

# SELF DEFENCE OUR RIGHT

Due to the recent increase in racial violence and the very insensitive police reactions, there has been a loss of faith in the police among Asian communities. All these incidents have been reported to the police in the last 18 months:-

- 15 youths attacked the Shizan Resturant. Customers and staff were injured. The police - though repeatedly called - took 20 minutes to arrive. When they did arrive they arrested Ahmed Kahn, one of the victims!
- Shirland Lane Mosque was attacked by fire, although the cause of the fire was not established, the Muslim community believe it to be the act of racists due to the presence of racist graffiti.
- A severed pig's head was left outside one place of worship. The police took no action, saying it was 'just' vandalism.
- Asian taxi-drivers have been the victims of violent attacks by racists. One taxi-driver was attacked in Crookes when a customer refused to pay. POLICE CHARGED THE VICTIM NOT THE ATTACKERS, and the taxi-driver had to pay a fine of £600 for defending himself. Another taxi-driver lost the sight in one eye after an attack on his cab. This occurred after several incidents of attacks on taxi-drivers in the Handsworth area had been reported to the police. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.
- Asian families on the Manor Estate have suffered numerous racist attacks, and harassment - the most serious being when fumigation pellets were dropped through the letter box, resulting in hospital treatment for members of the family, two of the children were kept in for 36 hours. The children of another family have been harassed on their way to school.
- The restaurant of an active member of the Asian Youth Council was set on fire. The restaurant was put out of action and the owner - who was asleep upstairs - was nearly killed. Racist slogans had been daubed on the walls.

The only police reaction has been to organise heavier policing in the areas of Broomhall and Burngreave, similar to the police action which led to the riots last year in Brixton and Southall; strangely enough they said they were too under-staffed to increase policing of those areas where the attacks are taking place.

All this has angered the black communities, and has also led to the setting up of the CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACIAL AND POLICE HARASSMENT (C.A.R.P.H.). The aims of this group are:-

- \* To support black people organising defence against racist attack.
- \* To put pressure on the police to stop indifference and harassment.
- \* To make white people aware of the increasing racist attacks in Sheffield.
- \* To encourage people to join in the fight against racism.

Please come along to our meetings! Attend the picket of the trial of Ahmed Kahn! Send us donations! Send letters of protest to South Yorkshire Police Committee.

# C.A.R.P.H.

PO BOX

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SELF DEFENCE OUR RIGHT

Last June we highlighted the racist way in which Police handled an attack by white youths on the Shizam Restaurant, Greenland Road. Instead of responding quickly when the Asian staff called for help, they arrested only one person - one of the victims of the attack - Mr Ahmed Khan.

During the attack on the restaurant, £70 was stolen from the till. Now, four months later, Police have arrested and charged a young helper at the Shizam, Mohammed Ghofar, 16 years old, with this theft.

The owner of the restaurant has dismissed this as ridiculous and has no doubts about continuing to employ Ghofar. The way he was arrested and questioned without either his parents or a solicitor present is completely irregular.

This appears to be one more example of the Sheffield Police's refusal to accept that crimes are being committed against the Asian community.

We are picketting Ghofar's trial at the Magistrate's Court today to demand:

1. the dropping of these ridiculous charges
2. the end to Police harrassment
3. serious action against racist attacks

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C.A.R.P.H.