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# **FREE THE BRADFORD 12**

**NATIONAL MOBILISING COMMITTEE**

**BOX JK, LAP, 59 COOKRIDGE STREET, LEEDS 2**

Dear Friend,

You may know of the arrest in Bradford last July of 12 young Asians who now face trial at Leeds Crown Court on 26th April on charges of conspiracy and offences under the 1883 Explosives Act. All 12 will plead not guilty to the charges, but if convicted could be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Many of the Bradford 12, as they have now come to be known, are members of the United Black Youth League, an independent radical organisation committed to fight against the racism of British society. It has been well known to the police for its successful record in defending black people against the racist immigration laws and against police and fascist harassment. Its members have been active in anti-deportation campaigns and in securing Anwar Ditta's right to bring her children from Pakistan to Britain. They campaigned to secure the acquittal of Gary Pemberton, a black worker who faced charges trumped up by the W. Yorkshire Police. Beneath the fantasy of the charges levelled against the Bradford 12, this is their real crime in the eyes of the State: they are on trial for their previous lawful activity in fighting racism.

The arrest and the trial of the Bradford 12 is a blatant attempt to suppress the legitimate political activity of a black organisation and therefore an attack on the right of black people to organise politically. This amounts to a major political attack on the black community, the working class as a whole and democratic rights in general. There can be no doubt that it will be the political views of the defendants that are on trial when they come to court, for the conspiracy charges relate in effect more to their political activity than to anything else.

Against all principles of justice, they spent 3 months behind bars without trial; they are now subjected to bail restrictions which deny their right to partake in any public meeting that concerns their defence. In all aspects of this case, the conduct of the police and judicial authorities has highlighted a disturbing abuse of their powers. The entire prosecuting and judicial process would appear to be indicted of a conspiracy to subvert the course of justice in relation to the black community – a community which has already expressed its utter lack of belief in the even-handedness of the forces of 'law and order', and which will be alienated even further as a result of this trial.

A national Campaign has been launched to free the Bradford 12, and support groups have sprung up in many towns and cities. The Campaign has already received support from:

Bradford Trades Council	Indian Workers Association (GB)
Leeds Trades Council	The Standing Conference of Pakistani Organisations
Lambeth Trades Council	Tony Benn M.P.
Hackney Trades Council	ACTTS Central London
Wandsworth Trades Council	ACTTS South London
Camden Trades Council	Middlesex Polytechnic Students Union
Westminster TUPS Branch (APEX)	North London Polytechnic Students Union
Big Flame (Haringey Branch)	Battersea Labour Party – Queens Town Branch
St. Pauls Labour Party (Bristol)	Ealing-Acton Labour Party
University of York Students Union	Institute of Education Students' Union
London Student Organisation	ACTTS (SW London)
National Union of Asian Students	TGWU ACTSS Leeds
National Union of Students	ASTMS 507 Branch
W. Yorkshire County Association of Trades Councils	G & MWU (MATSA) Central London
Hyde Park Socialist	Jewish Socialist Group
Wandsworth NAME	Ken Gill (Chairman, TUC Equal Opportunities Com.)
Ron Halverson (Chairman, CP of GB)	Revolutionary Gay Men's Caucus

We are asking you to support the campaign and show solidarity with our struggle. Further details which cannot be included here will be found with the literature enclosed.

*(continued overleaf)*

**Also enclosed are:**

- \* Details of a Conference at the County Hall, London SE1 on 27th February 1982
- \* Application form for affiliation to the Bradford Campaign
- \* A model resolution
- \* Petition and collection sheet
- \* Public Statement of support for the Campaign.

**Please help the campaign by doing the following:**

- \* Sign and return the public statement of support
- \* Ensure that a motion on the lines of the model resolution is passed in your organisation, trade union etc. Make sure that it is remitted to any higher body for further support and return a copy to the campaign.
- \* Circulate the enclosed petition to be signed and returned.
- \* Send donations to the Campaign: ensure that your organisation makes an official donation, and raise money with the collection sheet.
- \* Affiliate to the Campaign.
- \* Forward this material to your union/organisation journal.
- \* Attend
  - the Conference at County Hall London SE1 on 27 February 1982**
  - the fundraising social at Africa Centre, 38 King St London WC2 at 7 p.m. on 27th February 1982**
  - National Demonstration in Leeds on 3 April**
  - Rally and Cultural Event in Leeds on 25th April**
  - Mass Picket of Leeds Crown Court on 26th April**

Thank you, in anticipation of your support,

FOR BRADFORD 12 NATIONAL MOBILISING COMMITTEE