

**DON'T LET THEM
STOP US ORGANISING
DEFEND THE
BRADFORD 12
ON TRIAL FOR
CONSPIRACY
PICKET LEEDS CROWN
COURT MONDAY
APRIL 26
FROM 9 AM**

An Anti-Nazi League anti-racist broadsheet 5p.

The Bradford 12 have been charged with Conspiracy and offences under the 1883 Explosives Act. If they are found guilty they could be sent to prison for life. The Police allege that the twelve were involved in making petrol bombs. But, no petrol bombs were thrown during the riots in Bradford and none were found in the youths' possession. All twelve are pleading not guilty. They are being framed.

The evidence against them is based on *voluntary* statements. The West Yorkshire Police also used *voluntary* statements to convict George Lindo, a West Indian worker, who was later freed after other evidence was discovered. In another case they used *voluntary* statements to convict George Elliot, a young white man charged with rape and subsequently released after the actual rapist confessed. Following their arrests the twelve were subject to constant interrogation, racist abuse and harassment. For two days they were refused access to solicitors, friends or relatives. Just how voluntary are these *voluntary* statements?

Most of the 12 are members or supporters of the United Black Youth League, a militant organisation committed to defending the rights of black people. They campaigned in support of Anwar Ditta who won her fight to bring her children to Britain. They helped secure the acquittal of Gary Pemberton, the Bradford West Indian who was arrested after being assaulted by the police. They have also joined with students in opposing Andrew Brons, Chairman of the National Front, who is a lecturer at Harrogate Technical College.

It is because the 12 have been active in fighting racism and exposing state malpractice that the police have conspired against them. The victimisation of the 12 is an attack on legitimate political activity — it is a threat to us all.

THE FACTS



The Bradford 12 spent the first three months after their arrest in prison. Following an effective campaign, with weekly pickets of the magistrates court, they were eventually released on bail. The police used an unprecedented justification for opposing bail — they claimed that supporters had distributed political leaflets calling for their release. In granting bail the magistrates imposed stringent restrictions, including a curfew and a ban on attending political meetings. In attempting to gag the twelve, the police and courts have made it clear that this *is* a political trial.

THE GAG



Heading the case against the twelve is Superintendent Holland. He is a racist who told a police conference: 'Subordinate officers are expected to act in a discriminatory way ... Checking West Indian youths ... will detect outstanding handbag snatches'. With senior officers permitted to peddle their prejudice in public, is it any wonder that so many of the criminals responsible for racist attacks are allowed to go free?

One week before the arrest of the twelve, two Asian homes in Bradford were gutted in a vicious arson attack; two white men were charged, but immediately released. In the same month, July, an Asian schoolboy was attacked by a gang of about 40 white youths with a petrol bomb; only two were charged, and then only with assault and stealing petrol. In Wakefield, two white racists (one with a previous conviction for arson) were found *with* petrol bombs, but were charged only with possession, and therefore they face sentences of only six months. And when the West Indian community centre and trade union meeting place at Textile Hall in Bradford was firebombed and gutted the police decided to treat the case as an accident!

In 1981 there were 24 racist murders. The Home Office estimate that there were 7000 racist attacks; they calculate that Asians were 50 times more likely to be attacked than whites, and West Indians 36 times more likely.

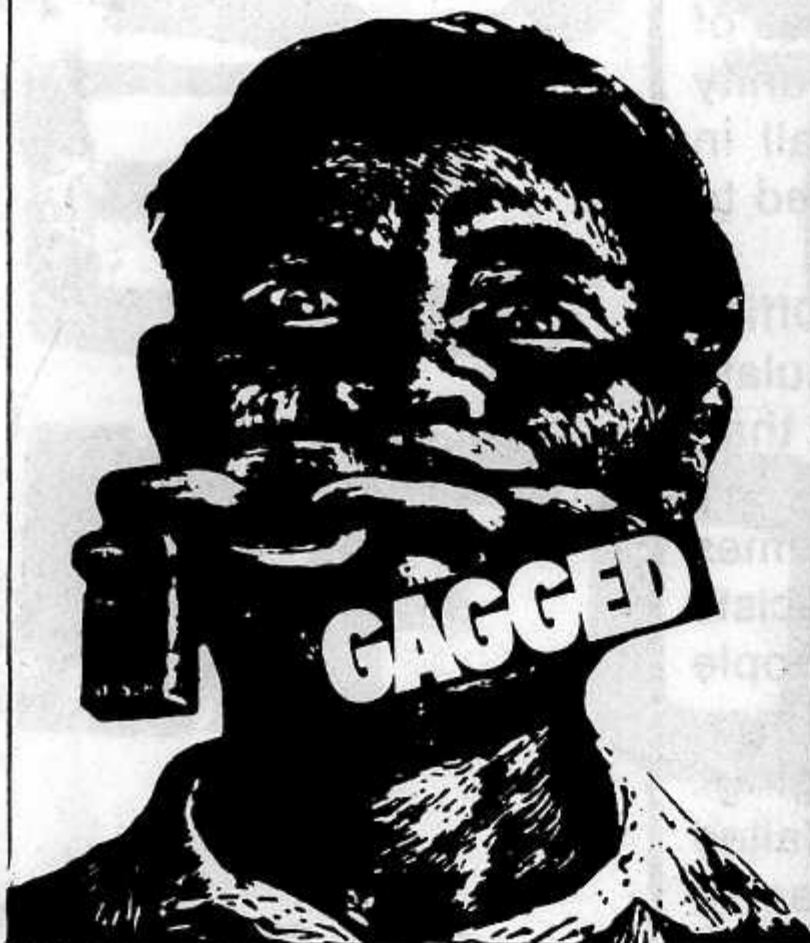
The police have not only failed to deal with these crimes seriously, they have given encouragement to the racists responsible by conveying the impression that black people are criminals. The Metropolitan Police, assisted by the Press, gave a great deal of publicity to what they term 'mugging'. The racist purpose of this publicity was clear when they failed to provide a racial breakdown for other crimes. The fact is that 'robbery and other serious theft' represents only three per cent of serious crime in the capital, and you have to live for more than 20 times the average life expectancy to stand an evens chance of being 'mugged'.

THE RACISTS



THE BRADFORD 12

12 Asian youths charged with Conspiracy face life imprisonment for fighting Racism.



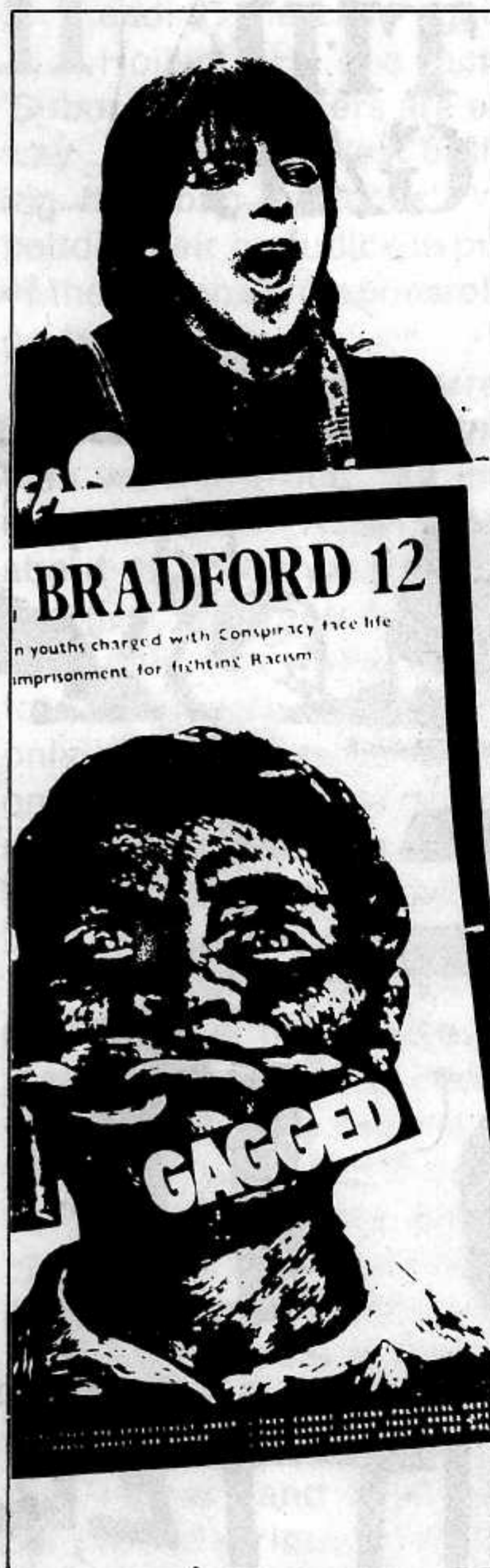
CONSPIRACY

Conspiracy is a political charge, used against opponents of the establishment. In 1924 it was used to imprison leaders of the Independence Movement in India; in 1973 against the Shrewsbury building workers who organised flying pickets; more recently to prosecute a Scottish trade unionist involved in the Civil Service dispute.

The charge allows the prosecution to draw in the defendants' political activity in evidence against them, and the stan-

dard of proof required is lower than in ordinary cases. Furthermore it means that the sentence can be much more severe than if the individual had actually committed the offence they were supposed to be conspiring to commit.

Today Conspiracy is being used against black militants. If the state succeeds they are more likely to use this antiquated law again — perhaps against unemployed militants or possibly to intimidate trade unionists.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

1 Move a resolution at your next union meeting. The following is an example:

'We resolve to support the defence of the Bradford 12, who have been charged with Conspiracy and face life imprisonment. We are opposed to the use of conspiracy laws which are used to attack working class activists. We reject all forms of racialism, and other attempts to divide workers one against another. We demand that the conditions of bail imposed on the 12, which prevent them from speaking in their own defence, are lifted immediately.

'We resolve to support the picket of Leeds Crown Court on 26 April, to send a donation to the Bradford 12 Mobilising Committee, to publicise our support for the 12 and the reasons for it, and to call on our trades council, district committee and national executive to take similar action.'

2 Join the mass picket of Leeds Crown Court on Monday 26 April. Bring a banner. Encourage others to come.

3 Make a donation to the Bradford 12 Mobilising Committee at Box JK, LAP, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2.

4 Sponsor the Anti Nazi League; £10 per year for individuals and organisations (includes monthly mailing and subscription to Searchlight). Distribute copies of this broadsheet. Available at 5p each from the ANL, PO Box 51, London SW10.