

STOP POLICE HARASSMENT



SHEFFIELD 12 FEBRUARY '83

National Demonstration

ASSEMBLE: BURNGREAVE VESTRY HALL, BURNGREAVE ROAD AT 12 NOON

p & p Asian Youth Movement
Sheffield, PO Box 174, S6

STOP RACIAL HARASSMENT IN SHEFFIELD

1982 saw an increasing number of attacks on the black community in Sheffield and also the beginnings of an organisation which has pledged itself to fight against racist harassment in Sheffield from whichever quarter it comes from.

In August hundreds of people marched through the streets of Sheffield protesting at the increase in racial violence and the insensitive police reactions. These are some of the incidents which occurred in Sheffield in 1982:

- Shirlane lane mosque was attacked by fire, although the cause of the fire was not established, the Muslim community believe it to be the act of racists due to the presence of racist graffiti.
- A severed pig's head was left outside one place of worship. The police took no action, saying it was 'just' vandalism.
- Asian taxi drivers have been the victims of violent attacks by racists. One taxi driver was attacked in Crookes when a customer refused to pay. POLICE CHARGED THE VICTIM NOT THE ATTACKERS, and the taxi driver had to pay a fine of £600 for defending himself. Another taxi driver lost the sight in one eye after an attack on his cab. This occurred after several incidents of attacks on taxi drivers had been reported to the police. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.
- 15 youths attacked the Shizan Restaurant. Customers and staff were injured. The police though repeatedly called, took 20 minutes to arrive. When they did arrive they arrested Ahmed Khan one of the victims!
- Mohammed Ghofar a 16 year old working at the Shizan restaurant has been charged with stealing £70. This charge comes 4 months after the attack of white youths on the Shizan restaurant when money was stolen from the till. The owner of the restaurant has dismissed this as ridiculous and has no doubts about continuing to employ Ghofar.
- Asian families on the Manor estate have suffered numerous racist attacks, and harassment - the most serious being when fumigation pellets were dropped through the letter box, resulting in hospital treatment for members of the families. The children of another family have been harassed on their way to school.
- The restaurant of an active member of the Asian Youth Council was set on fire. The restaurant was put out of action and the owner - who was asleep upstairs - was nearly killed. Racist slogans had been daubed on the wall.

The only police reaction has been to organise heavier policing in the areas of Broomhall and Burngreave, similar to the police action which led to the riots last year in Southall and Brixton.

Police action is becoming more and more predictable as the government increases its implementation of the Internal Immigration Control Policy. This means that whenever black people go to hospital or the DHSS their status is checked. Many are denied rights to free health care and social security. Deportations are becoming more frequent and the situation is fast approaching when black people are having to carry around their passports in order to receive the most fundamental rights guaranteed to all people in Britain.

We must not allow this to happen and we call on all progressive people to join us in a day of solidarity in protest at the increasing harassment of black people in Sheffield and nationally. We demand our democratic rights and the right to defend ourselves.

TOGETHER WE WILL WIN

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