

Zafar Khan (18)

Khan Bahadur (22)

Parvaiz Khan (17)

Amjad Ali (21)

Jyoti Raiappaan (17)

Jamal Chaudhri (19)

Habib Mohammed (18)

NEWHAM 7 DEFENCE CAMPAIGN
P.O.BOX 273, FOREST GATE.
LONDON E7
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face affray charges for defending themselves and their community from racist attacks. _____

21st May 1985

Dear Friend,

The case of the Newham 7 started this afternoon at the Old Bailey Crown Court Old Bailey, London, EC4. (- St. Pauls).

Although the case was due to start on Monday May 13th, due to lack of court room the case was put off, which in turn hindered the Campaign's attempts to organise and coordinate support around the case. The case itself is expected to last for four to six weeks. (1) Mass pickets of the Old Bailey are being organised every Monday due to the duration of the trial. The dates for the pickets are as follows;

Wednesday May 29th (due to the 27th and 28th being Bank holidays)

Monday June 3rd

Monday June 10th

* Monday June 17th *

Monday June 24th

Monday July 1st

The maximum possible support for the mass pickets is requested, the importance of which cannot be overstressed. It remains an important objective of the campaign to get the message through to the judge, jury and the state that it is not just the Seven who are on trial but the whole Black community (as barrister Rudy Narayan put it this afternoon on the first day of the case 'The seven were acting in their own self defence, that of their friends and associates and the Black community of Newham'), and that they are sitting on an issue and not an individual case: the right of black people to protect themselves against racist attacks in the face of the failure of the forces of law and order to provide any protection whatsoever. With the judges refusal to try the three racists separately from the Newham 7, it is even more imperative for us to make sure that prosecution attempts to present the case as a gang fight and not one where seven youths were arrested for defending themselves against racist attacks is resisted.

In addition pickets are essential to keep up and illustrate the depth and extent of community support.

- (2) In addition to the mass pickets it is important, again for the above reasons, for the public gallery to be filled daily. When there are no mass pickets the Campaign urges you to attend the Old Bailey - Court number 2 whenever you have time and bring friends, supporters, members of your organisation, trade unions etc. along.

SELF DEFENCE NO OFFENCE! NEWHAM 7 INNOCENT!

In due course we intend drawing up a rota of supporters/support groups in order to allocate day(s) to come to the Old Bailey in support of the Seven - it would help us considerably if you/your organisation could let us know what date you would be able to attend.

- ③ In order to discuss the next stage of the campaign, the mass pickets, the case itself and preparations for the outcome and campaign plans after the end of the case, a national supporters meeting has been called for Sunday 2nd June at 3.00pm at Asian Resource Centre, 101 Villa Road, Lozells, Birmingham (bus 74, 79, 90, 91, from the city centre/New Street BR station). It is of vital importance that every support group endeavours to send at least one representative to the meeting. If there are any financial problems let us know.

- ④ A meeting of all London supporters has been called for Thursday 30th May at Labour Party Halls, 241E High Street North, London E12 7JY. Again in view of recent developments in the campaign and case, it is vitally important for as many London based support groups/supporters as possible attend the meeting.

As the campaign reaches its climax we particularly request supporters to send in completed petition forms as these will be needed by the solicitors in due course. Petition forms, posters, leaflets, stickers, and Tee shirts can be obtained by writing to the campaign or ringing 01 555 8151. Model resolutions/affiliation forms are also available; it is vitally important even at this late stage for you to get your organisation and black groups, trade unions, community organisations/ Labour Party and other political organisations in your area to affiliate.

Finally I would like to thank you for your support on both the Newham 7 demonstrations (April 27th and May 11th) particularly for the second one which was called at only a week's notice. 3,000 people marched in support of the Newham 7 and our right to defend ourselves against racist attack on April 27th and roughly the same number again marched on May 11th. Despite saturation policing and unique policing methods, refined and developed in the course of the Miners strike, the marches helped to establish the strength and community support for the Newham 7 and provided a perfect focus for the start of the trial.

It has been a long and sustained campaign stretching over a year; the case and the issues raised have achieved national prominence, it is of crucial importance that the momentum acquired by the campaign over the last two months is maintained for the next few weeks to ensure that the jury return one verdict and one only - NOT GUILTY !

In Solidarity,

U Desai

Unmesh Desai (for the Newham 7 Defence Campaign)

**** STOP PRESS****

* Today, Wednesday 22nd May, one of the Newham 7 defendants, Goga (Parvaiz) Khan was badly beaten up and racially abused by 15 prison officers, in court cells, because he refused, being a Muslim, to eat a pork pie for lunch. This reinforces the fact that black people cannot expect protection from the state wherever they are. As a result of today your support is even more essential. He received horrific facial injuries and bruised ribs as a result.

* For day to day information ring 01 555 8154 between 6.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m