

BRADFORD 12 COMMITTED FOR TRIAL

The 12 members and supporters of the United Black Youth League have now been committed for trial, in what is the foremost case involving the use of conspiracy laws following the July Uprisings. On 22 October the state finally brought the case to the stage of committal proceedings – the trial will be held in Leeds Crown Court although no date has yet been given. Before the committal proceedings a further two of the defendants had been released on bail after applications to High Court judges. One of them, Giovanni Singh, was given bail only on the condition that he report daily to the police, that he remains under curfew from 9pm to 6am every day and that he provided sureties totalling £20,000! On the day of the committal proceedings a further five of the 12 were released on bail, after being imprisoned for three months. The Magistrates, as with those already released, granted bail only after imposing the most severe and restrictive conditions imaginable.

All but one of the five are forbidden to take part in *any* political activity. They must all remain at home from 10pm to 7am every night and all must report regularly to the police station, some every day. In addition to this, their families and friends have had to put up massive sureties running to thousands of pounds. One was only released on the condition that he live in Birmingham! The bail conditions are so restrictive, that one is reminded of South Africa where black political activists are forced under 'house arrest'.

Despite the court's viciousness when it comes to giving bail, a significant victory was scored against the state in early October. Tarlochan Gata-aura, one of the Bradford 12, appealed against the conviction brought against him after the clashes between the police and black and white youth on 11 July. He had originally been forced to plead guilty to a 'breach of the peace' charge, after being held for nearly two days in the most appalling conditions, as all the youth who had pleaded 'not guilty' to the charges were automatically remanded in custody. The judge was thus forced to admit that Tarlochan Gata-aura did not have the 'free and unfettered choice' to make the not guilty plea that he wanted. Tarlochan Gata-aura's conviction and fine were set aside and a retrial was ordered.

However, the major battle lies ahead and the state is clearly determined to victimise the 12 as a warning to the revolutionary youth. Only a determined mass campaign in their defence will prevent this. The demonstration called for 12 December by the July 11th Action Committee is an opportunity to begin to mobilise the support that undoubtedly exists. All serious communists, anti-racists and supporters of democratic rights will fight to see that such support is mobilised and will say with one voice:

**Drop the charges now!
Defend the Bradford 12!**

BB

DEFEND WOOLWICH

Most of the cases from the Woolwich fightback have been dealt with resulting in sentences of up to three months detention and fines ranging from £50 to £600 on