

NEWHAM 7 DEFENCE CAMPAIGN P.O.BOX 273, FOREST GATE. LONDON E7 TELE: 01 555 8151

Zafar Khan (18)

Khan Bahadur (22)

Parvaiz Khan (17)

Amjad Ali (21)

Jyoti Raiapoon (17)

Jamal Chaudhri (19)

Habib Mohammed (18)

face affray charges for defending themselves and their community from racist attacks.

UD/BA

1st March 1985

Dear Friend,

The date of the Newham 7 trial has now been fixed. The case will start at the Old Bailey on Monday May 13th.

To bring the campaign to a climax and to ensure that the seven defendants go to the Old Bailey with the weight of local and national anti-racist opinion behind them, it was decided at the supporters meeting held yesterday (24.2.85) to call for a National demonstration against racist attacks and in support of the Newham 7 on Saturday, April 27th, assembling at 1 p.m. at Plashet Park, Plashet Grove, East Ham, London E6, (Ø East Ham, District Line). The demonstration will culminate with a rally at the end with speakers from the defence campaigns, black organisations, antiracist organisations, the NUM and MPs.

A massive turnout and show of strength on the day is absolutely essential: racist attacks have been steadily mounting over the last year with two racist murders in Newham in 1984, the police response remains unchanged with the victims of racist attacks like the Newham 7 being criminalised for their resistance to racism and as the miners strike has vividly demonstrated the forces of state authoritarianism are growing in strength, forces which need to be challenged.

On behalf of the Newham 7 Campaign, the defendants and their parents I appeal to you for the maximum possible support for the march. It remains an acid test for the black community and the antiracist movement that people whose only "crime" was to defend themselves against racist attacks should not be criminalised for self-defence. What adds a unique dimension to the case is that the police by arresting three racists and putting them in the same dock as the Newham 7 are portraying the whole case as one of gang warfare; it remains of crucial importance that they are not allowed to get away with this and set a very dangerous precedent for the rest of us.

The Defence Campaign appeals to all support groups/supporters to start mobilising for the march: already coaches and minibuses have been booked in a number of towns and cities. It remains important that local black groups in your area, miners support groups, Labour Party branches and other progressive organisations are approached for help (both in terms of numbers, and for finances) and to mobilise for the march.

In addition support groups/supporters are urged to:

- (a) organise public meetings wherever possible - by the time the Newham 7 go to court it is important that all black and antiracist people are made aware

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SELF DEFENCE NO OFFENCE! NEWHAM 7 INNOCENT!

of the case and its implications (speakers can be provided);

- (b) approach black groups, Labour Party branches/trade union branches and community groups in your area to affiliate to the campaign and sign Newham 7 petition forms - this is also a good way of making people aware of the campaign;
- (c) organise fundraising events - the campaign desperately needs funds. These events (and white collar trade union branches have also proved to be very sympathetic) could also help to raise money for the hire of coaches/minibuses for the demonstration.

Leaflets, stickers, posters, model resolutions/affiliation forms and petition forms are available from the campaign for help with mobilisation for the march.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require further information about the case or the march.

It was the sustained dedication of support groups and community pressure that ensured the victory of the Newham 8 - that same support is now needed to ensure the victory of the Newham 7.

Yours in solidarity,

U. Desai

Unmesh Desai

Secreatry, Newham 7 Defence Campaign