

## KASHMIRIS DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

c/o 438, Alum Rock Road, Birmingham 8.

The events of the death of the Indian diplomat in Birmingham have a deep relationship with the "problem of Kashmir". For the last 37 years India has carried on its military occupation of Kashmir. This "problem of Kashmir" was created by the British when they ignored the rights of Kashmiri people when they left the sub-continent. The people are engaged in a struggle for their national liberation.

The right of self-determination for Kashmiri people has been recognised by the United Nations, but in the last 37 years, the Indian occupying army has butchered thousands of Kashmiris - thousands of women have been widowed and thousands of children orphaned. The political leaders of Kashmir have been locked away in the death cells of the Indian government. In January 1982, the Indian army shot down the whole family of Mohammad Alam in cold blood. The "crime" that this family committed was to move from one part of their mother country to another, from Indian occupied Kashmir to Azad Kashmir.

In the first week of February 1984, an organisation calling itself the Kashmir Liberation Army abducted an Indian diplomat, and amongst other demands, demanded the release of Maqbool Butt, the leader of the National Liberation Front. If the demands were not met, they threatened to kill the diplomat. The British authorities and the Indian government did not take this threat seriously and the result was that the Indian diplomat was killed. When this happened, the Indian government did not wait for the result of any investigations by the British police and vengefully murdered Maqbool Butt, the great leader of Kashmiris. All the major political parties in Britain, who receive votes from the many Kashmiris living here, called the killing of the Indian diplomat barbaric, but did not utter a single word when Maqbool Butt was murdered, nor have they ever raised any voice of protest about the massacres of Kashmiri people carried out by the Indian army.

Following the death of the Indian diplomat, the lives of Kashmiris in Britain has been made unbearable. The British police are harassing and terrorising Kashmiri people everywhere - they raid Kashmiri peoples' homes, break down the doors, enter without warrants and terrorise the women and children. Kashmiris are taken to police stations and illegally detained and harassed without access to friends or solicitors. On top of this, the worst enemies of the Kashmiri people, the police of the Indian government are taking part in the "investigation". The police pick up anybody who in their eyes is a Kashmiri, and they think that they are justified in terrorising them.

To appease Mrs Indira Gandhi, great friend of Mrs Thatcher, the British police are trying to make life difficult for Kashmiris in other European countries by involving European police forces. Recently, about a dozen Dutch police forced their way into Mohammad Bashir Bhatti's home in Amsterdam. One of them held a gun to his chest and the others handcuffed him. Similar treatment was handed out to a Kashmiri guest in the house. They were taken first to the police station and then to police headquarters where they were interrogated for many hours about the killing of the Indian diplomat. Meantime their house was searched thoroughly. Mohammad Bashir Bhatti is a Kashmiri born British national. If similar treatment had been received by a white British national, there would have been a big uproar in the British parliament. The British government regards it as its duty to protect its white British citizens even when they have committed serious crimes. Only recently, 7 white British nationals were released from prison in Angola before the end of their sentences. They were involved in the killing of black men, women and children - carrying out these barbarous acts for money, yet their release has been acclaimed by the British government as a "diplomatic victory".

Kashmiris are not mercenaries, but are engaging in a struggle for their basic human rights, yet they are oppressed and victimised in all countries. The British police, to further harass and terrorise Kashmiris have locked up five Kashmiris. The only "crime" that these people have committed is to believe that Kashmir should be liberated, yet they now face trial in British courts.

**WE DEMAND THAT THE BRITISH POLICE STOP THIS HARASSMENT AND VICTIMISATION OF KASHMIRI PEOPLE NOW.**

**WE DEMAND THAT ALL THE CHARGES AGAINST KASHMIRI PEOPLE BE DROPPED.**