

BRADFORD 12 SHOW TRIAL UNDERWAY

As FRFI goes to press the trial of the Bradford 12 will have entered its sixth week at Leeds Crown Court. So far it has had all the elements of a political show trial – lying police officers, scraps of evidence and the introduction of evidence on the defendants' political views and activities.

The trial began with the final selection of the jury. It now comprises five blacks – none of them from Bradford and only two being Asian out of a jury panel of 131 people.

The prosecution opened their case against the 12 by alleging that on 11 July of last year the 12 conspired to make petrol bombs to be used against the police and big stores in the centre of Bradford. They were not used, say the prosecution, as four of the so-called 'ringleaders' were arrested in Bradford city centre. The prosecution then dutifully produced a series of police officers who had clearly conspired amongst themselves to produce statements depicting these four to be as violent and as riotous as possible.

The real events of July 11 were carefully covered up. On that day the black community prepared for an impending attack by fascist skinheads, the police themselves having ordered shopkeepers to board-up. Hundreds of youth came onto the streets to defend the communities from attack, as in Southall only days before.

The prosecution case rests mainly on the so-called 'voluntary confessions' that the 12 made while in custody. These confessions were extracted by the police after the 12 had been refused solicitors for 3 days, and had been subjected to threats, intimidation and assaults.

As part of their evidence the prosecution showed to the jury their own totally concocted and prejudicial film of petrol bombs exploding. A book by Malcolm X and political magazines including the *New Statesman*, removed from the house of Tarlochan Gata-aura, have been introduced as evidence of his extreme political views. The role of the Special Branch in conducting political

interrogations with the defendants has also emerged throughout the trial.

A succession of police officers in the witness box have gone to all lengths possible to deny any knowledge of racist attacks in Bradford and the recent upsurge of fascist activity. In a well rehearsed fashion they have all claimed not to know of the attacks, assaults and murders that have taken place. When defence barrister Sigbat Kadri's cross examination began to expose the police, Judge Beaumont became visibly uneasy, then barked at Kadri to sit down. Later Judge Beaumont suspended the court proceedings to give the defence counsels a rebuke in his room.

Judge Beaumont is always at hand to stop defence questioning when it puts the police into a tight spot. When defendant Massood Malik's father tragically died of a heart attack during the trial, he refused to adjourn the proceedings as the trial was 'costing too much money'.

With the police evidence now completed, defence barristers will be making legal submissions to get the charges thrown out. Outside the court it is essential that large and noisy pickets are maintained throughout the trial. The six supporters arrested on the first national picket of Leeds Crown Court have had their cases adjourned to 21 June.

**Self Defence is No Offence!
Free the Bradford 12!**

Bill Hughes

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After legal submissions all charges against Jayesh Amin were dropped. The first charge of 'making an explosive substance with intent to endanger life and property' was also dropped against Saeed Hussain and Sabir Hussain.