

NEWHAM 7 DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

c/o P.O.Box 273, Forest Gate, London E7. Tele: 01 555 8151

Dear friend,

As you may have gathered through the media, the conspiracy charge against six of the Newham 7 was dismissed at their committal hearing on 14.9.84. As such the main charge against the seven is now that of "causing an affray" with one of the seven additionally facing a "conspiracy to cause criminal damage" charge. The seven defendants also have various individual charges against them.

The dropping of the conspiracy charge is certainly a vindication of the weakness of the prosecution evidence and is a major success for the campaign, credit for which goes to the support given by people like yourselves, the solicitors and the courage of the defendants themselves. On behalf of the Campaign I would also like to thank everyone who supported the picket - about 200 people - inspite of appalling weather on the day (especially Birmingham, Sheffield, Bradford and Coventry Newham 7 support groups).

The attacks orchestrated by racists drinking in and around the pub still continue. On Sunday, September 16th, racist thugs drinking in the pub again attacked Asian youths across the road with five Asian youths being injured as a result. Community pressure on the night finally forced the police to go to the pub and arrest three of the racists. To date, however, the police have failed to make any more arrests although the identity of the perpetrators is known and the charges against those arrested fail to reflect the seriousness of the attack (2 of the three arrested have been charged with ABH).

Meetings with the police to date have failed to get them to take positive action to arrest the perpetrators. In the meantime, more evidence has been emerging of attacks carried out on black people by racists drinking in the pub (families being spat at, women having drink thrown at them, etc.). Quite clearly, these attacks cannot be tolerated any more. To

- (1) protest against these attacks
- (2) put pressure on the police to arrest all those involved in the attacks on Asians on September 16th and take action against the pub licensee for allowing these attacks to go on, and
- (3) demand of the police that the charges against those arrested would reflect the seriousness of the occasion.

* A MASS PICKET of the "DUKE OF EDINBURGH" pub (junction of Green Street and Plashet Grove, Upton Park) has been called for SATURDAY November 3rd, starting at 11:00 a.m. *

Your attendance and support for the picket is vital - a good turnout on the day will help to get the message over to the authorities that the community is not prepared to tolerate these attacks anymore and demands action against the perpetrators.

The picket itself has been called as a last resort because the powers that may be have so far failed to match fine words with action. Only community anger is going to force them to do anything about these attacks.

Please support the picket, inform members of any group you may be a member of and encourage them to attend as well as friends, all antiracists/anti fascists etc.

Yours in solidarity,


Unmesh Desai
For Newham 7 Defence Campaign