centre!

The campaign continues. To carry on its work the ADDC urgently needs funds. Cheques and Postal Orders to:

**Anwar Ditta Defence Committee,
127 Crawford Street,
Rochdale**

Eddie Abrahams