

Newham 7 Defence Campaign

P.O.Box 273, Forest Gate, London E7 9JN. Tele. 01 555 8151(day), 01 534 1640(eve).

DEFEND THE NEWHAM 7

ZAFAR KHAN, PARVEZ KHAN, AMJAD ALI, KHAN BHADUR, JYOTI RAJAPPAN, ATHAR CHOWDHRY AND HABIB MOHAMMED FACE CONSPIRACY AND AFFRAY CHARGES FOR DEFENDING THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITY.

Once again our community is under threat from racist attacks and from the people who are meant to be protecting us from these attacks, the police.

On Saturday 7th April, there were a series of racist attacks on Asian people in the Upton Park and Forest Gate areas of Newham by white racist thugs in a car. These attacks included a particular vicious incident where a partially disabled 16 year old Asian youth was dragged into a car, taken to Wanstead flats and assaulted with a hammer. (Others attacked included a family shopping on Green Street, an apprentice coming home from work in St. Stephens Road and a youth on Plashet Road). More attacks followed in the course of the day orchestrated by other white racists drinking in the Duke of Edinburgh public house. When Asian youths fought back in self-defence, after having billiard balls, amongst other things, thrown at them from racists drinking in the pub and confronted by 15-20 odd racists who came charging out, the police arrived almost immediately on the scene and arrested one of our youths. Over the next week more arrests of our youths took place. Only two youths were granted bail with the result that five of the seven spent a few weeks in remand because of flimsy excuses by the police who maintained that they were still preparing their case.

At this stage charges against the defendants ranged from possessing offensive weapons to criminal damage. At their last court hearing, the police decided to charge six of the seven with AFFRAY and CONSPIRACY TO CAUSE CRIMINAL DAMAGE. These charges, carrying potentially heavy sentences, add a new dimension to the case and has to be seen in the context of our community's struggle in the Newham 8 case where four of the defendants were acquitted and the conspiracy charges dropped in the last minute. The acquittals and the token '50 hours community service' given to the four 'convicted' defendants resulted from a vigorous community based campaign which drew local and national support and maintained the right of Black people to defend themselves against racist attacks, given the total failure of the police to protect us.

The right of self-defence was upheld in the Newham 8 and Bradford 12 cases; it is once again under challenge. By bringing conspiracy and affray charges the state is seeking once again to criminalise our youths whose only offence was to stand up for themselves and their community. The police treatment of the Newham 7 has to be contrasted with their total failure to arrest the perpetrators of the numerous attacks carried out on April 7th. The Newham 7, our youths, stood for the community.....we in turn must stand by them at this critical hour and give all possible support and assistance.

We must demonstrate, yet again, no matter how many campaigns we have to go through, that we cannot tolerate one single attack by racist thugs on our people and will defend ourselves if the need arises.

Once again we face the task of mobilising local and national support for our youths. It was that support that ultimately proved to be crucial in the Newham 8 case and which is needed now. Yesterday it was the Newham 8, today it is the Newham 7, tomorrow it could be you.

Please show your support and solidarity with the Newham 7 by picketting on Friday 14th September.

MASS PICKET

**WEST HAM MAGISTRATES COURT
WEST HAM LANE, STRATFORD.
LONDON E15 (+ Stratford)**

FRIDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 10.00am

DEFEND THE NEWHAM 7 SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE