

# NASIRA BEGUM'S RIGHT to STAY CHALLENGED AGAIN!

On July 30<sup>th</sup> Nasira Begum's appeal against deportation was upheld. After 10 months of uncertainty it seemed that Nasira's ordeal was over. But since then the Home Office has appealed against the decision that gave her the right to stay. The Home Office will not accept the decision, even though it was made by its own adjudicator.

Since September 1979 when Nasira was told to leave the country, the campaign to defend her has drawn together support from black women, women's organisations, Trades Councils, Labour party branches, MPs, other individuals and from within the local community. On July 19<sup>th</sup> this support was brought together in the demonstration which marched through Rusholme and Longsight. The press and TV have taken notice of this support and events such as the all-night vigils outside the Immigration Appeals office were reported, bringing the issue to a wider public.

The decision on July 30<sup>th</sup> was a just decision. In challenging it the Home Office has dismissed the rights and feelings of Nasira and all those who have supported her.

Their 'case' against Nasira is that she married only to get residence in the UK, and that the marriage is not valid. Their 'evidence' is based on a statement from Afzal, Nasira's husband that he was married to Firdaus Jabeen, however they have chosen not to believe his other statement that he also divorced her. Since Afzal has provided no documentary evidence of either this marriage or the divorce it is clear that the Home Office has selected evidence according to how convenient it is to their 'case' against Nasira.

In contrast to this the campaign to defend Nasira has gathered a lot of evidence and a number of important witnesses. An affidavit from Amina Begum, who is the woman Afzal in fact was married to until 1976, states that she had been his wife from 1955 until 1976 - although they had been living apart for many years. One of Afzal's four sons by Amina Begum, Naeem Afzal, testified at the appeal on July 23<sup>rd</sup> that Firdaus Jabeen had been his father's girlfriend, not his wife. This was supported by Ibrahim Taj, a former friend of Afzal.

Several witnesses said the marriage was genuine. The idea that it was a 'marriage of convenience' is the product of the Home Office's suspicious mind, and of their contempt for the ways of Muslim people. The Home Office refuses to believe that Nasira was not concerned with Afzal's nationality (he is in fact a British citizen). What concerned Nasira and her family was his family background - where he was born, religious affiliations, education, age. The Home Office has given no importance to the different marriage customs of Asian people. It is evident how ruthless the Home Office is when, despite the existence of documentary proof of the marriage - i.e. British and Muslim marriage certificates - they should continue to interfere in Nasira's life, even after a decision has been made.

The campaign to defend Nasira must go on. The right to stay here is vital to Nasira, and many other black people. First of all, however, in order to continue, the campaign needs to rebuild funds which have now run down, in order to finance activities.

Please send any donations to the  
'FRIENDS of NASIRA BEGUM'  
c/o 595 Stockport Road  
Longsight.



Anwar Ditta has been fighting the Home Office's decision not to allow *her children* enter and live with her in this country for the past four years. She had her appeal against that decision turned down on July 30th. Her fight goes on, but more support than ever must be given to her campaign in order to force the Home Office to concede Anwar's right to be reunited with her children.

The Immigration Appeals Adjudicator did not concern himself with whether or not the children actually are Anwar and Shuja's despite all the medical and other evidence that unquestionably showed that they are. He refused their appeal because he saw the ~~evidence~~ witnesses' evidence as unreliable, "as a series of unlikely stories". He could not accept the credibility of the witnesses, they were, in his eyes, liars. There was no legal reason given for preventing the reunification of the family in this country apart from these insinuations.

Anwar Ditta and her defence campaign are not going to give up their fight until Anwar's family has been reunited.

BRING ANWAR'S CHILDREN HOME! FIGHT THE RACIST IMMIGRATION LAWS!

Donations and messages of support to:- Anwar Ditta Defence Committee,  
c/o 127 Crawford St ROCHDALE

## SUPPORT ALL THREATENED BY RACIST IMMIGRATION LAWS

Nasira and Anwar are only two of many thousands of people attacked under the racist immigration laws. Families are forcibly kept apart and people are arrested, held in jail and deported without trial and on the flimsiest of evidence. More and more of the victims of the immigration laws are saying that they will fight these attacks on them. We feel that it is important that all those threatened by the immigration laws are given our full support.

SALIM PARDESI, who has lived and worked in Longsight for the last four years, is threatened with deportation purely because his marriage broke down. He has already proved that his marriage was not one of convenience, against the Home Office's accusations.

DANIEL RICKETTS is also threatened with deportation, to Jamaica, because his marriage broke down. He has settled in Manchester and all his family are here. He had a child with his wife and is the father of another baby expected by his girlfriend later this year, yet the Home Office still want to kick him out.

MUNIR AHMED from Oldham, was arrested immediately when he went for an interview with immigration officers. He was later released but is still under serious threat of deportat on against his wishes. Why? Because he didn't give the Home Office information they never asked for!