

AHMEID KHAN

DEFENCE

On the night of 25th June this year four Asian restaurant workers in Darnall were forced to fight off a serious attack by fourteen or more white youths.

Their motive was purely self defence, yet when the police arrived it was one of the victims who they arrested!

The incident occurred at the Shizam Restaurant on Greenland Road when four white youths left without paying. Mr Hussain Khan, the proprietor tried to detain one of them, but as he argued with him Mr Khan was set upon by fourteen other youths who were also in the restaurant.

A full scale fight followed in which glasses were thrown, and the staff, helped by some customers, finally ejected the trouble-makers. These youths then bombarded the restaurant, causing one customer cuts from flying glasses which required 12 stitches, and breaking £800 worth of plate glass.

Help from Attercliffe Police Station, one mile away, had been requested at the outset, but it took 20 minutes before a squad car arrived. Then, to the amazement of everyone, officers arrested one of the victims, Mr Ahmed Khan, and charged him with 'malicious wounding'! None of the attackers was arrested at this stage, and only one has subsequently been charged with any offense.

Later, it was discovered that a large amount of money was missing from the till and safe of the restaurant. When this was reported, police were at first derisive and unhelpful and appeared not to take the allegation seriously.

Yet one week later, officers returned to the Shizam to arrest another member of staff, 15 year old Mohammed Gholar, for the theft. He was arrested and questioned without the presence of a solicitor or his parents, but no charges were brought.

This is by no means the first time in Sheffield that a black person has called upon the police for assistance and has ended up under arrest themselves.

The campaign asks the following questions:

- Why did police take so long to attend this serious incident?
- Why was one of the victims of the crime immediately arrested, yet all the attackers allowed to go free? (Only one so far has been charged.)
- Is it likely that the owners of a restaurant which depends on public goodwill, would invite customers in just to beat them up?
- Does not a person black or white have the right to defend themselves against attack?

Attacks on black people and their premises are on the increase in Sheffield, as elsewhere. Locally, the mosques, Asian taxi drivers, restaurants and many individuals, have been abused, stoned and set upon. The police discuss these problems with the community but do nothing to stop them. Yet when black people defend themselves they are quickly arrested. The situation must change, and we can start to change it by uniting to defend Ahmed Khan. Our first activity is:

PICKET of magistrates court, Snig Hill, 10:00 am THURSDAY 29 JULY

AND DEMO

14th August

STARTS AT SHIZAM RESTAURANT, GREENLAND ROAD, DARNALL

AT 11 AM.