

LETTER TO BRADFORD 12 DEFENDANTS, FAMILIES, AND JULY 11th ACTION COMMITTEE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At the General Assembly meeting last Friday, I was barred from entry by Brother Courtney Hayes. I believe the real reason for stopping me entering was that I intended to raise a number of criticisms of the way the defence campaign has been run since it was reformed in the 3rd week in August, without Junior and myself as members.

These criticisms are as follows:

1. FUNDRAISING. Apart from the £500 raised at the first Arcadian meeting, and a £500 donation from the London support committee, little or nothing has been done to raise money.
2. PROPAGANDA. There has been no door to door leafletting on any scale done in Bradford. No fly-posting done. No stickers or badges etc. produced or given out.
3. No co-ordination of visits by relatives and friends to defendants in Wetherby.
4. LEGAL. No central line or information about how the defendants intend to conduct their case in court. I appreciate the difficulties with this, but with only two weeks to the committal date it is time they were resolved.
5. Diminishing numbers on the pickets, and a disastrous second Arcadian meeting.
6. No approach to the Trades Union and Labour movement. No attempt to mobilise black and white workers by leafletting factories etc.
7. No national co-ordination of this campaign, no speakers list to visit sympathetic groups.

8. No weekly general body meetings at which these and other issues can be thrashed out. One of the results of this, is that people who were involved in activities at the beginning of the campaign no longer know what is going on and don't have a way of getting involved in the committee.

These criticisms are not only my views, but those of a lot of people in Bradford who recognise the central importance of the Bradford 12, and that an attack on them is an attack on us all.

Obviously the state is trying to divide us by the use of the Conspiracy charges. The way to stop this is not by a small secretive campaign involving fewer and fewer people, but by open political debate involving hundreds and thousands of people. For this reason I was in favour of Ahmed, Ajib, Qureshi, Sahota & Patel coming on to the co-ordinating committee to broaden the campaign. However, it now seems that they are often not involved in decisions, nor are members of the majority of defendants families. When I was excluded from the Arcadian meeting I was told that I would be allowed to meet the co-ordinating committee and the defendants families, but I have not yet been invited to such a meeting.

I wish to make it plain that I am totally in support of the campaign to free the 12, and that I am willing to work hard for it, particularly after Sept 25th when I finish work. However, I believe that it needs to be recognised that the real enemy is the police and the state, not people who offer constructive criticism to the campaign to improve it, and win the freedom of all our 12 brothers.

Geoff Robinson