

Anwar Wins: A victory all oppressed people can rejoice in
By a Liberation correspondent

Anwar Ditta, a Birmingham born mother, finally won her long struggle to bring her children, Kamran(10), Imran(8) and Saima(7) from Pakistan. The children arrived on Tuesday, 14th April from Pakistan via Amsterdam to Manchester, accompanied by their father Mr. Shuja ud Din. When Shuja went to Pakistan to bring the children, his employer, Heap Dawson, terminated his employment. He had asked for three weeks holiday to allow him to bring the children. After years of separation from his children, Shuja is now faced with the prospect of a long period of unemployment, considering the state of the Engineering industry in the area.

The campaign has not ended with the children arriving. Nobody can compensate for the five years lost in their lives, but the Home Office must be made to give compensation to the family as an admission of guilt. No doubt, many will raise the bogey of tax-payers money being spent on individuals at a time of severe economic recession, knowing full well that money paid in compensation is not even a drop in the ocean. Tax-payers money is spent, and correctly so, to compensate for unlawful arrest, false imprisonment and to pay the legal expenses of people charged with crimes as mass murder, rape and arson. Why then shouldn't a mother be compensated for the state destroying her family life?

Anwar's victory is a victory all oppressed people can rejoice in, because Anwar and her defence campaign always stressed that she was not a special case. Anwar herself also campaigned for Ibrahim Ali, a Bengali father, separated from his children for the last 10 years, Nasira Begum, a Pakistani woman threatened with deportation and Jaswinder Kaur, an Indian woman, also faced with deportation. We give here a brief history of the campaign before we analyse the lessons we have learnt ourselves from the campaign and how, in the opinion of Anwar, the campaign was won.

Brief details

Anwar Ditta, born in Birmingham on 28th November 1953
Parents separated in 1962 and Anwar was sent to Pakistan
Married Shuja ud Din in Pakistan in 1968 and had three children there
Shuja came to England in 1974 and Anwar followed in 1975
Applied for children on 9th Sept. 1976
Refused entry on 18th May 1979
Appealed against decision on 8th June 1979
Appeal heard on 28th April and 16th May 1980 in Manchester
Appeal refused on July 30th 1980
Leave to appeal against refusal declined on 16th September 1980
Home office declared the case of Anwar Ditta closed on 30th September 1980

The Campaign

Defence committee set up in November 1979

Demonstrations:

Rochdale 1st March 1980- over 300 people
Manchester 26th April 1980-over 500 people
Rochdale 6th Sept. 1980 - over 300 people
Rochdale 15th Nov. 1980-over 1000 people

In addition Anwar spoke at over 400 public meetings through out the country thousands of signatures were collected, pickets organised outside the Home-office and hearings in Manchester and support committees set up in Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, London, Nottingham and Bradford. Granada television's 'World in Action' documentary on Anwar, which disclosed the blood test results proving parentage conclusively was seen by millions. Although the defence committee was not directly involved with the programme, it would not be inaccurate to state that the media interest was there only because of the campaign.

The defence committee also provided translations of letters and documents and sent Ruth Bundy, Anwar's solicitor to Pakistan who gathered evidence including: