

NEWHAM 7 DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

P.O.Box 273, Forest Gate, London E7. Tel: 01 555 8151

UD/BA

18th January 1985

Dear Friend,

The date for the Newham 7 court hearing has now been fixed for early May. Once we get a definite date we will let supports/support groups know immediately. The purpose of this letter is to let you know of

- (1) events since our last mailing in September 1984;
- (2) campaign plans over the next few months.

I also enclose copies of:

- (1) Newham 7 leaflets. Please let the campaign know if you need more.
- (2) Newham 7 Petitions.
- (3) Newham 7 Model Resolutions (for use by trade union branches/black groups/progressive organisations) and affiliation forms.
- (4) Newham 7 stickers and psoters.

Please get in touch with the campaign if you need more of the above material. As mobilisation work for the national Newham 7 march in late April and the mass picket of the Old Bailey in early May has to start now I would be grateful if you could ensure that leaflets/posters/stickers are distributed amongst black and anti-racist groups in your area, petition forms are circulated amongst black groups/trade union branches/progressive organisations and returned as soon as possible to the campaign and the model resolution/affiliation form is used as a basis for a sustained drive to get groups in your area affiliated to the campaign.

Already the Campaign has secured backing from numerous groups around the country with support groups in Birmingham, Coventry, Bradford and Sheffield. Speakers can be provided by the campaign for public meetings wherever they are organised. On behalf of the campaign I would also urge you to form a support group in your area/college if one doesn't exist; time is running short for us to make sure that the Newham 7 Campaign achieves a greater momentum than the Newham 8. As from now we will also be producing monthly bulletins/newsletters which will serve to coordinate the campaign and keep supporters up to date with developments.

* To make firm plans for events leading up to the trial a rational supporters open meeting has been called for Sunday February 24th starting at 3 p.m. at the Labour Party Rooms, 241E High Street North, London E12 (tube East Ham).

Please make every effort to attend or send a delegate from your group.

The mass picket of the racist Duke of Edinburgh pub called for Saturday November 3rd was a resounding success. 200 people supported the picket; the pub was shut down and attacks have largely stopped as a result of concerted community action. However, to date, the perpetrators of the vicious series of attacks on Asian people on April 7th 1984, which led to the Newham 7 incident, still remain at large although information about their identity has been forwarded to the police. In the meantime a 14-year old Afro-Caribbean youth has been murdered by racist thugs in the Plaistow area of Newham in broad daylight.

I would like to stress one final point which makes the Newham 7 case crucially different from other similar campaigns - by arresting three of the racists and charging them, the police are attempting to de-politicise the issues around the case and present it as one of 'gang warfare'. This is a clear attempt to equate the aggressor with people defending themselves from a racist attack and a major political campaign is of the utmost necessity to ensure that the attempt does not succeed.

On behalf of the campaign I would like to thank you for all the work you have done to date in support of the defendants. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require further information or campaign literature.

Yours in solidarity

James Desai
Secretary
Newham 7 Defence Campaign

List of supporters and affiliated groups (as at 31.12.84)

Alf Lomas, MEP, London East	Bow LPYS
R. Leighton MP, Newham NE	Christians Against Racism and Fascism
Tony Bank MP, Newham NW	Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!
Indian Workers Association (GB)	Red Youth
Indian Workers Association	Institute of Education
Dave Nellitt MP (Coventry SE)	Students Union
Harry Cohen, MP (Leyton)	Cann Hall Ward LP/Walthamstow
Labour Party Young Socialists	Southampton University Labour Society
All London Teachers Against Racism	Reading University Students Union
and Fascism	Anti-Racist Society
Newham NW LPYS	Queen Mary College Labour Club
Pakistan Workers	Batley and Dewsbury Asian Youth Movement
Sheffield Asian Youth Movement	East Chelsea Labour Party
Bradford Asian Youth Movement	ASTMS (N.E.London)
Birmingham YOUTH Movement	Medical Branch
Bradford Newham 7 Support Group	Upton Ward Labour Party (Newham)
Sheffield Newham 7 Support Group	Newham Monitoring Project
Coventry Newham 7 Support Group	Newcastle Trades Council
Birmingham Newham 7 Support Group	Preston Trades Council
East London Campaign Against Racist	GACOP
Attacks and Police Harassment	North East Lancashire Campaign Against
Hackney Police Monitoring Group	Racism
CAPA	University of Swansea Labour Club
Greenwich Action Committee Against	Islington ACTSS
Racist Attacks	ASTMS No.15 Divisional Council
Haringey Asian Action Group	Leeds TOM
Socialist Organiser	TOM
Socialist Action	East London GLF
Peckham Labour Party	Alconbury Nine Defence Committee
Kensington Labour Party	Muslim Association of Croydon
Labour Against Racist Attacks	Nottingham Inter Union Race Relations Group
Vauxhall LPYS	Ealing NALGO
Harrow LPYS	TGWU (1/785 Branch)
Jewish Socialist Party	Oxford Unemployed Workers and Claimants
Jewish Women Fight Racism	Union
CPSA(DHSS)East London	PNP (UK)
City of London ANTI-Apartheid Support	
Group	
National Campaign Against the Police	
Bill	