

BRING ANWAR'S CHILDREN HOME

BULLETIN OF A.D.D.C. (FORTNIGHTLY) 5p

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14 FEB. 1981



Anwar Ditta and Shuja Ud Din

OUR LIVES ARE NOT SO CHEAP THAT IT CAN BE DESTROYED SO EASILY

Anwar Ditta, a Birmingham born mother has been fighting for the last 4½ years for the right to live in this country with her children. Anwar was sent to Pakistan by her father when she was young. She married in Pakistan and had three children there.

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"The right of children to live with both parents must be respected and entry clearance delays reduced to a minimum".

U.N. Association for the International Year of the Child (1979).

DEFENCE COMMITTEE LAWYER IN PAKISTAN

The Defence Committee lawyer has left for Pakistan in the first week of February to carry further investigation. This will include blood test of the children and taking statements from witnesses. After paying for the initial costs of sending a lawyer to Pakistan the defence committee is now left with £300 at the time of writing this report. Please send contributions to Anwar Ditta Defence Committee or Anwar Ditta Legal Fund as soon as possible.



The children, Saima, Imran, and Kamran

Public meeting: 14 March
Longsight LIBRARY, Stockport Rd. M/CR 3pm

A Tribute to Comrade Arjan Das Kataria

Comrade Arjan Das Kataria tragically died on a demonstration in support of the campaign to bring Anwar's children home on Saturday November 15th 1980 in Rochdale. Comrade Kataria was a heroic fighter for the working class and black people in Britain and firm supporter of the struggle against neo-colonialism in India. Before he left India in 1963 comrade Kataria was a member of the Republican Party of India, a party founded by Dr. Babashaheb Ambedkar to fight for independence and the rights of the Dalit people, the so-called untouchables, the most oppressed section of India's toiling masses. Comrade Kataria was a founder member of the Dalit Mukhti Alliance and a tireless fighter for human dignity and equality of all people. He was an active member of the Indian Worker's Association, a shopsteward in the AUEW of Birmid Qualst and the Black Lake foundaries and a brave fighter against racism. Comrade Kataria was 57 years of age and leaves behind a widow and children. His funeral was held on Friday 28th November 1980 at West Bromwich crematorium, Newton Rd., West Bromwich and attended by anti-racists all over the country.

We salute this valiant fighter for Human dignity who devoted his life to the fight against the criminality of the system we live in. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, comrades in the Indian Workers' Assoc. (G.B.) and those who worked with him.

OUR LIVES ARE NOT SO CHEAP

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Anwar first applied unsuccessfully for permission to bring her children here from Pakistan under a Labour government. The home office does not have to give a reason for their decisions. They implied that the children are not Anwar's but her sister - in - laws. Anwar appealed against this decision. Her appeal was heard in Manchester on 28th April and 16th May 1980 and rejected on 30th July 1980. Anwar submitted birth certificates of her children and those of her sister in laws as well as photographs of all the children taken together. She also presented:

Her marriage certificate.

Family photographs with Anwar, Shuja and the children

Statements from witnesses to the birth in Pakistan

Tax form showing allowances for the four children

Mortgage application mentioning the four children

Remittance receipts for money sent to Pakistan, some dated prior to the application.

The adjudicator still rejected her appeal. His reasons were:

ADJUDICATORS GROUND FOR REFUSAL (EXTRACTS)

Although in my view the entry clearance officer was justified on the basis of the evidence before him in refusing the application, the oral testimony could be sufficient to tip the balance in the appellants (The three children) favour. The object and purpose... is to enable the the adjudicator... from his impression of the witnesses... to judge their credibility... I could not accept that Anwar Ditta and Hamida Rafique were simple Asian village women.... Although they left the UK in mid-childhood... be lacking in education, they had an excellent command of English and were far more westernised and sophisticated in their demeanour than the average member of the immigrant community... I cannot exclude from any consideration the credibility of members of the the family... It has long been accepted that if a person has lied once it does not that they will never tell the truth and persons should not be penalised for a previous lie by being prevented from having their family reunited... The PARENTS (ANWAR AND SHUJA) of the appellants have on their own admission on several occasions lied to or deceived, persons in official positions both in the UK and Pakistan... In these circumstances I cannot find that the appellants have on the balance of probabilities discharged the burden of proof on them and dismiss the appeal

COMMENTS

The so-called lies and deceptions the adjudicator refers to are :

1. Anwar was married ⁱⁿ Pakistan to Shuja ud Din at the age of 14½ and the Maulvi put her age as 22 because 14½ is below the legal age of marriage in Pakistan .

2. Anwar and Shuja remarried in the local registry office in Rochdale where they agreed that they were a batchelor and spinster, while they had already married each other in Pakistan because they thought that the muslim marriage in Pakistan would not be accepted here.

NOTES

1. A girl in Pakistan can validly marry below the age of 16, if she has attained puberty, though the person officiating the marriage would be liable for punishment under the child marriage restraint act (and also the groom, unless a minor)

Appeal against adjudicators decision rejected

Anwar appealed against the adjudicators decision on the grounds that:

*1 The only issue relevant to the case was whether Anwar was the parent of the three children and the adjudicator failed to give due consideration to the relevant facts showing Anwar's marriage to Shuja and the subsequent cohabitation in Pakistan. On 16th September the home office refused Anwar's appeal and upheld the adjudicators decision. On 30th September the home office declared the case of Anwar Ditta closed. But Anwar did not give up and kept up the campaign. On 16th December J. Barnett, MP, met Timothy Raison since Anwar's own MP, Cyril Smith refused to make any further representation. Excerpts from Timothy

Raison's reply:

'Having looked at the further material in some details, I am impressed by the family correspondence, which was before the adjudicator. I have noted also the medical report and the fact that the account of Anwar's marriage in Pakistan in 1968 and the subsequent birth of three children has been consistent at least early in 1976. The remittance slips too are relevant in showing a connection between Shuja's and Anwar's families from 1974. We are still examining the identity cards issued in Pakistan which may prove to be significant.... Overall, therefore, while there does seem to be some new evidence, I am not persuaded that our earlier view of the case should be abandoned.'

The Campaign must intensify

As stated in the first page, the defence committee Lawyer has already left for Pakistan. We are depending on you to send enough donations to finance the legal side of the campaign. All that is possible is being done. What is now required is to intensify the campaign. Please organise meetings in your area for Anwar to speak. If possible set up a support committee. For pamphlets, badges, video films, greeting cards, collection sheets, and petitions please write to the defence committee. March with the Anwar Ditta Defence Campaign in The London Demonstration against the Nationality Bill. With your help and Anwar's determination we can lift mountains.

The Defence Campaign is Supported by:

Asian Youth Movement -Bradford	Indian Workers'Association(GB)
Asian Youth Movement -Manchester	Bangladeshi Workers' Association
Asian Youth Organisation-Dewsbury & Batley	Pakistani Workers' Association
	AWAZ
Asian Youth League-Leicester	OWAAD
Southall Black Sisters	Friends of Nasira Begum

Heywood and Royton Labour Party	Rochdale Labour Party
Rochdale Trades Council	Runcorn & Widnes Trades Council
National Executive Committee of CPSA	NUPE(M/Cr Housing Branch)
TGWU 6/143 and 6/207(General Workers Branch)	ASTMS(M/Cr)

J.Barnett,M.P.

Tony Benn,MP ,Michael Foot,MP ,Eric Heffer MP,G.Kaufmann MP, Silkin MP
Barbara Castle Euro MP, Joan Lester MP, Mrs.Jayaben Desai(Grunwick St
Strike Committee Leader),Alan Fisher(NUPE),Pat Phoenix(Actress)Dr.Hamza
Alavi(Academic) and many others.

Manchester Communist Party of Great Britain	Anti-Nazi League
Socialist Workers Party	Big Flame
Sheffield Campaign Against Racist Laws	Working People Against Racism
Hind Mazdoor Lehr-Bradford	Rochdale Women's Group
IMG- Manchester	Rochdale Young Liberals
Scotland Branch Labour Party	M6 Theatre Group

The defence campaign has been supported by various student unions,anti-
racist meetings and conferences as well as various women's groups and
socialist feminist conferences.