

THE TIMES JUNE 17 1982

All 12 Asians acquitted in Bradford bombs trial

Eleven young Asians from Bradford, West Yorkshire, were acquitted yesterday of a petrol bomb plot after a trial lasting 31 days. They were found not guilty of unlawfully and maliciously making 38 petrol bombs with intent to endanger life or cause serious injury to property or to enable others to do so.

They were also found not guilty of conspiring to make the petrol bombs for an unlawful purpose.

After the jury at Leeds Crown Court returned the verdicts, clapping and cheering broke out in the public gallery, and among some the journalists from the ethnic minority and left-wing press who alone had regular reported the trial.

Mr Paul Kennedy, QC, for the prosecution had alleged that the 38 petrol bombs were made on July 11 in Bradford. The bombs were found in a crate in the grounds of a hospital, he said.

Only one defendant, Mr Tarlochan Gata-Aura, went into the witness box. He said he had heard that coachloads

of skinheads were travelling to Bradford to attack its Asian community, and the petrol bombs were made as a possible means of defending the community. They were never intended to be used.

Nine of the others accused who all denied the charges, made statements from the dock denying the charges. A twelfth defendant, Mr Jayesh Amin, was found not guilty on the direction of the judge, earlier in the trial.

Afterwards a spokesman for the Bradford 12 defence committee, which had staged demonstrations outside the court in support of the defendants, said: "This is a tremendous verdict. It has proved that self-defence is not an offence. These defendants have shown that fascist hooligans cannot rule Britain's streets."

Mr Tarlochan Gata-Aura, aged 25, of Middle Lane, Bradford, said: "The jury has accepted that there was a very real threat to us from the National Front and other fascist skinheads."

Interviewing Telegraph June 17 1982

Bomb trial Asians go free

ELEVEN Asians were cleared of a petrol bomb plot after a trial lasting 31 days.

They were found not guilty of making 38 petrol bombs with intent to endanger life or cause serious injury to property or to enable others to do so.

They were also found not guilty of conspiring to make the petrol bombs for an unlawful purpose.

The jury returned their verdicts after one hour and 20 minutes following an overnight stay in a hotel and nearly seven hours of deliberation. Judge Beaumont excused them from further jury service for life.

Mr Paul Kennedy, QC, prosecuting, alleged that the 38 petrol bombs were made in Bradford to be used against the police and shops in disturbances. The bombs were found in a crate in the grounds of a hospital.

Only one defendant, Tarlochan Gata-Aura, went into the witness box. He said he heard that coachloads of skinheads were travelling to Bradford to attack its Asian community, and the petrol bombs were a means of defending the community.

They were never intended to be used against the police or shops, and they were not used.

Nine of the other accused made statements from the dock denying the charges.

The eleven who denied the charges, were: Gata-Aura, aged 25; Tariq Mahmood Ali, 24; Saeed Mohammed Hussain, 18; Sabir Hussain, 19; Ishaq Mohammed Kazi, 22; Bahram Noor Khan, 20; Masud Malik, 18; Ahmed Mansoor, 17; Pravin Patel, 20; Nasant Patel, 20, all of Bradford, and Giovanni Singh, 18, of Shipley.

During the trial Jayesh Amin, 25, of Bradford, was found not guilty on the direction of the judge.