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**'Asians intimidated,' say supporters**

# 'Race victims harassed by police' claim

SHEFFIELD'S Asian Youth Movement is calling for an investigation into the way it says police handled a case involving three Asian men.

The group, which claims several hundred supporters throughout the city, says police harassed and intimidated the victims of a racial assault.

It says the case of what has come to be known as the Page Hall Three has brought frustration and suspicion about the police and courts in its community.

But the police have immediately rejected the allegations of racial prejudice and add that the case was "fully and properly investigated."

They also say the incident was not racially motivated and that the appointment of a senior detective sergeant to investigate the case was proof of the importance they attached to it.

The controversy began in March after a clash between three youths of Asian origin and a group of white youths.

## Calls

The Page Hall Three — all Asians — were prosecuted for threatening behaviour and two of them were also charged with assault.

Two of the white youths were charged with threatening behaviour and one of the two with assault.

Sheffield magistrates dismissed the cases of all five when the Crown prosecutor withdrew all charges against them.

Mark Foley, the solicitor who represented the three Asian youths, said later: "We are amazed and frustrated. They initially complained about a serious racial attack involving bricks and bottles but then found themselves brought to court with actions against them."

He said he would back calls for an investigation into the police handling of the case.

Mr. Foley criticised the decision to drop the charges

**By Martin Wilson**

against the white youths even though, he claimed, one had signed a statement saying he had grabbed a bottle and smashed it before the incident.

A spokesman for the Asian Youth Movement said it was discussing ways of prosecuting one of the alleged attackers privately and called for an independent inquiry into the case.

Supt. Terry Swann, based at Attercliffe police station, rejected allegations and accused the movement of spreading "propaganda".

"This is an attempt to discredit my officers. I would reject it totally. I question the motives of the people making these statements," he said.

"I am extremely sensitive about cases like this and made sure the inquiry was properly conducted so that we would not attract any criticism. The matter was fully and properly investigated.

A spokesman for the Crown prosecution services said the charges had been dropped because there was insufficient evidence to take the matter further.