

FREE THE BRADFORD 12

ON THURSDAY JULY 30th AND FRIDAY JULY 31st 1981, OFFICERS OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE FORCE CARRIED OUT A SERIES OF RAIDS IN BRADFORD'S BLACK COMMUNITY AND SEIZED ELEVEN ASIAN YOUTHS:

GIOVANNI SINGH	18 years of age	JAYESH AMIN	24 years of age
PRAVIN PATEL	20 " " "	BAHRAM NOOR KHAN	19 " " "
SAEED HUSSAIN	18 " " "	SABIR HUSSAIN	19 " " "
TARIQ MAHMOOD ALI	17 " " "	TARLOCHAN GATA AURA	25 " " "
AHMED EBRAHIM MANSOOR	17 " " "	ISHAQ MOHAMMED KAZI	22 " " "
MASOOD MALIK	18 " " "	VASANT PATEL	20 " " "

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 arrests, the youths were subjected to two days of racial abuse, threats and brutality by police officers in the main headquarters at Tyrils. THEY WERE DENIED ACCESS TO SOLICITORS, AND RELATIVES AND FRIENDS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SEE THEM.

On Saturday, August 1st 1981, they appeared in Bradford Magistrates Court where they were charged with Conspiracy to damage property and endanger life, and Conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm. 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 FACTS REMAIN

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 latter 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, 11th 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 convinced 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.
6. That the Conspiracy Laws are an integral part of the British State's system of political repression. Through the use of these laws the State seeks to criminalize the political struggles of workers and wageless. Under these laws the prosecution needs only to establish a 'meeting of minds- a nod and a wink' between the defendants to receive a conviction. Yet the sentences which judges can impose upon those found guilty of conspiracy are unlimited. Not surprisingly, conspiracy charges have been widely used in Northern Ireland.

POLITICAL TRIAL

The Campaign to Free the Bradford 12 is convinced 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.

NO CRIMINALISATION

To date the youths have appeared in Bradford Magistrates Court on twelve occasions. On each occasion the Magistrates have refused to grant them bail. So far three of the youths - Saeed Hussain, Jayesh Amin and Ishaq Mohammed Kazi - have been granted bail by the High Courts.

On October 1st. 1981, the State prosecution brought further charges against all of the defendants. In addition to the conspiracy charges they are now all charged with making petrol bombs; Tarlochan Gata-Aura, Vasant Patel and Masood Malik are further charged with stealing a car, and Ishaq Mohammed Kazi with receiving stolen property.

THE YOUTHS HAVE ALL PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO THESE FURTHER CHARGES.

FIGHTING BACK

The campaign to FREE THE BRADFORD 12 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 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 to resist the present onslaught by the police and right wing forces.

The campaign to FREE THE BRADFORD 12 is an important part of this resistance movement. It is also part of the international struggle for freedom and justice. Victory for the Bradford 12 will be a victory for workers and wageless throughout the world and a blow to imperialism.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Publicise the campaign in your country through the media and in your organisations and communities.

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2. Organise demonstrations, pickets, strikes and other forms of protest around the demands of DROP THE CHARGES and FREE THE BRADFORD 12.

3. Send messages of support and solidarity to the campaign (address below) informing us of your activities in support the campaign.

4. Send financial donations to the campaign. All cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the United Black Youth League Defence Fund.

FREEDOM FOR THE BRADFORD 12.

VICTORY FOR WORKERS AND WAGELESS OF THE WORLD.

Issued by Campaign to Free the Bradford 12.

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