

# IQBAL DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 17, 1985 TAXI DRIVER MOHAMMED IQBAL WAS RACIALLY ABUSED AND BRUTALLY ATTACKED BY A PASSENGER. HE RECIEVED SEVERE HEAD WOUNDS IN THE SAVAGE ATTACK. "I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE THAT NIGHT," HE SAID.

YET WHEN HE REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO ECCLESFIELD POLICE STATION THEY LOCKED HIM UP ALONG WITH HIS ATTACKER AND KEPT BOTH OF THEM UNDER ARREST UNTIL THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON. IQBAL WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL TO HAVE HIS WOUNDS STITCHED, ONLY TO BE RETURNED TO THE CELLS! THE POLICE HAVE BROUGHT CHARGES OF ACTUAL BODILY HARM AGAINST HIM!

IQBAL HAD PICKED UP THE FARE, A WHITE MAN, IN CITY CENTRE AND TOOK HIM TO FOX HILL. ONCE THERE THE MAN REFUSED TO PAY, GREW ABUSIVE, AND THEN PHYSICALLY ATTACKED IQBAL, WHO EVENTUALLY ESCAPED, COVERED IN BLOOD. IQBAL HAS ALREADY APPEARED IN COURT ON CHARGES OF ACTUAL BODILY HARM, WHEREAS HIS ATTACKER HAS YET TO BE SERVED SUMMONS! IQBAL IS BEING CRIMINALISED FOR DEFENDING HIMSELF DURING A RACIST ATTACK.

IQBAL AND HIS ATTACKER WILL BE PRESENTED IN COURT TOGETHER AS IF THE INCIDENT WAS A MERE BRAWL. THE DEFENCE CAMPAIGN AIMS TO PICKET ALL THE COURT HEARINGS TO DEFEND IQBAL'S INNOCENCE AND HIS BASIC RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENCE AGAINST A RACIST ATTACK - A RIGHT USUALLY ACCORDED WITHOUT QUESTION TO WHITE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY. MEANWHILE WE ARE SEEKING EVIDENCE OF SIMILAR TREATMENT MEETED OUT TO OTHER TAXI DRIVERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUCH INFORMATION, WE NEED IT!

JOIN THE PICKET 1 :

TUESDAY, 26th NOVEMBER

2.30 pm

MAGISTRATES COURT

SHEFFIELD

THE "IQBAL DEFENCE CAMPAIGN" SUPPORTS THE RIGHT OF BLACK PEOPLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST RACIST ATTACKS BY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY. THIS IS A BASIC RIGHT THAT THE RACIST STATE IS TRYING TO DENY THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

WE BELIEVE THAT IQBAL HAD A RIGHT TO DEFEND HIMSELF AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CHARGED.

**SHEFFIELD DEFENCE  
CAMPAIGN**

*% Commonground  
87 The Wicker, Sheffield 3*





# **JUSTICE FOR TITUSES**

## **racists on attack!**

AT APPROXIMATELY 11pm ON THE 28th AUGUST A GANG OF SIX WHITE MEN ARMED WITH STICKS, BOTTLES AND BRICKS CONVERGED ON BOB AND MAISIE'S FLAT ON THE FOX HILL ESTATE, SHEFFIELD, CHANTING "WE ARE GOING TO KILL YOU , BLACK BASTARDS."

A TERRIFYING AND TOTALLY UNPROVOKED ATTACK FOLLOWED AS THE WHITE THUGS KICKED AND BATTERED THE DOOR OFF IT'S HINGES AND BOB, MAISIE AND THEIR FAMILY DESPERATELY TRIED TO HOLD IT IN PLACE. ONLY THE INTERVENTION OF A WHITE NEIGHBOUR ARMED WITH A HAMMER MADE THE ATTACKERS RETREAT, BUT AS THEY LEFT THEY SHOWERED THE FLAT WITH BRICKS, SMASHING MOST OF IT'S WINDOWS AS THE CHILDREN SOUGHT COVER ON THE FLOOR. "THEY WERE GOING TO KILL US" SAYS MAISIE. "IT WAS WAR THAT NIGHT".

## **racist police . . . .**

THE POLICE WERE TELEPHONED THREE TIMES BOTH BEFORE AND DURING THE ATTACK BUT FAILED TO APPEAR UNTIL 20 MINUTES AFTER THE THUGS HAD LEFT. EVEN THEN THEY APPEARED NOT TO TAKE THE ATTACK SERIOUSLY, TAKING NO STATEMENTS AND SHOWING NO INTEREST IN APPREHENDING THE ATTACKERS, SOME OF WHOM WERE STILL LOITERING NEARBY. THE FAMILY WERE LEFT UNPROTECTED IN THEIR DOORLESS, WINDOWLESS FLAT.

MR TITUS, NOT SATISFIED, WENT TO ECCLESFIELD POLICE STATION IN THE EARLY HOURS TO REQUEST POLICE PROTECTION. AN INSPECTOR MORRIS DISMISSED HIS APPEAL WITH CONTEMPT.

ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM THE FAMILY, THEIR SUPPORTERS AND THE LOCAL TENANTS ASSOCIATION DID POLICE FINALLY MOVE TO ARREST SIX LOCAL YOUTHS, ONE OF THEM A SOLDIER SERVING IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

## **. . . . racist courts**

THE SIX APPEARED IN COURT ON THE 11th OF SEPTEMBER. ALL OF THEM WERE GIVEN UNCONDITIONAL BAIL, WITHOUT EVEN A RESTRICTION NOT TO APPROACH THE TITUS' FLAT! CONTRAST THIS WITH THE TREATMENT OF PICKETING MINERS LAST SUMMER. THE SOLDIER ACCUSED WAS NOT EVEN REQUIRED TO ATTEND THIS OR SUBSEQUENT HEARINGS. CHARGES SO FAR CONSIST OF "DAMAGE TO DOORS AND WINDOWS" AND "BEHAVIOUR LIKELY TO CAUSE A BREACH OF THE PEACE"! THESE CHARGES GIVE NO IMPRESSION OF THE VIOLENT OR RACIST NATURE OF THE ATTACK. MANY PEOPLE IN SHEFFIELD, ESPECIALLY BLACK AND WHITE NEIGHBOURS OF THE TITUS FAMILY AT FOX HILL WERE SHOCKED AT THE ATTACK AND AT THE POLICE RESPONSE.

WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE POLICE AND COURTS KNOW THAT SHEFFIELD PEOPLE ARE WATCHING TO SEE THAT THE TITUS FAMILY GET JUSTICE!

THE CITY COUNCIL HAS ALSO RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT TENANTS WHO ENGAGE IN RACIAL HARRASSMENT WILL BE MOVED FROM THEIR COUNCIL HOUSES. WILL THE COUNCIL PUT IT'S MONEY WHERE IT'S MOUTH IS ?

BOTH THESE INCIDENTS ARE ONLY TOO TYPICAL OF THE KIND OF BRUTAL RACISM WHICH BLACK PEOPLE FACE DAILY IN BRITAIN IN 1985. ALSO TYPICAL IS THE CALLOUS, ARROGANT AND DISINTERESTED RECEPTION THE VICTIMS MET FROM THE POLICE. BOTH THESE CASES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE ECCLESFIELD POLICE STATION IN THE SPACE OF TWO OR THREE MONTHS!

# **SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE**