

BRADFORD 12 BULLETIN

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Bradford Asians Face All-White Jury

In what has become the 'political trial of the year' the Defence Counsel have come up against yet another obstacle in their attempts to ensure justice for the defendants - the 12 young Bradford Asians who face charges of conspiracy and manufacture of explosives when their trial opens at Leeds Crown Court next Monday 26th April.

They have been denied their right to trial by a representative jury of peers - the very rationale of a jury trial established conclusively at the trial of the Thornton Heath 15. It transpires that the entire pool of potential jurors for the Bradford 12 trial contains neither Asians nor any residents of Bradford, nor indeed of any inner city areas.

On Thursday 22nd April, Mr Sibghet Kadri applied to the trial judge on behalf of the 12 for a new panel of jurors to be summoned. He argued that the present selection draws mainly from the white suburban outskirts of Leeds. As such, it has excluded even the potentiality of a representative multi-racial jury that would be sensitive to the issues that surround the trial. The application was refused on the grounds that it was under the jurisdiction of the Lord Chancellor.

The 12 are in the dock as a result of their response to their experience as young blacks in a racist society - most of them belonged to the United Black Youth League and the trial is designed to suppress the legitimate political activity of this independent organisation committed to fight racism. For any potential jury to be fair and representative, it must be able to reflect the experience of mounting racist violence, police harassment, deportations and chronic unemployment that is a daily reality for black people in Britain today. That the trial has been fixed in Leeds rather than in Bradford has already conspired to ensure that the jury will not be drawn from the defendants own community. Now, the prospect of an all-white middle-class jury will confirm for many the fears that it may share the racist assumptions that have brought about the trial in the first place.

The ruling against the Defence on Friday only underlines what has always been stated by the Defence Campaign for the Bradford 12 - that justice will be ensured only when their trial is stopped and all 12 are freed. The Campaign calls upon all opponents of racism to mass inside and outside Leeds Crown Court throughout the trial to protest against this political show trial.

NATIONAL MASS PICKET

LEEDS CROWN COURT

EVERY WEDNESDAY 10.00

DAILY PICKET & PROTEST

EVERY WEEKDAY 10.00

Fill the courtrooms every day to see that justice is done!
Let them know that the community demands freedom for our
12 brothers!