

GACARA

Greenwich Action Committee Against Racist Attacks

GACARA WISHES TO THANK ALL THOSE SUPPORTERS WHO WENT ON THE

DEMONSTRATION ON APRIL 27TH IN EASTHAM IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE

NEWHAM SEVEN AND FOR EUSTACE PRYCE.

As those who attended will know, the march was in excess of 3000 people, but what started off as a peaceful and disciplined protest against racist attacks was to be interupted. The police for no apparent reason other than deliberate provocation sent in their 'snatch squads' as the march went passed the notorious Forest Gate police station. All havoc broke loose as members of the march scattered, some bewildered and others shocked at what they were seeing and others just freezing in their tracks for fear of getting injured. The police showed no mercy as they punched, pushed, kicked and twisted arms. There was no difference in the physical force used whether the victim was male or female and the police led or carried away their victims into the police station who were later to be charged for various offences including assaults on police officers. As people in the crowd took photo graphs of the violent scenes the attack by the police ended as suddenly as it had began. No doubt the helicopter that had been hovering above the march from beginning to end had issued instructions to the officers below to withdraw. Meanwhile, people nursed bloody noses and other injuries sustained in this attack. One of the Gacara workers also had his camera pushed into his face by P.C. G35 and who also threatened our worker with arrest when he witnessed a voilent attack on a young Afro - Caribbean by a police officer.

The march had now come to a halt outside Forest Gate police station as people began to sit down in the road and demanded the release of those who had just been arrested.

As quiet and calm swept the streets of Newham more and more police were arriving in their coaches and by the hundreds. Gacara noted officers involved from the following districts: G, A, Q, K, J, W, L, S, but there were possibly others too.

We appeal to all those who had cameras at the march to forward any photographs of police brutality or other evidence to the Gacara offices and we will pay for any expense incurred. We also request all those who took part in this demonstration for continued support in the next planned march against racist attacks and on behalf of the Newham Seven and Eustace Pryce. It is of paramount importance that we show the authorities that we will not forced off the streets whilst under constant threat from racists or whether we are protesting peacefully through demonstrating.

Gacara also makes a direct appeal to Sikh Temples, Mosques, Mandirs for support and any other help they can give to ensure maximum mobilisation for the next march on Saturday the 11th of May 1985.

ALL ENQUIRIES FROM THE LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH AREA TO GACARA ON 855 4343.