

SELF - DEFENCE IS THE ONLY WAY !

ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 17, 1985 MOHAMMED IQBAL WAS RACIALLY ABUSED AND BRUTALLY ATTACKED BY A PASSENGER , AND RECEIVED SEVERE WOUNDS ON HIS HEAD. AS IQBAL HIMSELF PUTS IT - " I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE THAT NIGHT " .

IQBAL HAD PICKED UP A FARE TO HILLSBOROUGH FROM OUTSIDE A NIGHT CLUB IN CITY CENTRE. AT THE DESTINATION, WITH HIS WIFE AND A NEIGHBOUR WATCHING, THE PASSENGER REFUSED TO PAY AND STARTED SHOUTING RACIAL ABUSE AT IQBAL. IT DID NOT STOP THERE ! HE THEN WRENCHED OUT A STICK THAT WAS HOLDING THE WINDOW BETWEEN THE TWO COMPARTMENTS OPEN AND STARTED BEATING IQBAL ON THE HEAD. AS IQBAL STRUGGLED TO GET OUT OF THE DRIVING SEAT THE ASSAULT CONTINUED AND THE OTHERS WATCHED AS BLOOD FLOWED DOWN IQBAL'S FACE, BLINDING HIM. WHEN HE MANAGED TO GET INTO THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT AND LOCK THE DOORS, HIS ATTACKER ENTERED THE DRIVER'S COMPARTMENT AND TRIED TO CONTINUE HITTING IQBAL. IT WAS ONLY WHEN IQBAL MANAGED TO GET A HAMMER OUT OF HIS TOOL BOX THAT THE ATTACKER RETREATED.

AS A RESULT OF THIS BRUTAL RACIST ATTACK, IQBAL WAS HOSPITALISED WITH EXTENSIVE HEAD INJURIES WHICH NEEDED MANY STITCHES. IT IS LIKELY THAT IQBAL, LIKE MANY OTHER TAXI DRIVERS WHO HAVE DEFENDED THEMSELVES AND FACED SERIOUS CHARGES FROM A RACIST POLICE FORCE, BEING CRIMINALISED FOR DEFENDING THEMSELVES AND LOSING THEIR LICENSE PLATES, WILL EXPERIENCE RACIST "BRITISH JUSTICE".

IT IS WELL KNOWN AMONGST TAXI DRIVERS FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THE RACIST POLICE WILL NOT HELP - ON THE CONTRARY, THEY HAVE FORCED ASIAN TAXI DRIVERS TO DRIVE PASSENGERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR FARE TO REMOTE ISOLATED AREAS LATE AT NIGHT WHERE ATTACKS HAVE PREVIOUSLY TAKEN PLACE. ALSO WELL KNOWN IS THE RACIST POLICY OF THE POLICE TO CRIMINALISE ASIAN TAXI DRIVERS WHO DEFEND THEMSELVES. THEN THE SO-CALLED "SOCIALIST" COUNCIL COLLABORATES WITH THIS RACIST POLICY BY PUNISHING THE VICTIMS OF RACIST ATTACKS, TAKING AWAY THEIR LICENSE PLATES OR ISSUING ONLY THREE-MONTH LICENSES. THEY HAVE USED RACIST ARGUMENTS TO DEFEND THESE POLICIES, GIVING AIR TO STEREOTYPE IDEAS ABOUT UNSAFE TAXIS, ETC.

THE "IQBAL DEFENCE CAMPAIGN" SUPPORTS THE RIGHT OF BLACK PEOPLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST RACIST ATTACKS AND TO USE 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 THAT HE SHOULD NOT BE CHARGED.

STOP POLICE HARRASSMENT OF BLACK TAXI DRIVERS!