

# BRADFORD 12 BULLETIN

National  
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## 6 RACIST VIOLENCE — NO PROBLEM<sup>9</sup>: Police

As the Bradford 12 trial enters its fourth week, every single policeman who has given evidence has agreed that: there is no problem of racist violence in Bradford; no need to investigate organised fascist activity; no fears among Asians about racist attacks.

Detective Inspector Sidebottom, who is the most senior police officer to give evidence yet, was second in command in this investigation. He was questioned by Defence Counsel about his sensitivity to Asian fears about racist violence. He said the same thing. 'There is no problem in Bradford.

He was questioned about racial attacks elsewhere. He could not think of any. There were gasps of disbelief from the gallery. It was too much even for the judge: "You have heard of the Deptford fire, haven't you?" He had. But he had other ideas about Southall, the weekend before July 11th. Southall was about people fighting the police. He was not aware that skinheads were involved.

It was the same problem in Bradford, for Sidebottom: petrol bombs had been made for a riot against the police and big shops. There was no skinhead threat in Bradford, according to him.

### POLICE IGNORE HOME OFFICE REPORT

Sidebottom was asked about the recent Home Office report on racist attacks. It was based on a study of 13 police authorities. West Yorkshire was one of them. At last the government was "listening to the fears of our people". One politician called it a "second Scarman report." It got a lot of publicity earlier this year.

It told us what we know. Racist attacks are increasing fast. Asians are fifty times more likely to be attacked than whites. It estimates that there are 7,000 racist attacks reported to police every year. And it said that police are often insensitive about these attacks. They need training.



What did Sidebottom think of this report?

He had never heard of it. He had never seen its recommendations. He did not think police needed special training.

Why had such a high ranking officer not heard of this report? At this point, the judge stopped proceedings. He summoned all counsel to his chambers. Two barristers publicly refused to take part in such secret meetings. He complained about the line of the defence questioning. It appears he was worried it might worsen race relations in Bradford!

police  
conspiracy!

WE SAY THERE MUST BE NO COVER UP. THE  
BRADFORD POLICE HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF  
SUSTAINED CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE FOR  
YEARS. THEY HAVE CONSPIRED TO  
NEGLECT OUR FEARS.

While our politicians give us reports, the police do nothing. Our mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers are murdered in the streets. Skinheads bet money for our lives. Our families are burnt in their homes.

Who is to defend us?

Every Asian in Bradford knew of rumours that skinheads were coming on July 11th. Our youth came onto the streets to defend us. Now these young men need our support. We must defend them. We must defend our right to defend ourselves.

In view of what had recently happened in Southall ... and other areas where black families had been petrol bombed and murdered... in Deptford where black youth had been burnt to death, we took the news that coachloads of skinheads were coming to Bradford very seriously. It is my belief that when a people are attacked, it is their right to act in self defence. The nature of that defence depends upon the nature of attack .... We decided that an organised defence of our community was necessary. In my view, the defence of black people, of all working class people, who are threatened by fascism, necessitates the forming of defensive organisations. It was with this in mind, that we did what we did.

Statement made by one of the defendants while in police custody July 81.

While racist attacks against our people go unnoticed, we have been subjected to constant surveillance. Even the Special Branch has been busy 'tagging' black activists. It has emerged in court that it had compiled files about some of the Bradford 12 long before the arrest.

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LEEDS CROWN COURT

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MASS PICKETS ON WEDNESDAYS

May ... T.U. & Student

26 May ... Defence Campaigns

2 June ... Final Mass Picket

Everyone welcome every day!

SELF DEFENCE is  
NO OFFENCE!