

# IMMIGRATION LAWS

## ANWAR DITTA CAMPAIGN GROWS

In FRFI No2 we reported on the case of Mrs Anwar Ditta. 25 year old Anwar Ditta was born in Birmingham and brought up in Rochdale. In 1968 she married Mr Shuja Ud Din in Pakistan. They had three children. In 1975 Mrs Ditta and her husband came to Britain to live. After settling in, getting a job and buying a house, they sent for their children to join them in Britain. But entry was refused to Mrs Ditta's children. Refused by the racist British immigration authorities. A Defence Campaign was set up in December 1979 involving Anwar Ditta, the Rochdale Asian Women's Group, supporters of FRFI and various individuals.

Week in, week out, the Defence Campaign has been out in the streets of Rochdale, leafletting, picketing, and gathering 3000 signatures for a petition demanding the immediate entry of Anwar's children. This has been done not only in the busy shopping centre but also door-to-door throughout the Asian areas in the town. The Campaign has been building up to a major march through Rochdale town centre on 1 March.

The 3000 signatures are testimony to the success that the campaign has had in publicising Anwar Ditta's case. Two very effective pickets have been held - one on the Rochdale Tory party offices and one outside Manchester Town Hall, where Timothy Raison, Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office, was addressing a meeting. It was here that Anwar Ditta handed in the petition.

The Defence Campaign is well aware that there is nothing exceptional about the Anwar Ditta case. Black families up and down the country are suffering the same racist cruelty as they struggle to re-unite their families; the same bland lies, the same casual indifference to their fate. They know that British imperialism will do everything in its power to prevent them from re-uniting their families in order to drive them out of the country. It must be sickening for them to hear the cant of ruling class politicians who declare their 'opposition' to repatriation! Gias Uddin, whose case was reported in FRFI No1, has since been booted out of 'democratic' Britain. Mohammed Ghalib committed suicide when he learnt he, his brother and his mother were not to be allowed to join his father, Mohammed Fazal in Rochdale. We found three different cases of families divided by the immigration laws in just five streets in Rochdale alone! How many are there throughout Britain?

Victory for Anwar Ditta will be victory for all black families suffering under the racist immigration controls throughout Britain.

### DEMONSTRATION

The angry 400 strong demonstration assembled in an Asian area of Rochdale on Saturday 1 March to demand that Anwar Ditta's children be brought home. The Asian Youth Movement (Bradford), Rochdale Asian Women's Group, Bolton Asian Youth Organisation, AWAS, Friends of Nasira Begum, Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, RCG Manchester, RCG Leeds, Rochdale LP Women's section, Rochdale LP, Heywood and Royton LP, and Rochdale SWP joined in the protest.

At a rally beforehand Anwar Ditta spoke angrily, leaving no doubt that her children were denied entry because she is black. Many other families face the same attacks. The AYM (Bradford) denounced Labour and Tories alike for attacks on black people. After speakers from Rochdale Asian Women's Group and Friends of Nasira Begum, and FRFI speaker pledged support for the struggles of black people in this country and the struggles of liberation movements against the common oppressor, British imperialism. The North of England Prisoners Committee stated that the struggle of black people in Britain is the same as that of the Provisional Republican Movement against British imperialism.

The demonstration, chanting *Bring Anwar's Children home - Smash immigration controls and Black people must unite - Anwar's children are her right*, drew an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response from the local Asian community, many joining in. At the end, Anwar denounced Labour and Tory governments for their racist treatment of her.

A series of street meetings starting Saturday 15 March, 11am King Street South, Rochdale, and a demonstration in Manchester on Saturday 26 April, 2 days prior to Anwar's appeal hearing are the next stage in the campaign.

## CYRIL TRIES TO CASH IN

Anwar Ditta lives in the constituency of Cyril Smith, Liberal MP. Mr Smith has declared his 'support' for Anwar Ditta's case. So far this 'support' has taken the form of refusing to support the Defence Committee, refusing to support the march in Rochdale on 1 March and refusing to ask a question in the House of Commons about Anwar Ditta's case. His sole contribution so far has been to write letters to the Home Office and attempt to claim the credit for the Home Office's promise to 'prioritise' the case. This promise was forced out of the Home Office by the Defence Committee, not Cyril Smith. He has been far too busy tabling motions in praise of James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, to bother with the

suffering of Asian families in Rochdale. James Anderton is the man who, on 8 October 1977, sent thousands of police into Hyde town centre in order to protect the racist NF thug Martin Webster on his 'free speech' march. The same James Anderton, on the same day, made secret arrangements with the NF in order to allow them to parade through Levenshulme protected by rows of police and helicopters circling overhead.

Mr Smith's only real concern is to cash in on the suffering of Asian families. Nothing more. It is only this that explains his very peculiar idea of 'support'. If he ever did throw his 'weight' into the campaign it would be in order to suffocate all those involved in it.



## MURDERED BY IMMIGRATION LAWS

**'Britain's immigration laws are used not only to keep out and deport black people, but also to break up black families.'**

**That's what we said in the last issue of Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! about Anwar Ditta's case, and it applies not only to Anwar's family but to countless Asian families, separated by the immigration laws.**

This was graphically illustrated when supporters of Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! were going door to door in an Asian area of Rochdale, canvassing support for Anwar's campaign. In the space of about five small terraced streets, we came across three different cases of families being split up, with one parent in Rochdale with part of the family, and one parent in Pakistan looking after the rest of the family. These were cases as tragic and heart-rending as Anwar's, but one case stood out, even from these.

That was the case of Mohammed Fazal and his family. In 1971 Mr Fazal applied for his wife and two sons to enter Britain and join him in Rochdale. They applied for entry visas at the British embassy in Islamabad but were refused. The reason the embassy gave for refusing the applications was that they had received a letter stating they were not the wife and children of Mr Fazal. No attempt was made by the Immigration authorities to investigate the case, or even check up on obvious things like birth certificates, medical records or even the marriage certificate.

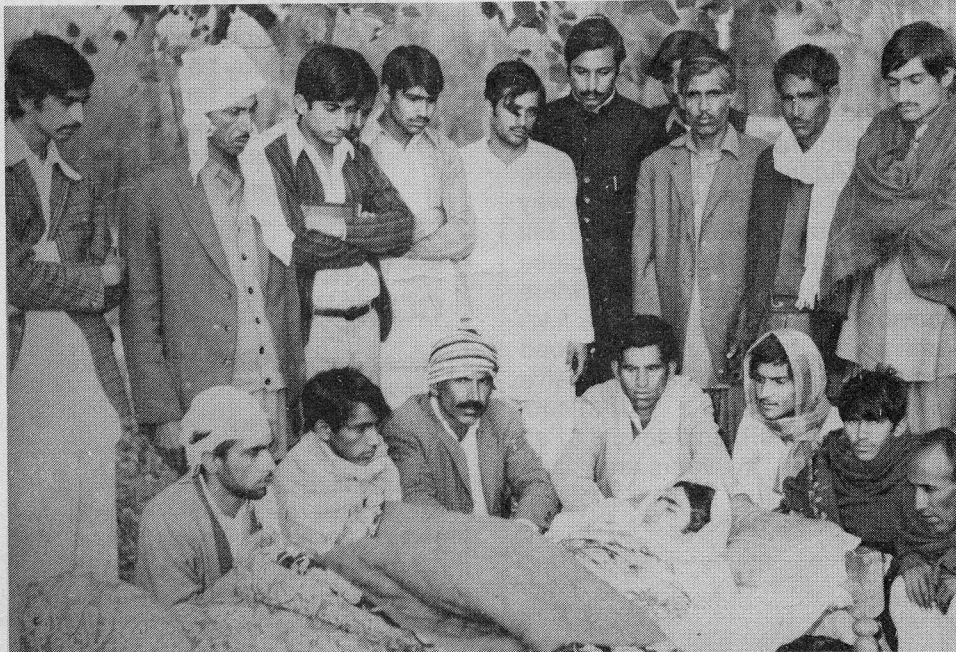
Mr Fazal immediately lodged an appeal against the decision and hired a solicitor at a cost of £525 to represent him at the appeal court. The appeal was held in late 1974 and

was lost, the judge stated that in his opinion the documents produced were false. Mr Fazal wrote to his eldest son, Mohammed Ghalib, telling him of the court's decision, and also telling him that because he had spent so much money on solicitors' fees, he couldn't afford to visit them in Pakistan.

On receipt of this letter Mohammed Ghalib took a gun and shot himself. Not only had Britain's immigration laws tragically divided Mr Fazal's family, but they had murdered his eldest son.

Even after this the immigration authorities weren't satisfied, once again they refused entry to Mr Fazal's wife and remaining son. This time the reason given was that the immigration officer was not satisfied that they were his wife and son. Not content with killing one of Mr Fazal's sons, the British state is determined that the only way Mr Fazal will be reunited with his family is by him returning to Pakistan.

The case of Mr Fazal and others like him show the importance of the campaign to reunite Anwar Ditta's family. That campaign is strengthening the basis for fighting and winning Mr Fazal's case and the countless others like it throughout Britain.



Funeral of Mohammed Ghalib