

Internal Bulletin 10

Tuesday June 1st.

The defence case continued. The remaining 10 defendants all made statements from the dock and did not go into the witness box. Some called witnesses.

Bahram Noor Khan made a statement from the dock. Following is a brief summary:

First of all I would like to stress that I'm not a political person ..... But over the last few months prior to my arrest, I had attended a few marches e.g. one in Manchester which concerned Nasira Begum and Cynthia Gordon who were struggling to stay in England. But besides a few more marches and an occasional meeting with the UBYL, my political knowledge is limited. So I think you would probably work out from that I'm not into this left wing thing, to be honest .....

I came over from Peshawar in Pakistan when I was a toddler ..... It was 1964. I would have been only 3. I came with my 2 older brothers and mum to join my dad who had come in 1961 .....

I found it very difficult to find a job straight away from leaving school ..After a year of trying, I managed to get a temporary job at Morrison's supermarket. after the Christmas period I had to leave ..... The next week I started at John Wilkinsons which I kept from 1979 - 1981.....

Anyway since I got made redundant, I'm afraid my life has been one slide down-hill in more ways than one but I'm confident I can get married and get settled down if I get the chance.

(He described in detail his movements on 11 July.)

We went to my brother's house in Pemberton Drive (next door to 38). When we arrived to see him, he was not in. Anyway we decided to pop in to see Jay.....

(Described how in the house he met TG and Pravin who both seemed very frightened and told him about the threat from skinheads coming to Bradford.)

Anyway, now the anxiety he was feeling rubbed off onto me. The state of mind I was in now was a very worrying one. I was worried for my family and also for my dad who has a shop very near to Manningham which I had gathered was the main area the skinheads would attack.

(Described how he got involved in the preparations for making petrol bombs, somewhat reluctantly as he wanted to play cricket. Afterwards they went to the university. Some of them went to his dad's house to get something to eat.)

I saw my Dad and told him that skinheads were coming to Bradford and told him to keep my little brothers and sisters in. Then my dad told me to be definitely in for 10 o'clock. Usually I can break my Dad's curfew. On this occasion if I did he would be very worried indeed. He had just a few months ago had a heart attack so that was the last thing I wanted to do.....

(Described how he went back to the university, to the Black Sawn and then went home by 10 'clock.)

Anyway I just managed to get home before my Dad's deadline. When I got home my Dad was waiting for me. He said: "Any trouble?" I said No. But later that night he rang his bell ... and told me that there was some trouble going on in the town centre.....

(Described how he wanted to disassociate himself with UBYL etc.)

In this case there has been a lot of suggestions that these devices would be used against police and big shops in town. Well, firstly my brother is in the police force and on many occasions when he used to live with me, police friends of his used to come to our house for dinner and that I have absolutely nothing against the police at all..... And about big shops - this is one thing I have to strongly deny.. Another thing - the state of mind I was in at the time they were made .....

It was the first time in my life, I had heard coachloads of skinheads were coming to Bradford to attack our community. At the time, I had no reason to doubt the information and I got worried mainly for my family but also for the community.... At no time did I intend to injure anyone with these devices or damage property.

Mohammed Ajeeb in witness box for defence. Among other posts he had been chairman of Bradford CRC since 1976, is a Councillor for Bradford Metropolitan District Council and is a national representative for Standing Committee of Pakistani Organisations from the West Yorkshire region. He knew TG, TA, BK and MM.



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He talked about the week of July 11. There was apprehension and fear among the black community because of events in Southall the week before. There was a lot of talk and rumours going round about a possible invasion of skinheads. He kept in touch with Senior CRO Mr Whitfield. He understood that Mr Whitfield had been in touch with the police. He agreed that the police were represented on CRC: a Mr Roper, a senior police officer, was on the executive of the CRC. He said that the activities of the NF had been a source of concern for some time. There had been attacks on Asian shops and on the CRC itself. He said that the police sometimes took action sometimes they seemed indifferent. On July 11 there was a strong sense of insecurity.

When asked by P O'C about MM's family he said that his father was a respected member of the community. He pointed out that the family lived near the city centre; the father was ill and a sister was blind. They had good reason to be frightened. There were questions about the 1976 march by NF in Manningham. He had been present on this march and said that the trouble was started by NF supporters.

He said that the community in Bradford was mainly Kashmiri people who had strong links with communities in other places like Luton, Birmingham etc.

He said that a few days before 11 July, the Home Office team had visited Bradford to study racial attacks and he had been involved in discussions with them.

When asked about racial violence in Bradford he said: "In all areas there has been a marked increase in the number of racial attacks. Bradford can't be dealt with in isolation. There has been a marked rise since 1980. Many members of ethnic minority communities are concerned that more should be done. There is a lack of confidence in the police force..... The reason is that members of ethnic minorities do believe that reporting is not dealt with promptly and adequately... And when members do report, they are often arrested. When someone does go to the police, they are asked for their passports....."

He said that he had heard the case for self defence voiced within the community by younger members. Particularly after the murder of the Khan family and Southall. Apprehension had been voiced in the Daily Jang.

He said he had known that TG and TA had been active in campaigns to stop split families and deportations etc. They were well known in the community for peaceful and vigorous campaigns. He would not have equated them with violence. He knew TA and could not see that TA had ever advocated the use of violence.

He said that on 11 July he had heard the rumours. He himself had not contacted the police. When asked why, he said: "I didn't feel sure that police could do anything to protect the community."

When asked what he would have expected people to do in the case of skinheads actually going into the community, he said he couldn't speak for the community. Personally then? He would use every possible means to protect his family and property. "It's a matter of survival."

Paddy O'Connor introduced Masood Malik who made statement from the dock.

"I was born in Bradford. My father came here from Pakistan 27 years ago and worked on the buses for over 10 years. He also worked in a mill. At home we speak English with each other except for my mother and sister in law. The other two languages I speak are Urdu and Punjabi. Our family is very close to all sorts of other people in Bradford. My father knew loads of people in Bradford. Because his English was good, loads of people would come to his house with problems. Our house is very near the town centre about 2-3 minutes walk away ....."

(Described movements on 11 July)

"I had been to one previous meeting of the UBYL although I was not a member of the UBYL. It was at that previous meeting that I had got to know Tarlochan a bit, to me he seemed a straight forward and sincere person. ...."

"I didn't doubt his word for a minute (about rumours of skinheads). I had read and seen on TV accounts of for example the Deptford fire in which 13 black children



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died. Even though my knowledge of Urdu is limited, I could read enough to know that such incidents happened. My father took the 'Daily Jang', and it was delivered to the house.... There were a couple of incidents about two weeks before 11 July that I can remember, one especially because I witnessed it in the town centre. I saw a skinhead go up to an old Asian man, say something, give a Nazi salute and walk off. The other incident I remember, was that Vas told me he had seen a van full of skinheads going through the town centre.

After the 11 July, I remember an arson attack on the Leeds Road cafe. I had gone along with Giovanni and Saeed to see the owner to find out what happened. When my older brother found out about the attack, I remember him mentioning something about sealing our letter box up, because we had fears of someone squirting something through to start a fire.

Anyway, after hearing Tarlochan tell us about the skinheads, I was scared, partly because my family live so close to the centre, and my father was not well and I have a blind sister who lives with us. Neither of them could have done anything if there had been an attack. I was also frightened generally. I thought skinheads would be going on a rampage, people could be badly hurt and anything could happen.

The way Tarlochan said it, it sounded logical at the time and I didn't question it. I thought my part was helping making the devices. I didn't think I would necessarily be using them and I suppose that goes for all of us. They weren't meant to be used except to scare people who couldn't be scared off in any other way. I did know Tarlochan was not the sort of person to start a fight and wasn't anything but peaceful because I had seen him on a march making sure everybody behaved themselves. Because of these reasons, I helped gather materials that were needed to help. I was also present when they were being made.

After all that was finished, there was no further talk about when to use them or how. I thought that when and if the time came, TG would tell us what to do, but the time never came. I did warn my brother of the rumours. After spending a short time, about 5 - 10 minutes at the university, we all went our separate ways. Some of us met later in the Black Swan. This wasn't by arrangement, but because we often go.

I then wandered around town, there seemed to be a lot of police and a lot of people. I saw Tariq arrested and nothing else.

I was arrested three weeks after July - I was very frightened and confused. Mr Sidebottom asked me about the bottles. When I replied he called me a 'lying pillock'. At the police station, Mr Sidebottom threatened me: "All right son, you'd better talk or I'll kick you all around this building." I didn't think he would literally carry out this threat but I was frightened he would use some physical violence on me. During the interview I never saw any notes taken into notebooks. However I did notice an officer at times writing pieces of information on scrap paper. When Mr Sidebottom took me back to the cell after the first interview, he told me that I could go home in a couple of hours, after making a statement. During the statement, they kept asking me questions and making suggestions, at one stage during the statement, they tried and tried to make me say the bottles were intended to be thrown at the police. This was the one thing I would not agree with, they then changed and said these bottles were for looting buildings. I felt forced to accept something, so I accepted the suggestion. I signed the statement because I was very frightened and wanted to get out of the police station. I was not allowed to read it before signing it. I do not use words like "Further to my previous statement, I would like to clarify the following points ....." And the next day I asked to see Mr Sidebottom and asked him when I could go because of his promise before the statement.

Whatever I did that afternoon, happened very quickly, but my reaction was affected by Tarlochan's news and events of the previous few weeks. I can only ask you please put yourself in my shoes and understand my reaction that afternoon. "



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S. Kadri, defence counsel for Ahmed Mansoor spoke to jury. Reminded them that Act of Parliament had been passed in 1965, same year as AM had been born to tackle the question of racial hatred. AM had grown up in the midst of fears of attack. In 1976, when he was 11, the NF march had gone through Manningham. SK went on that he would be calling witnesses to show the context in which 11 July took place. Police officers don't recognize racial violence - according to police Southall wasn't a question of racial violence. Similar incidents had also taken place in Luton. Coachloads of skinheads had gone there on 10th July. He would be calling witnesses from the Daily Jang, from Southall and about the Khan family murder. "This case is not about those bottles. They are a reaction to racial violence. It is the purposes of these witnesses to draw attention to the magnitude of the threat."

Statement by Ahmed Mansoor from the dock.

"My name is Ahmed Mansoor and I am 17. .... I've been out of Bradford a few times..... When I left school, I applied for 30 jobs. I didn't get any of them. I was still applying at the time of my arrest soon after.

My parents came to Bradford 23 years ago. My father came first. He got a job in a textile mill and then about three years ago was made redundant. He has become ill since then with heart trouble and is basically confined to the house. My father comes from Burma and my mother from India. A lot of their family are in Bradford. At home we speak Gujarati. I usually speak English. My mother and brother and father all also speak Urdu. My friends come from around the area we live in. My close friends are Pravin Patel, Masood Malik and Vasant Patel. We were all at school, the same school in different years. They live near me and we often go around together.

.....

(UBYL) I had been to one or two meetings of theirs at the university before but I wasn't a member..... One time I went to Manchester where there was a meeting about a woman Anwar Ditta who was trying to get her children to join her here.... Another time, there was a march in Harrogate about a teacher who was one of the main people in the National Front. I heard about it from Tarlochan and asked if I could go. He said I could. I went on my own and there was never any trouble or any idea of trouble.

(details of movements on 11 July, meeting at Jay's house etc.)

TG said we needed to make petrol bombs because they'd be coming to attack Asians and I believed him - that skinheads were coming. I thought he had good information. I did think people could be attacked because they have been before. I thought even if the police were there, it still wouldn't stop all the attacks, because they never seemed to manage to stop them.

I knew about Southall the week before already. I saw it on the news and a lot of people talked about it, and it was in the newspaper. People started to get more worried. I had heard from Tarlochan stories that he had told us and also people had talked including myself and friends about attacks. My parents didn't talk with me about it but I know my big brother did with my parents because I'd overheard them talking. My parents are frightened and nervous in case anyone attacks our house or anyone outside. There have been a number of incidents in Manningham near us. I've read in the paper and heard on the radio. In the Manningham area, it's all Asians and that's where there seem to have been attacks. ....

There was no thought in my mind about rioting, or rioting against police, and I wasn't thinking of attacking buildings. I wasn't thinking anything like hurting people. It just seemed as if we needed some defences in a hurry just in case. (details of making petrol bombs)...

In the evening we ended up at the Black Swan which we often do. It wasn't to do with any reason for using the bombs and I don't think there was any plan to get them from where they were to anywhere else ever. At about 10.15 we went downtown where there were a lot of people around and a lot of police. There were a lot of people walking around just like we were doing. I saw Tariq and



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Tarlochan and Sabir get arrested. I don't think they were doing anything different from us, which was nothing. After that I walked through town and went to a restaurant and then home.

When I was arrested, I knew the police had been to my house looking for me. I knew they were at the house when I came home. I just had an interview with the police which was ten or fifteen minutes after I arrived at the station. Before that one of them did hit me on the side of the head.

During the interview, they were coming out with Tarlochan's name and Tariq's all the time. They seemed to know everything. ... After not very long they said: "Now we'll start all over again." and they wrote it out on a statement form asking questions all the time. The answers that went down were their words. They wouldn't have it when I said it wasn't for the police or for rioting - which it wasn't.

I was listening when they read it out but I didn't hear them say anything about throwing at the police. I just signed it. My barrister has said what really happened during my interviews and that is the truth.

I would just like to say that I'm not guilty of the charges that have been brought against me."

S. Kadri called Piara Singh Khabra into witness box. President of IWA, Southall. J.P. On Joint Committee Against Racism.

JCAR had made submissions to the Home Office about racial violence. He was involved in collating facts. He agreed that racist violence had caused a lot of concern. He mentioned the murder of Gurdip Singh Chaggar in 1976 and the fact that he had been part of a delegation that went to see Callaghan about this. The Punjabi community is very close-knit therefore events in Southall had an effect elsewhere. On 3rd July skinhead band was playing in Hambro Tavern in Southall. Groups of skinheads went into shops and attacked people. He agreed that these facts are not disputed by the police. He said that Southall is important for the Asian community. It's a fortress - concentration of well-organised Indians. It had an impact on immigrant communities in many towns. They were horrified and terrified. If it could happen in Southall, what would happen in their own communities.

SK asked: What was their reaction? What did people feel, especially the younger people? He said that young people reacted differently. Young people would protect themselves by any means.

TA cross examined. PSK said he had seen TA on several occasions in Southall. TA asked: "One of the fears, would you agree, fears of skinheads was that they had come to attack with weaponry to be used against ordinary people? PSK agreed. He agreed that this weaponry could include petrol bombs. TA asked about 10th July. Were they coming to Southall on the 10th? PSK said yes, but they changed their plans. "The whole community gave a very brave resistance. It was a brave fight and everyone was proud. The skinheads haven't been back."

SK asked: Have the events in Southall escaped anyone in the black community?

PSK said: No, not anyone.

SK called Mr Zikrullah Khan in witness box. Assistant Editor of Daily Jang: responsible for checking and reporting main stories. His paper covers life of the black community in Britain. Copy of June 1st shown in court: had story about attack on shopkeeper in Walthamstow. Talked about coverage of the paper of the Khan family murder in Walthamstow. "The paper covered a lot of stories last year about the district (Walthamstow) and a family being murdered by putting petrol in a letter box and setting light to it ....." He said that a lot of people in Bradford read the paper. The response of the readers was grave concern about racist attacks - including Khan family incident and Southall. After the Khan family incident there had been a meeting between the Pakistan Ambassador and the Home Office and governments of India and Bangladesh had expressed concern too.