

IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

ANWAR DITTA: BLACK FAMILY DIVIDED

Britain's immigration laws are used not only to keep out and deport black people, but also to break up black families. The case of Mrs Anwar Ditta and her family shows the inherent racism and the inhumanity of the immigration laws.

Mrs Ditta is 25 years old, she was born in Birmingham and brought up in Rochdale. She married her husband Mr Shuja Ud Din in Pakistan, in 1968. While living in Pakistan Mrs Ditta had three children; Karan Shuja (now 9), Imran Shuja (now 7) and Saaima Shuja (now 6). In 1975 Mrs Ditta and her husband came to live in England. They left their three children in Pakistan in the care of Mr Ud Din's parents until they had settled down in Rochdale. After getting a job and buying a house they sent for their three children, but entry was refused on the grounds that 'the couple had not established that they were the parents of the three children'.

The evidence that Mrs Ditta has, birth certificates, medical records, photographs, etc shows conclusively that she is the mother of the three children. The evidence is so conclusive, in fact, that solicitors who have looked at the case have said that there is nothing for them to do except present the evidence at the appeal. When Mrs Ditta phoned the Home Office to see how the appeal was progressing she was told to ring back in 1980 or 1981.

The Home Office has put up every possible obstacle to block the entry of Mrs Ditta's children. As Mrs Ditta said, 'there are plenty of people in Britain who could prove they were my children, but no-one asked'. Mrs Ditta offered to pay the expenses of an investigator to fly to Pakistan to prove they were her children, but the Home Office refused. That is in sharp contrast to the use of investigators by the

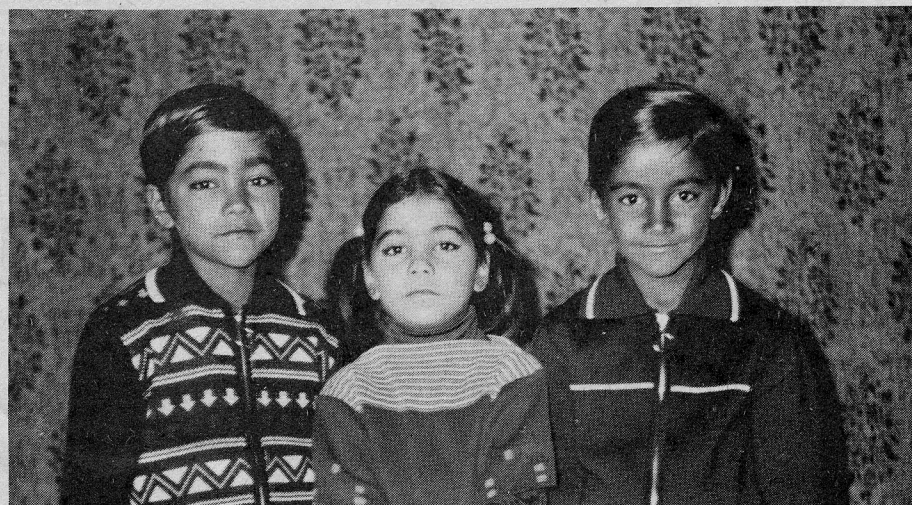
Home Office in cases where the right to enter or stay in Britain is refused.

Mrs Ditta has also suggested that herself, her husband and her four children, three in Pakistan and Samera Shuja (3½) born in Britain, should be subjected to a blood test, to prove that they are her children. The Home Office has refused this request, an official said 'there's no need to go that far'. That is not what they said in the case of Afzal and Shemin Mohammed, husband and wife from Whitby. The Home Office used blood tests to try and prove Afzal Mohammed was not the father of his two children, that he had engaged in a marriage of convenience and that he should be deported. Because of the large amount of public support, Afzal Mohammed received, the Home Office has so far failed to deport him, but the case shows quite clearly the lengths the British state will go to deport someone who is black. The case of Mrs Ditta shows how the same laws and procedures are used to keep out someone who is black.

Mrs Ditta told us how she was treated by the immigration officer of Manchester airport. She had to endure an interview of over 5 hours and from the start he took the attitude that Mrs Ditta was not the mother of the children. As Mrs Ditta put it, his attitude was 'very rude' and he asked 'awful questions'. Mrs Ditta's husband was moved to vow on the Koran that they were the parents of the children, he said 'this is the first time in my life that I'm going to swear on the Koran!'.

Mr Ud Din is forced to work seven days a week to send clothes and regular monthly payments to Pakistan. Their telephone bill came to over £300 with calls to Pakistan to check up on their children. As Mrs Ditta says, 'nobody can work seven days a week for other people's children'.

The blatantly racist way Mrs Ditta and her children have been treated makes sharp



The Ditta children excluded from Britain.

contrast to the case of Mrs Shirley Webb. Mrs Webb was a British mother of four who was deserted by her South African husband, after a personal appeal to Mrs Thatcher she was allowed to enter the country with her children. Mrs Ditta made a personal appeal to Mrs Thatcher and received the reply 'Your letter is receiving attention'.

The difference between Mrs Webb and Mrs Ditta is that Mrs Webb is white and Mrs Ditta is black.

A Defence Committee has now been set up to fight the case of Anwar Ditta. The committee includes Anwar Ditta, Rochdale Asian Womens Group, **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** and other individuals.

It has planned the following activities:

Street Meetings in York Street, Rochdale, every Saturday at 10.30am.

Public Meeting Tuesday 19 February, 7.30pm. Champness Hall, Drake Street, Rochdale.

Benefit Friday 1 February 7.30pm Whitworth Civic Hall, Rochdale.

A **demonstration** is provisionally fixed for Saturday 1 March in Rochdale.

For details contact: Anwar Ditta Defence Committee, c/o Rochdale and District CRE, Champness Hall, Drake Street, Rochdale.

RCG Public Meetings Fight Racism! Smash Immigration Controls!

Edinburgh

Tuesday 12 February, 7.30pm
Trades Council, Picardy Place,
Edinburgh

Glasgow

Wednesday 13 February, 7.30pm
City Halls, Candleriggs,
Glasgow

BRADFORD ASIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

**is organising a march against racism.
The march will go from Bradford to
London and will take place in the
summer, 1980.**

**For further details contact
BAYM, 266 Lumb Lane
Bradford 8**