

From The National Mobilising Committee

WE note with satisfaction that the *Caribbean Times* (5 March) has at last allowed the Bradford 12 Defence Campaign an opportunity to reply to the inaccurate and highly misleading 'Scales of Justice' article of 29 January.

However, we were horrified and enraged to find in your issue of 26 February a further attempt to undermine and tarnish the Campaign by linking it with the 'Racism in the Bar' article. This act on your part, as you must well know, was unjustified, criminally irresponsible and totally unforgivable.

We were also dismayed by the further misleading comments contained in the Editor's Note attached to our reply. Four points remain to be made:

1. We reaffirm our unreserved support for the struggle of black lawyers fighting racism in the Bar; moreover, the black lawyers who will appear for our defence will be held committed and accountable to our community.

2. If the Society of Black Lawyers maintains that it knows of no black lawyer to have been briefed for the defence, we would point out that their ignorance is excusable since the Society comprises of less than a quarter of all black lawyers practising in the Bar.

3. More importantly, however, there is as yet no complete line-up of

lawyers, black or white, who have received formal instructions. The defence is still in the process of preparing briefs and choosing counsel, and we reaffirm our confidence in the ability of the defendants and their solicitors to appoint only those barristers who are politically committed to our struggle.

4. We reiterate that Mr. Sibghat Kadri, co-chairman of the Society of Black Lawyers, was retained for the defence early in January. We understand he has confirmed personally to one of the defendants on Tuesday 2nd March that he will be acting in the

case.

We hope that *Caribbean Times* will check its facts with the Campaign in the future. We would welcome the active support that it has given us in the past to show solidarity with our just struggle. Together, we must all ensure a massive expression of grassroots support for the Bradford 12 in the Demonstration in Leeds on 3rd April, and in the Picket of Leeds Crown Court on 26 April, the opening day of the trial. Until all 12 are free, all of us are imprisoned.

Fraternally,
Bradford 12 National
Mobilising Committee.

NOW CARIBBEAN TIMES

GAG BRADFORD 12

Editors Note

AS we said last week, and Mr. Kadri's clerk has again confirmed that he has no record of Mr. Kadri having been retained in early January, but he confirms that a letter has arrived since *CT's* article was published.

Mr. Kadri did meet one of the defendants who went to his chambers on 2nd March, however a spokesman for the Society of Black Lawyers said that Mr. Kadri told him he will act, provided that there is proper representation from Black lawyers.

With regards to point 2 - the spokesman told *CT* that the Society of Black Lawyers is a developing society and is open to all Black lawyers and it is the only legal organization fighting for the legal rights of black people in Britain.

Can the Defence Committee confirm to *CT* that there was a hearing in the Crown Court when an application for Black jurors was made, and on that occasion no Black lawyer (s) represented the Bradford 12?