

FREE THE BRADFORD 12

Bulletin of the July 11th Action Committee

On Thursday July 30th and Friday July 31st, officers of the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police Force carried out a series of raids in Bradford's black community and seized eleven Asian youths:-

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| Giovanni Singh | 18 years |
| Pravin Patel | 20 years |
| Saeed Hussain | 18 years |
| Tariq Mahmood Ali | 24 years |
| Ahmed Ebrahim Mansoor | 17 years |
| Masood Malik | 18 years |

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|---------------------|----------|
| Sabir Hussain | 19 years |
| Jayesh Amin | 24 years |
| Bahram Noor Khan | 19 years |
| Tarlochan Gata-Aura | 25 years |
| Ishaq Mohammed Kazi | 22 years |
| Vasant Patel | 20 years |

The eleven youths are all members or close sympathisers of the UNITED BLACK YOUTH LEAGUE, a Bradford-based independent organisation of Asian, West Indian and African youth.

Following their arrest, the youths were subjected to two days of racial abuse, threats and brutality by police officers in the main Headquarters at Tyrils, Bradford.

THEY WERE DENIED ACCESS TO SOLICITORS, AND FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SEE THEM.

On Saturday, August 1, they appeared in Bradford's Magistrates' Court where the following charges were brought against them:-

THAT

1. On or about 11 July 1981 at Bradford did conspire together and with others to damage or destroy by fire or explosion, property belonging to others intending to damage or destroy such property or being reckless as to whether such property would be damaged or destroyed and intending by the damage or destruction to endanger the lives of others or being reckless as to whether the lives of others would be thereby endangered.

(Sec 1(1) Criminal Law Act 1977)

2. On or about 11 July 1981 at Bradford did conspire together and with others to cause grievous bodily harm.

(Sec 1(1) Criminal Law Act 1977)

Both these charges carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The prosecution claimed that the police had found a cache of petrol bombs in some wasteground around Horton Hall, Bradford and that, while in custody in the Tyrils the eleven youths had given 'voluntary statements', admitting responsibility.

YET THE FACT REMAINS

1. That all eleven youths have pleaded NOT GUILTY to both charges. A twelfth youth, Vasant Patel (aged 20), who was charged with the same offences at a later date, has also pleaded NOT GUILTY.

2. That no petrol bombs were found in possession of any youths.

3. That none of the youths have any previous convictions for making or using petrol bombs or any other form of explosive.

4. That no petrol bombs were used in Bradford during the minor disturbances on Saturday, 11 July.

5. That the WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE FORCE is notorious for FRAMING innocent people by forcing them to sign bogus confessions. Recent examples of this malpractice include the case of GEORGE LINDO, a Bradford West Indian worker, who, in 1978, was convicted on the basis of

such a 'confession' made in the Tyrils. Lindo's conviction was subsequently quashed when it was revealed that ONE OF THE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE CASE HAD BEEN CAUGHT FABRICATING STATEMENTS.

Also in 1978, there was the case of GEOFFREY ELLIOT, a white worker, who was charged with rape on the basis of a detailed 'confession' made in the Tyrils. This charge was subsequently dropped, when another man confessed to the offence.

The July 11th Action Committee is convinced that the charges brought against the 12 youths amount to a major political frame-up. We believe that the youths are on trial for their political activities in defence of the democratic rights of Black people in Britain. Their organisation, THE UNITED BLACK YOUTH LEAGUE, was formed to advance 'the struggle of the Black community against colonial oppression'.

"The first condition for victory for Black people in this country is BLACK UNITY! West Indians, Asians and Africans must unite to form a single wall of resistance. Black people can no longer afford the luxury of division. It is in response to the general oppression of Black people and in particular of Black youth, and the necessity of Unity that we have formed the UNITED BLACK YOUTH LEAGUE. We call for the building of an independent revolutionary NATIONAL UNITED BLACK YOUTH LEAGUE. We call upon Black youth to come under one unified Black organisation". (UBYL 1981)

Members of the UNITED BLACK YOUTH LEAGUE were centrally involved in the successful international campaign to reunite Anwar Ditta with her children. In doing so, they inflicted a serious defeat on the British state which had for a period of six years consistently refused to allow Anwar's children into this country. UBYL members were also involved in the campaign against the deportation of Jaswinder Kaur and Nasira Begum, and also the successful defence of Gary Pemberton, a Bradford West Indian worker, who was assaulted and framed by officers of the West Yorkshire Police Force.

At the time of the mass arrests, UBYL activists were engaged in organising campaigns around the proposed deportations of three local Blacks. They were also actively engaged in conducting an investigation into the fire bombing of two Asians' premises in Bradford. This investigation, which is still continuing, has already unearthed substantial evidence of connivance between extreme right wing forces and the West Yorkshire Police Force.

These activities, and the fact that the UBYL was the fastest-growing Black youth organisation in the area, prompted the state to launch this blatant act of political repression.

TO DATE the 12 youths have appeared in Bradford Magistrates' Court on six occasions. On each occasion the Magistrates have refused to grant them bail. Yet white racists involved in the fire bombing of Asians' premises have been granted bail by the same Court.

On Thursday, September 3rd, five of the youths refused to appear before the Court, thus exposing the role of the Magistrates in rubber stamping the police FRAME-UP. So far, two youths, Saeed Hussain and Jayesh Amin, have been granted bail by a single Judge in Chambers. However a similar application to a single Judge in Chambers by a third youth, Giovanni Singh, has been refused. As we go to press, five of the youths are in the process of making similar applications.

THE JULY 11TH ACTION COMMITTEE has been formed to defend the 12 UBYL activists and sympathisers. We have initiated an international campaign to force the British state to drop the charges and release the 12 youths immediately.

This campaign takes place against a background of growing racial attacks on Blacks by right wing forces and the state. This year alone has seen the Massacre of at least 19 Blacks in arson attacks and stabbings. Within the last six weeks there have been at least three fire bombings of Asians' and West Indians' premises in Bradford alone. The response of the state to these murderous attacks has shown that the defence of the Black Community is not high on its list of priorities.

The recent insurrections in Southall, Brixton, Toxteth, Moss Side and other Black communities, have demonstrated the determination of the Black Communities to resist the present onslaught by the police and right wing forces.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF UBYL

"Comrades, brothers, sisters and friends:

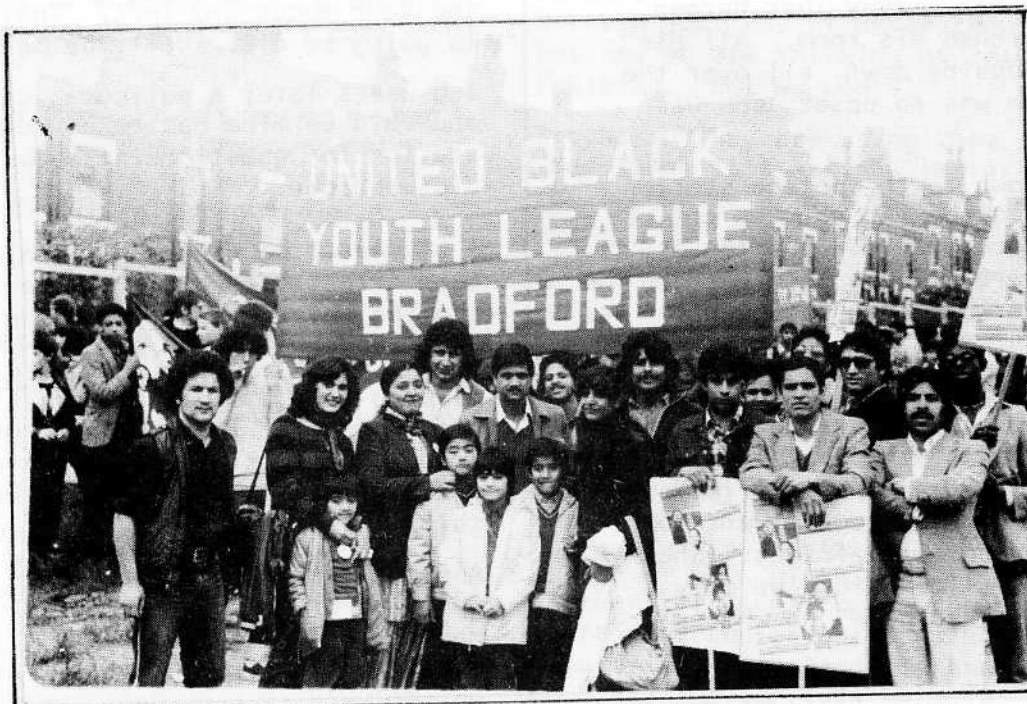
1. We are continuing to resist the wave of terror unleashed against us, both inside and outside of prison, by the state ... however, the UBYL lives on!

2. The UBYL, because of its political activities of fighting racism, its resistance to fascism and carrying forward the anti-imperialist struggle, has been made a victim of political persecution by the state police. It

must be recognised that it is the ultimate aim of these oppressive forces, who have long shown a dislike of our activity, to ensure a total destruction of our organisation.

3. This is the first time that the 'conspiracy' laws have been used on an organisation formed by a section of the Black working class. Therefore the threat of destruction to our organisation is NOW a threat to us all.

4. We therefore call on all progressive groups and individuals to give unconditional support to the campaign calling for the dropping of the charges and the immediate release of our brothers."



FUNDS

NEEDED URGENTLY

PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY

All cheques and postal orders should be made payable to — July 11th Action Committee

RELATIVES SPEAK OUT

A. Interview with Giovanni Singh's sister Anna, who is 17 years old.

"My mum was in hospital when Giovanni was arrested. She has cancer and has to keep going in. She's there now.

When she came home a week later, Carmine told her about the arrest. Four police had barged in and arrested Giovanni. No one opened the door. They didn't knock. They just barged in. They searched his room. All his clothes were upside down, all over the floor. My mum was so upset, she was crying.

My mum went down to the police station and demanded to see her son. A policeman held her arm and told her to go away. They were all hassling her and asking why she wanted to see him at all.

Mum has had a lot of trouble with the police. My other brother, Carmine, was arrested during the July 11th disturbances. One of his white friends had also been arrested. Mum went to see if this friend was alright. She asked and the police said, 'We only have black bastards here, no whites'.

Our family has had a lot of trouble with racists. Alfonso (14), my younger brother, was with his nephew (aged 2) playing at the bottom of the street, where there were also six or seven Mods. The Mods started picking on him, swearing and all that. All he thought about was getting Tony, my nephew, away from there. He ran back to the house where Carmine was having his tea. Alfonso was close to tears and really scared. Carmine went down to see who these racists were, and they hit him with a helmet. He picked up a stick to protect himself and hit the helmit with it. He knocked it about a bit. That night, 20 Mods were outside our house. They kept opening the letter box and shouting, through it, 'Get that black bastard out. He's going to die!'

My other brother told them to go away. My Mum was really ill and in bed. We didn't want to worry her. Giovanni told us to stay in the back room and he kept watch on the stairs in case they smashed the door or something, and hurt our Mum.

They carried on for 45 minutes and knocked the door about and left. They said, 'he is going to die! We'll be back!'

Two weeks later a policeman came around and said Carmine had to go down to the station for questioning about some disturbances.

A bit later he rang up and said, 'I have been arrested for kicking the helmit in', and the white Mod said that he had been assaulted by Carmine.

Alfonso gave a statement explaining what had happened. They kept him overnight and his case is going to come up in the near future. My Mum doesn't know. She think it's over.

Another incident that happened to me was when, on one of the pickets outside the Magistrates' Court, I was leafletting with another girl. A lot of Asians and whites were taking them. We saw a few white bus conductors, so we went up to give them the leaflets and there was a white man there. He said, 'they all need hanging, they deserve it'. I said, 'what do you mean, they need hanging? My brother is in there.' He said, 'piss off, you black sod and he hit me on my arm. He was big and stocky. He got hold of my neck and started squeezing. I could hardly breathe. The bus conductors just stood there.

People from the picket then came up. Police came as well, I was really angry and holding on to him because I wanted him arrested for assaulting me. One of the bus conductors told the man to get into the bus and wanted to shut the doors.

The man went in. Because we were all shouting and saying something had to be done, a policeman got into the bus with him.

I went into the police station and a copper asked me if I wanted to make a complaint. I said, 'of course I do'. While I was waiting, the policeman pushed me hard on the back. The copper pushed me again. I started crying. I didn't expect that in there. I said to him, 'you don't need to push me about'. He said, 'shut up, don't open your mouth until you are spoken to'. The copper tried to change my statement.

My mum still is in hospital; she's very ill. They have said she hasn't long to live. She is worried about Giovanni. She says, 'go to see him, don't come to see me'.

Giovanni gets such bad migranes, he can hardly speak sometimes. My Mum wrote her will before Giovanni was arrested and she's left him as our guardian."

B. Interview with Masood Masik's father, mother and brother.

Father: "I never expected this to happen to Masood. I was very shocked and upset. I didn't expect police to come to my house. Two CID men came - Detective Inspector Sidebottom came and asked to see Masood. I called him from his room. They took him into the car and kept him there. The Detective came back and said they were going to question him at the station. He said he would ring me on Thursday evening and tell me what happened. He never rang."

Mother: "Only two weeks before my husband had suffered a heart attack."

Father: I kept ringing the police every hour and they said they would let me know. Next day, they sent two officers who said they were keeping Masood there for further questioning."

Mother: "We had to wait until Sunday to see him. We both went to see him. He was really despresed and crying. They are desperate to come out. I have to take sleeping pills to help

me sleep. I couldn't sleep at all since he has been arrested. We go nearly every day to see him."

Father: "Last Thursday, when they refused to come to the Court from their cells, that was good. They were right to ignore the Court and not come up. They should all do it again to draw people's attention to the case. Even the solicitors say they should be given bail, at least. I have no confidence in British justice."

Mother: "The police are very cruel. It's five weeks and they still haven't been given bail. Masood was born here. He is a Bradford lad. His sister, who is 20, is blind. She misses him a lot and cries a lot."

Father: "I feel bitter and resentful of British justice. I never thought of going but now we are thinking of returning to Pakistan. But we won't!"

Brother: "They are using them as scapegoats. They think it's all the immigrants' fault for the state of the country, so they are using us as scapegoats."

Father: "They, the police, searched the garage and Masood's room. Of course they didn't find anything."

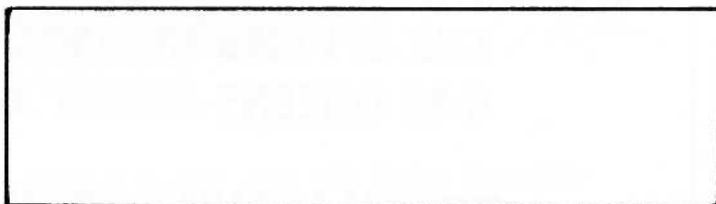
"When we went to see Masood, two detectives came to the house. Only the kids were there. They asked for Masood's clothes. The children were very frightened and so they gave the clothes to the police. They said Masood had asked for clothes but he hadn't."

Mother: "I didn't get a chance to see him. There were two or three detectives at the back of the house and two in the front. They took him away very quickly."

Father: "I said to them, 'Why come from the back and not the front?' I was really mad. I said, 'don't come from the back next time. No-one will let you in.'"

I think the campaign is really important and helpful. We really need to have it."

Mother: We should have a national demonstration in Bradford. Close the transport down and all the shops. I am only a woman. If I was a man I would smash them all up. I feel so angry."



C. MASOOD, ISHAQ'S BROTHER

"Basically when I heard about Ishaq's arrest I was shocked. I phoned the police station to find out what had happened and they asked me to come the next day. At 9 a.m. I saw Detective Mowbry, who told me that Ishaq had been arrested in connection with petrol bombs. I was shocked to the extent that my whole body felt paralysed. Knowing my brother and his background, I was completely overwhelmed.

I could not believe that my brother was arrested, let alone that he had anything to do with petrol bombs. This is the first time anything like this has been in our family - I was nearly faint.

After the first hearing in Court, I was so completely shattered. I could not see that any justice could be done in the Magistrates' Court or by the police. The reason for this is that we could not see them before Saturday (Ishaq was arrested on Thursday). No legal assistance was granted for 72 hours. In a democratic country, legal assistance is a basic right. But the solicitors were allowed to see them for only 20 minutes in Court and then we were not allowed to see Ishaq until Monday. This annoyed me a lot.

My Father was in hospital for heart surgery at the time. He came home on Saturday. We could not tell him until he kept asking for Ishaq and I had to

tell him. He was so upset he fainted. I am very annoyed by the attitudes of the Courts and the police.

My mother and the rest of the family - sisters, relatives - are in Pakistan. They live there. They still do not know about Ishaq's arrest. My father has been here for 20 years. Ishaq and I came here in 1972. Ishaq studied here until 1977 and then he returned to Pakistan. My father also went back, intending to stay there for a few years. But Ishaq had a stomach operation and he had to come back here for treatment, so my father returned as well.

In 1979, Ishaq started work in the Muslim Commercial Bank, where he has been working until the police arrested him there.

I have been involved in the July 11th Action Committee since it started. This is mainly to find and look for comfort with relatives of others who are arrested. I have had to take time off work to visit Arnley Jail and to be active in the campaign. I have never before experienced any political campaign and I think it is vital to have it for the defendants.

They were defending our Community and now we need to defend them. The campaign is vital. It is encouraging to find such support in the Asian community in Bradford and outside. It is important to have support from the whole community, but Asian support is absolutely necessary.

I used to feel secure about British justice but after judging my brother's case, and the proceedings, I am very much in doubt about British justice."

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING : 7-30 P.M. FRIDAY SEPT.11th
AT ARCADIAN CINEMA, Legrams Lane, BRADFORD.7**

**NATIONAL PICKET : 10:30 a.m. MONDAY 14th SEPT. at
THE OFFICES OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION,
4-12 QUEENS ANNES' GATE, LONDON SW1.**

COACH LEAVING FROM Old Chester St., Bus Dept.

(Opposite Queens Hall, at 5.a.m. Monday Sept.14.)

INFORMATION & INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

Collecting information about people and their politics has always been a part of policing. Now much of such intelligence-gathering is carried out by the Special Branch of the police. Every police force in the country has its own Special Branch and the branch as a whole now numbers 1400 officers, several times the size of the 1960's.

Special Branch collect information on a whole range of individuals and organisations falling under the description of 'subversive', which is now defined as activity "intended to undermine or overthrow political democracy by political, industrial and violent means" (Hansard 6.4.78), or, as Merlyn Rees when Home Secretary, put it, "the Special Branch collects information on those who I think cause problems for the state" (Hansard 2.3.78).

Such a definition includes Black organisations as well as those of a traditional left, and Trades Unions. It also includes Ad Hoc campaign groups, defence committees and alike, in short, anyone defined by the local police as causing 'problems'.

Information is collected in a number of ways; for example by taping telephones, opening mail, but the bulk of intelligence is gathered in ways that are quite open, for example, by routine reading of newspapers (such as this one) and pamphlets, and attending public meetings and demonstrations. In addition the Special Branch has its own informants within political and campaigning groups.

An important role is always played by the 'ordinary' police who not only pick up a lot of information in the course of street patrols but who also gather information by way of address books, found during raids, information gathered during interrogation and raids and surveillance of Black clubs and meeting places. Such information can be passed to the Special Branch and will in any case be given to local police intelligence officers for future use by the police.

Information is not only held and used locally but it is collated nationally in London with the Special Branch, filed and stored on the Metropolitan Police Criminal Intelligence computer. Special Branch is estimated to have nearly one million files by 1985. Special Branch has also access to the other sections of the computer, including the records of the Drugs Intelligence Unit and Immigration Intelligence Unit described by the police as "well-established part of the political intelligence gathering system".

In short, police are well geared up to collate information about people who have neither criminal offences nor are even reasonably suspected of committing offences but who are judged by the police to be "problems for the state".



**FREE THE
TWELVE
NOW!**

Latest press statement: Black People's Day of Action, Monday 19th October, 1981.

On Monday, 19th October 1981, the Black Community in Britain will be staging a Black People's Day of Action in Bradford, West Yorkshire. The Day of Action is being organised by the July 11th Action Committee (Bradford) and its various support committees in other Black Communities in Britain.

Its aim is to focus attention on the campaign to free 12 Bradford Asian activists who have been framed under the British government's repressive conspiracy laws.

The July 11th Action Committee and its support committees will be calling upon all sections of the Black Community and sympathetic sections of the White Community to join together in a day of massive political protest both nationally and internationally.

Precise details to be released at a Press Conference on Tuesday, 15th September 1981 in Bradford.

Information on Support Committees

Support Committees to win the freedom of the Bradford 12 have already been established in London, Leicester, Manchester, Luton, Huddersfield, Nottingham and Leeds. For further information, contact:-

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| July 11th Action Committee | c/o 2 Spring Bank Place, BRADFORD 8 | 0274 661352 |
| LEEDS Support Group | c/o 188 Roundbay Road, LEEDS 8 | Leeds 492484 |
| LEICESTER Support Group | c/o 70 Berners Road, LEICESTER | Leicester 24875 |
| LONDON Support Group | c/o 54 High Street SOUTHALL | 01 571 4920 |

Letters and telegrams of protest, calling for the dropping of the charges and the immediate release of the 12 youths can be sent to the following:-

The Director of Public Prosecution, 4-12 Queen Annes' Gate, London SW 1.

The Attorney General, Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers, 6-b Wood Hayes Road, London SW 19.

The Home Secretary, Rt Hon William Whitelaw, 50 Queen Annes' Gate, London SW 1.

The Lord Chancellor, House of Lords, London SW 1.

The Chairman, West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council Police Authority, County Hall, Wakefield, Yorkshire.

Chief Constable Ronald Gregory, West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police Headquarters, Laburnum Road, Wakefield, Yorkshire.

Your local Member of Parliament.