

ASIAN YOUTH NEWS

BIRMINGHAM ASIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT C/O 101 VILLA ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B19
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STATEMENT

The two most glaring facts threatening the existence of the black people in Britain today is, firstly, the attack upon us by the state (which is particularly concentrated on the Afro-Caribbean people) in terms of confining us in the ghetto where there is the worst housing and the highest unemployment, slowly taking apart the welfare state on which the majority of us depend, and harassing us with their racist immigration laws, and with their racist policing.

Secondly, there is the rising tide of fascism, concentrated mainly in East London at the moment, but spreading across the face of this country. This expresses itself most horrifically in the daily attacks upon, and frequent murders of Asian men, women and children. Armed with knives and petrol-bombs today, the time is not far off when they will be using guns and dynamite against us. Fascist paramilitary groups like Column 88 are training with Irish unionist (fascist) paramilitary groups, as well as with European right-wing terrorists.

This situation is going to get worse in the next 5 to 10 years. As the struggle of the black people in Azania (South Africa) has intensified, thousands of white people have been leaving to come to Britain. A

large proportion of Azania's four million whites have a right to enter Britain under the nationality laws, and they will be coming over in great numbers over the next few years. In addition, Britain is going to lose her £20 billion of investments when Azania falls to the black revolution, and this is going to have a catastrophic effect in this country. Hundreds of thousands of jobs will be lost as firms shut down.

In these conditions of rapidly rising unemployment there is going to be a violent explosion of fascism. No black person is going to be safe from attacks by resentful unemployed whites; our communities will be prime targets for fascist bombings. Asians are particularly a target since we are seen as business people, making money when everyone else is unemployed. Many shops and restaurants have already been bombed in London.

In the face of these attacks by the state and by fascist groups, there is an urgent need for black communities everywhere to get organised. We need to be organised in order to demand our rights, and to defend ourselves against white fascist terrorism.

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THE THREAT WHICH FACES OUR COMMUNITIES - THE RACIST STATE AND FASCISM

HANDSWORTH BRIXTON TOTTENHAM

The black ghettos of Britain are burning AGAIN. 1981 saw the beginning of open rebellion by black people, and the desperate attempts of the racist state to cool out the situation. But 4 years on our conditions have not changed and the rebellion of the oppressed has flared up again. No amount of police and state repression can keep the lid on our revolt.

Police racism has again been the spark to light the rebellions of our communities - in Handsworth, in Brixton, in Tottenham. The police are again blaming a handful of 'criminals' for taking advantage of 'tense' situations to stir up trouble. When will they realise that this situation is a daily one for our people and our communities. Bad housing, miseducation, unemployment, racist policing all create seething dissent in our communities.

No amount of community policing can hold off forever the revolt of our people. And a single incident is enough to put a spark to the gunpowder.

Community policing has failed to contain our discontent. After Handsworth and Brixton the racist British state is looking around for new ways to control our communities. They know that they cannot control the youth because the one thing they want the British state cannot give - employment. So they are trying now to 'criminalise' these youth. They are trying to deny that the youth are fighting against racism and unemployment by saying that they are 'criminals' who are causing the disturbances.

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Street rebellions are just an indication of our power and strength, but this energy needs to be channeled in the right direction. Street rebellions are a reminder to the state that it cannot keep our people down.

But if any change is going to come. it will only be through our own efforts. We need to build strong political and community organisations which will demand better housing and welfare; which will demand our money back from the state to be used by the community for its own needs - to create jobs for our

In Handsworth, the police, newspapers and T.V. were able to get Asian businessmen to say that Afro-Caribbean youth were attacking their shops. They were able to show the incident as Afro-Caribbean against Asian.

The Government has now said that it will help to set up Afro-Caribbean businesses in Handsworth. So that the next time there is an uprising, they can get both Asian and Afro-Caribbean businessmen to say that it was some 'criminal' youth who caused the trouble. The police have always said it, but they want the community to say it too.

In this way, the British state is trying to set up a small 'respectable' black middle class, a group of people who will act as community leaders. People within the community who will condemn the community and particularly the youth when they fight back. By calling them criminals they will give the police the opportunity to harass and brutalise them even more.

Our communities cannot afford to be divided. We cannot allow the British state to divide us. We must stay united and support our youth who are facing the worst of police racism and brutality. In Handsworth, in Brixton and in Tottenham we must put the blame firmly on the police and support the hundreds of our people who have been arrested.

Don't let them 'criminalise' our youth!

youth. and to organise the proper education of our children which is being neglected in the state schools. We need organisations which will demand an end to racist laws, and which will put an end to racist policing.

The community can no longer rely on individuals - politicians, councillors, community leaders - or political parties or organisations to do anything for it. These people are either not willing or not able to do anything in the face of the attack which is upon us. We can only move forward by our own efforts and joint action. Our survival depends on it.

ASIAN AFRICAN POLICE & MEDIA

In Handsworth, the police, press and T.V. tried to show that Afro-Caribbeans were attacking Asians. It is true that the majority of businesses which were destroyed were Asian, but this was simply because the majority of shops in Handsworth and Lozells are Asian owned. The shops and businesses form only a small part of the Asian community in Handsworth and the majority of our people were not touched. In fact many Asian youth took part in the clashes with police. While police were quick to launch a murder hunt for the 'killings' of the two brothers in Lozells Road Post Office, it has now been shown that their deaths were an accident. Both Afro-Caribbean youth and a fire officer asked them to come out of the building but sadly they refused.

The fact that it was not a riot or 'orgy of bloodlust' but a revolt against the police and ghetto conditions is supported by the incidents in Brixton and Tottenham. There too it was racist policing (involving the shooting of one Afro-Caribbean woman and causing the death of another) which sparked off the black rebellion which has been building up for years.

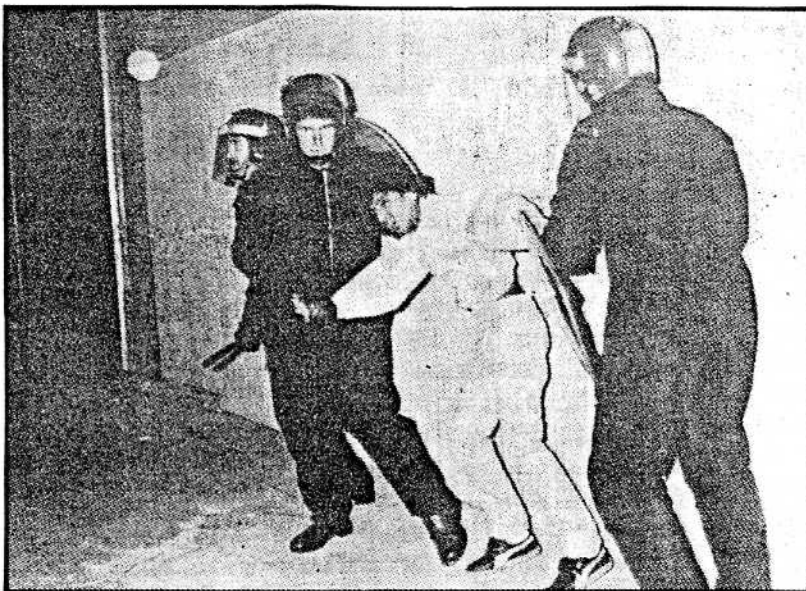
Since 1981 the police have established a system of 'Community Policing' and set up various 'Liaison Committees'. But all of this only works in one direction - it is a network of informers that has been set

up to gather information on our communities so that they can control our protests more effectively. The police are not interested in helping the community to solve its own problems.

Differences and prejudices certainly exist in the Handsworth community, mainly because Asians own most of the businesses and Afro-Caribbeans have more unemployment. There are reasons for this which we must understand - we can't just say that Afro-Caribbeans are lazy and don't want to work. We all came to this country to work, but now there is simply no work, particularly if you are Asian or Afro-Caribbean.

The police and the state, however, are trying to widen the divisions and drive a wedge into the community. They do this by getting the minority of business people (mainly Asian) to participate in their Committees and make the public statements they want - it is these people who appeared on T.V. making the damaging statements about Afro-Caribbeans attacking Asians. When Asians are seen to be on the side of the police it causes hostility by some Afro-Caribbeans towards us. We shouldn't allow this to happen - for the great majority of us we live in the same area, in the same bad housing, with no jobs, and facing worsening living

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ASIAN AND AFRO-CARIBBEAN YOUTH -- EQUAL TARGETS FOR THE POLICE

Handsworth Defence Campaign

%104 Heathfield Rd., Handsworth, Lozells, Birmingham, B19 1JF.
Tel: 554 0026/554 2747

To date over 500 people have been arrested and over 350 charged. These numbers are still rising as police continue to arrest people, often breaking into their homes in the early morning.

At the police station people have been denied their basic legal rights such as a phone call and a solicitor. The police are extracting false statements by any means they can. They are getting people to incriminate their friends and acquaintances through intimidation and inhuman treatment. Young people under 17 are being interviewed without their parents or guardians being present as the law requires.

At the courts duty solicitors are often advising people to plead GUILTY and are drawing up sentences for the magistrates to impose. At least one young person has already served a sentence of 28 days without the proper trial required by law.

The HANDSWORTH DEFENCE CAMPAIGN has been set up in order to:

- 1) Ensure that people who have been charged receive a sound legal defence. The Campaign has drawn up a list of solicitors and barristers who it feels will be sympathetic towards those charged, and will provide them with good representation. If you are unhappy with your present solicitor contact the Campaign.
- 2) Build support in the Handsworth community for the defence of all who have been charged, and to put pressure on the police to stop the arrests and intimidation of our community.

On Friday 4 October the Handsworth Defence Campaign held a Public Meeting at the Mohammed Ali Centre in Hockley. The meeting was filled to overflowing and anyone who wished to speak was allowed to do so. Some of the organisations which attended included Sikh Temples, Indian Workers Association, African Caribbean Self-Help Organisation, West Indian Federation and various other community organisations. The meeting was united in condemning the actions of the police, and in the aim of building up the unity of Asian and African Caribbean people in Handsworth to face the attacks of the racist state. The meeting raised over £650 for the Defence Campaign.

The Handsworth Defence Campaign (H.D.C.) was started on 10 September 1985 following the disturbances and arrests on the night of Monday 9 September. The Defence Committee consists of committed members of Handsworth's Asian and African Caribbean community. Given the enormous task it has taken on, it requires other committed people to come forward and share the work. Most of all the H.D.C. requires the support of all concerned people, and particularly of the people of Handsworth, for its public statements and for any activities which it organises in the future.

The Handsworth Defence Campaign may be contacted at 104 Heathfield Road, Lozells, Birmingham 19, or Tel. 021-554 2747.

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standards. We should have nothing to do with the rich businessmen who don't even live in Handsworth and are taking all the money we spend out of the community. They want the community and the youth to defend their businesses, but their interests are totally different from ours. They mix with the police and Tory magistrates while the youth come up against the sharp end of British 'justice'.

The police and media have recently been making a pretence of sympathy to the Asians in Handsworth. But it wasn't long ago that we were the object of police and media hate. In Southall in 1979 the police attacked the Asian community when it organised against the racist National Front. The media have time and again carried out vicious racist campaigns against Asians - immigration scares,

TO MY MOTHER

Oh Mother, can you help me now to fight my struggle for the people. You who brought me into the world. You my mother who always told me to fight for the truth. Now I am doing that, I am told that this is not the way, think about the family and all that. How can I do that? I have to and want to think about all the other families who are suffering all over the world. Mothers who do not have enough food to feed their children, or enough money to buy clothes for them. Mothers who cry in city squares all over the world for their sons and daughters who have been taken away by the police or the army. All they can look forward to is finding their children dead on a roadside, riddled with bullets, and tortured bodies beyond recognition. You tell me my sweet Mother, how can I stand aside and watch when my people are being murdered, when they are being attacked in the streets and being burnt in their houses? I can say that I care about my family only because I am part of the people and they are part of me.

I love my son very much and care about him a lot. But he will understand when he grows up that I did not stay away all these nights from him, for any other reason than to try and help or take what little part I could in the struggle of my people. He is more the reason for my part in the struggle for my people.

Mother, you went around for nine months

with me inside you. You suffered all the pains and the sleepless nights. I have to do this for you. The struggle of the oppressed people will go on and on until the people are free. Everyday I see people being killed all over the world. In Africa the children are dying because they cannot get enough food. And yet in the West there is so much food that they cannot eat, so they put it away in warehouses or destroy it. Even the countries whose people are dying of hunger are not doing anything about it, or very little, because they are too busy buying arms.

And look at the children dying in Lebanon every time there is fighting. They suffer so much. The time has come for me to make my move. I have already wasted so much of my youth playing around. I always felt inside me that I wanted to do something. I want to do my bit in making the world a better place to live in for all the children of the world. I think that every one of us could do something in fighting the oppression of the people, no matter who they are or where they come from.

Like the song says,

Oh Mother, Oh Mother, comfort me
For all the awful things
I've got to be.

In honour of my Mother.

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social security scandals, and the like. Only in August this year the Daily Mail said that Asians were selling their daughters in marriage in order to bring people into Britain.

The police and media has been quick to call the two deaths in Handsworth racially motivated murder. But in London Asian people are being stabbed to death in the streets and burnt to death in their homes nearly every week. The police continuously repeat that they have no reason to believe there is a racial motive; the press have made no outcry against the murders. The police have been unable to find any of the

killers of our people who have been murdered in this country since 1968. But they were quick to round up Asian youth - the Bradford 12, Newham 8, Newham 7 - who fought to defend their communities against these attacks.

The police, the state, and their media stooges are not interested in the welfare of black people but only in stifling our protests. When it suits them they will show sympathy to us in order to divide the black community - Asian against Afro-Caribbean - and so rule us all. Now more than ever we need to unite the black community to fight against the racist state.

DEMONSTRATE

IN THE EAST END OF LONDON ON 9 TH NOVEMBER

(More information from Asian Youth Movement

c/o 101 Villa Road, Handsworth. Tel 551 4518)

In the last few months there have been 14 fire-bombings in London's East End. On July 13 Mrs Shamira Kassam and her three young children were burned to death in a horrific racial fire-bombing of their home. A demonstration has been called to demand police action on these murders, and as a show of strength by the Asian community to the cowardly fascist thugs who will only attack us in our beds.

Support Mirza Kassam!
Support the Asian community!

Birmingham City Council and the Police are organising a meeting at Birmingham University to discuss the policing of Handsworth and Lozells. This is another exercise in Community Policing - while the Police take a back seat, they are tapping community organisations for the information they need to control the community.

There should be no co-operation with the police while they continue to kick down our doors and arrest people in connection with the Handsworth Rebellion.

PICKET

THE MEETING

AT BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY

ON 8 TH & 9 TH NOVEMBER

