

NEWHAM 8 defence campaign

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October

Bulletin 3

8 ASIAN YOUTHS AGED 15-21 ARRESTED FOR DEFENDING THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITY FROM RACIAL ATTACKS HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO ASSAULT PERSONS UNKNOWN.



Black Community on Trial NATIONAL PICKET

Thurs. 10th Nov. at 9.00am

Snaresbrook Crown Courts

(Opp. Snaresbrook Underground, Central Line, 75 Hollybush Hill, Snaresbrook, London E11)

SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE

The Political Strength of Pickets

On Thursday 10th November 1983 the trials of the Newham 8 start at Snaresbrook Crown Courts. It is of utmost importance that the courts are picketed every day of the trials. From the experience of the trials of the Bradford 12, it has become evident that large-scale pickets are not only supportive to the defendants, but also play an important role in determining the direction of the trials.

In the words of one of the Bradford 12 defendants, he states, "There were four main reasons that led to the acquittal of the Bradford 12. Firstly, the mass political campaign; secondly, the defence council; thirdly, the jury and lastly, the internal unity of the defendants."

"The political campaign assured that we would end up with a competent defence council and they in conjunction with the campaign fought for and won a jury which had five black people on it. Without the jury that we had, we would have gone to prison. Finally, the unity of the defendants in one court room was of utmost importance."

"As the time for the trials of the Newham 8 draws near, it is of paramount importance that there is the largest of pickets outside the courts and that the public galleries in the courts are full. From our experience, a packed gallery not only builds the confidence of the defendants, it keeps the jury conscious all the time that they are not sitting in judgement on a crime, but an issue. Therefore large-scale pickets of the courts throughout the trials play an important role in determining the direction of the trials."

"By charging the Newham youths with conspiracy, the State has once again made a mountain of a mole hill. As it was with the Bradford 12, by freeing the Newham youths, the Campaign must make this into a monument to our beliefs. Self defence is no offence."

The Struggle Goes On:

On Saturday 24th September, exactly one year after the arrests of the Newham 8, 2,000 people marched on the streets of Newham in protest at racist attacks on the Black community and the racism of the British State and the Police. People from various parts of the country including Leicester, Nottingham, Birmingham, Sheffield, Bradford, Manchester, Nelson, Blackburn, Preston, Newcastle, Leeds, Brighton, etc. supported the march. In addition, local support, especially from local black youth was tremendous. The National March Against Racism and Racist Attacks was called for by the Defence Campaign was a great success and has laid a solid base for the Campaign to build for the trials.

The trials of the Newham 8 start on



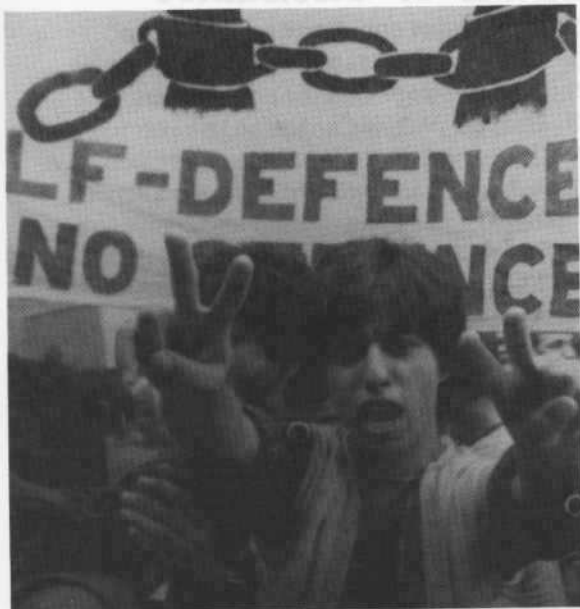
Asian Women march in protest against Racism and Racist attacks.

Thursday, 10th November, at Snaresbrook Crown Courts. In Newham, the build up to the trials only goes to show the ability of the community to organise itself. This buildup and the continuous pickets outside Snaresbrook Crown Court will play an important role in the trials. This was shown in the trials of the Bradford 12. One of the Bradford 12 defendants then said, "The support we received from the community, and the fact that people all the time packed the courts both inside and outside, played a very important part in determining the direction of the trials - the victory for the Bradford 12 was a victory for the whole community".

Similarly, a victory for the Newham 8 will be a victory for the whole community. It is for that very reason that we have to be at Snaresbrook Crown Court at the trials of the Newham 8.

Calender of Resistance

- 1925 West African Students Union
- 1931 League of Coloured Peoples
- 1945 Indian Workers Association
- 1953 Indian Workers Association
- 1959 Coloured Peoples Association
- 1961 Pakistani Workers Association
- Co-ordinating Committee Against Racial Discrimination (8'Han)
- Conference of Afro-Asian-Caribbean Organisation (Ldn)
- 1965 West Indian Standing Conference
- Courtauld's Red Scar Mill Strike
- Woolf Rubber Company strike
- Campaign Against Racial Discrimination
- Racial Action Adjustment Soc.
- 1967 Universal Coloured Peoples Assoc.
- 1968 Black People's Alliance
- 1971 Mangrove 9 trial
- 1972 Mansfield Hosier Mill Strike
- 1974 Asian workers at Imperial Type-writers (Leicester), mainly women, go on strike.
- 1975 Searchlight comes into existence.
- 1976 Gurdip Singh Chaggar murdered - Southall Youth Movement set up. Black youths fight back against police harassment at Notting Hill Carnival.
- 1977 Grunwick's strike
- NF smashes in Lewisham
- 1978 Samal innn Babylon
- Black Socialist Alliance
- Blacks Against State Harassment
- Campaign Against 'sus' laws
- Bradford Asian Youth Movement
- Brick Lane - murder of Akhtar Ali
- Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent.
- 1979 Blair Peach murdered in Southall
- 1980 Akhtar Ali Baig murdered - Newham Youth Movement formed
- Manchester Asian Youth Movement
- Bristol Black and White Cafe
- 1981 Black People's Day of Action
- Bristol, Brixton, Toxteth Uprisings
- Black people rebel against years of oppression, racism and police harassment.
- 12 Asian youths arrested in Bradford and charged with conspiracy to make petrol bombs
- 1982 Sheffield Asian Youth Movement
- Bradford 12 acquitted - self defence is no offence!
- Arrest of Newham 8 - 500 school-children go on strike 5th November in protest.
- 1983 2,000 people, mainly black youth, march through Newham in support of the Newham 8. The struggle goes on!



Self Defence is No Offence!



The anger and anguish.



At what price community policing?



Newham 8 - Colin Roach ! One struggle One fight !



Newham 8 school strike, Nov. 1982.