

# "JUSTICE for the PRYCES" Support Committee

4 November 1985

Dear Friends

It is with great anger that I now write to inform you that Martin Newhouse, the murderer of 16-year old Eustace Pryce, was last week inevitably found guilty of manslaughter.

The outcome of the trial was no great surprise for a number of reasons:-

- 1 The police had always set out to protect Newhouse. On the day after Eustace was killed, a senior officer told Mrs Pryce that Newhouse did not mean to kill her son, and this is the argument pursued by the prosecution throughout the trial.
- 2 The sole aim of the police during their initial investigations was to criminalise Gerald Pryce and the other black youths. On the day of the incident, when police officers arrested Gerald, instead of allowing him to go to hospital with Eustace, they taunted him with questions about why he had hurt his brother - trying to blame the murder on him. They have previously framed him up on a charge of attempted burglary, for which he was convicted, because they caught him looking through the letterbox of his parents' house. His family protested his innocence, but it was of no use.

The body of prosecution evidence, in the trial, focused predominantly on the role of the black youths. The result being that four white youths were acquitted after the presentation of the case for the prosecution.

- 3 The evidence against Newhouse was presented in a flimsy manner, giving credence to his lie that he stabbed Eustace in defence of his brother. Newhouse is a known racist and it is clear to everyone in Newham that he set out to kill one of the black youths, for which he is now a hero in Canning Town; but the prosecution refused to recognise the racist element of the incident.
- 4 It was no coincidence that the barrister for the prosecution was at the same time acting as a defending barrister in the big 'Cyprus' spy case. Naturally, he was therefore not able to give very much time to our case and this was proved by his summing up which was over in fifteen minutes.
- 5 There were only three black people on the jury despite the fact that five of the ten defendants are black.

All in all the list of things against us is endless; made worse by an extremely weak judge who has almost taken pity on Newhouse because of his youth and because he has interpreted the incident as an attack by black men upon little white kids!

It may be that Newhouse will get away with a maximum sentence of three or four years youth custody - an insult to innocent Eustace Pryce who lost his life, and an offence to Gerald Pryce and his family, who have suffered so much pain as a consequence.

**Remember Eustace. Defend Gerald**

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Newhouse is to be sentenced on Friday 8th November at 9.30 am and I would ask that even if you have not before been able to physically support the campaign that you do so now, by joining the mass picket outside the Old Bailey on the day of sentencing. The picket will start at 9 am.

I would also urge you to write strong letters of protest to the judge about Newhouse's conviction of manslaughter, demanding that he exercises his power to correct the decision by the jury by giving Newhouse a heavy sentence that justifies his crime. The address to write to is:

Judge Lymberry  
Court No 9  
Central Criminal Court  
Old Bailey  
London  
EC4

Letters should arrive by Friday morning.

Please also make every effort to join the Pryces, members of the Jarrett family and members of the Handsworth and Brixton Legal Defence Campaign at our rally at 7.30 pm on Thursday 7th November, at 214E High Street North, London E6 (East Ham Tube), in the large hall above Newham North East Labour Party Rooms, and try to encourage friends to come along.

We will continue campaigning until Gerald and the other black youths are sentenced in two weeks time and even after that we shall go on fighting against police harassment and the criminalization of the black victims of racist attacks.

Therefore, I hope you will continue to support us, and thanks for all you have done so far.

Solidarity and Best Wishes

*C. Burgher*

CAROLE BURGHER  
Secretary for the Justice for the Pryces Campaign