

BLACK COMMUNITY ON TRIAL

FARGATE 3 INNOCENT



MASS PICKET

**Magistrates Court
Friday 8th June
9:00am Onwards**

FIGHT POLICE BRUTALITY!

FARGATE 3

DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

C/O Commonground, The Wicker, Sheffield, S3 8HT

THREE MEMBERS OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY WERE BRUTALLY ASSAULTED BY THE POLICE AND THEN ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH :- ASSAULT, CARRYING AN OFFENSIVE WEAPON, CRIMINAL DAMAGE AND THREATENING BEHAVIOUR.

The arrests took place on Saturday 24th March in Sheffield's central shopping area called Fargate at 3:00pm. In the weeks leading up to 24th March, the police had launched a vicious 'stop and search' operation. Black youths walking in Fargate were being stopped and their bags searched. The intention of the police and shop keepers was to intimidate and deter black youths from using Fargate as a meeting area.

BRUTAL AND VICIOUS ATTACK :

It was on the 24th March that the police chose to justify their increased activity in Fargate. They targeted 3 Black youths - senior constable Sumner grabbed one of the youths and pinned him up against a barrier and accused him of swearing. He immediately radioed-in for reinforcements, when the other two youths tried to pacify the situation they were set upon by other police officers and 'civilians' - WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A VICIOUS ATTACK, IN WHICH ALL THREE YOUTHS RECEIVED SERIOUS INJURIES. (it was later discovered that one of these 'civilians' was constable Sumner's son.)

POLICE VANS, CARS AND OVER 40 OFFICERS !

This was a unprecedented police operation in which the whole of Fargate was cordoned off - all this took place in a busy shopping area, in broad daylight. It involved the deployment of police vans, cars and over 40 police officers. All this shows that the police had already anticipated this situation.

IN THE POLICE VAN!

The youths were dragged into one of the vans, as the van was about to move out constable Sumner Ordered that the doors be opened and he be let in. Inside the van all three youths suffered from forceful blows to their heads and bodies.

IN THE POLICE STATION!

On reaching the police station the youths were separated and subjected to further physical attacks and taunting with racial abuse. They were held for 42 hours (well over the 'legal' limits.) During this whole time they were held for 42 hours (well over the 'legal' limits.) During this whole time they were denied access to : telephone, solicitor, clothing and adequate food. They were charged on Sunday and released on Monday.

BLACK COMMUNITY IN THE DOCK !

The charges against the Fargate Three are a major attack on all Black people and mean much more than a legal issue. By charging the three youths the police are challenging the right of all Black youths from walking through Fargate - We know from previous experiences i.e. Haymarket-1981, Ahmed Khan 1982, Zaffa campaign 1984. That the police are duty bound by implementing racist laws to be racist. They were ruthless in their treatment of the Fargate Three, we must organise to be equally determined to defend our brothers and sisters - For it is not only the Fargate Three who are in the dock...it's all of us !!

DROP THE CHARGES NOW !!!

FARGATE THREE INNOCENT !

THE DEFENCE CAMPAIGN CALLS UPON ALL OPPONENTS OF RACISM TO GIVE SOLIDARITY AND ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE FARGATE THREE TO MAKE THIS JUST STRUGGLE A VICTORY FOR US ALL !