

Dear Brothers and Sister,

I am writing to you to appeal for resolutions and financial support for the Anwar Qadir (Zed) Defence Committee. Anwar is a well known activist in the Asian Youth Movement in Bradford. In that capacity he has been involved in many anti-deportation cases, mobilisations against rightwing groups and supported trade union demonstrations. He was also very active in the Bradford 12 Defence Committee whom you probably know were found not guilty of extremely serious charges after a year long campaign.

As an activist who has stewarded a number of demonstrations, I believe he has become the object of undue attention from the police and has in fact been arrested on the last two demonstrations that he attended, in my view unnecessarily.

The first occasion was on a peaceful picket of the 'Any Questions' programme on March 12 on which Enoch Powell was a guest. During the picket, Anwar was approached by an aggressive individual who was restrained, and then ordered out of the way by the senior police officer present. No names were taken or arrests made yet some weeks later Anwar received a summons charging him with criminal damage alleging that he had ripped the coat of a plain clothes police officer.

The second arrest occurred on the first day of the trial of the Bradford 12 at which I was present, and warned on one occasion that if I did not disperse the picket, I would be arrested. The attitude of the police throughout the picket was aggressive, taking for example the car numbers of people attending the picket, without giving explanations or reasons. Anwar's arrest occurred as he came out of the law courts whilst he was arguing that the picket should be restrained and orderly. There was no apparent reason for his arrest in terms of his activities. The Defence Committee believe that these arrests are not coincidental but represent an attempt to intimidate and criminalise a well known activist in the black community. He has also given support to many T.U.C.D.E.M.O.S and attend Unemployment marches up and down the country. I am therefore writing to ask you for both financial and political support. Despite the fact that Anwar is unemployed, he has been refused legal aid to fight his case in court. In these circumstances I hope that you can help us by sending any donations and resolutions of support to :-

Anwar (ZED) Qadir Defence Committee c/o 4th Idea Bookshop,  
Southgate, Bradford.

Yours fraternally,

Geoff Robinson.

Convenor. Bradford Trades Council International and Anti-fascist sub committee (personal capacity).