

November 1981.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are writing to ask for your support for twelve young Asian men charged with 'Conspiracy' on July 30 th this year. After their arrest they were held for thirty hours in police cells in Bradford and denied access to relatives or solicitors. The majority of them spent three months in jail or remand centre before being granted bail. Bail conditions now granted include a heavy curfew, daily reporting to the police and a ban on political activity. This contrasts sharply with the treatment of white racists accused and convicted of burning Asian shops and homes. Yet all twelve plead 'Not Guilty' to the charges against them of conspiracy to make explosives, damage property and cause grievous bodily harm

The charges that these twelve young men face relate to a crate of milk bottles filled with petrol found on waste ground in Bradford. Yet no petrol bombs were thrown in the very minor disturbances in Bradford in July; nobody, except a black youth mauled by police dogs, was hurt, and very little property was damaged. The street violence experienced by many English cities during the summer arose from the appalling unemployment, social conditions and harassment of young people, black and white, by authorities. However, it naturally failed to achieve any alleviation of these conditions.

The treatment of these twelve youths and the charges against them arise from their legitimate political activity. They were all members or supporters of the United Black Youth League working around deportation cases and in the Anwar Ditta campaign, against the Nationality Bill, and in highlighting police attitudes to increasing incidents of racial harassment to the black community. It is important that we challenge the criminalisation of these political struggles by the use of conspiracy charges.

Bradford's Black community, young and old, see the proceedings against these young black activists, one of whom has served as an executive member on our Trades Council, as a direct threat to them, and so must the Labour Movement.

The Labour Movement has a long-standing policy of opposition to police harassment of Labour Movement activists, black and white. For generations our movement has fought against the use of conspiracy charges, which are used to prevent working people from organising to protect themselves and their living standards, as in the case of the Shrewsbury 24 building workers. Because of the use of conspiracy charges the Bradford 12 face a possible life imprisonment.

P.T.O.

We are writing to ask you to join us in supporting the Bradford 12. You can do this by :-

- \* Supporting the National Demonstration on December 12th at 1.30 pm, assembling at Manningham Park, Bradford.
- \* Sending letters of support, donations, requests for leaflets and speakers to 'July 11th Action Committee', c/o 4th Idea Bookshop, Southgate, Bradford 1.
- \* Ensuring that the case is fully publicised within the Labour Movement.

Yours fraternally,

Bradford Trades Council