

NEWHAM 8 defence campaign

c/o: P.O. Box 273, Forest Gate, London E7 9JN

DEFEND THE NEWHAM 8!

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.

The youths, arrested on Friday 24th September 1982, after incidents involving plain-clothes police officers were originally charged with offences ranging from threatening behaviour to actual bodily harm. In December an additional charge of conspiring to assault persons unknown was laid against all eight defendants. The youths were arrested after a series of violent attacks upon Asian schoolchildren by racist white thugs. Asian schoolchildren at Little Ilford School (Newham) were attacked by armed white youths on no less than three occasions in the week leading up to September 24th. In one particular incident 60-70 white youths with iron bars and sticks went on the rampage in the East Ham and Manor Park areas of Newham looking for Asians to beat up.

All eight youths were subjected to racist abuse and harassment by the police and one was hospitalised for several days as a result of his being beaten up by the police.

Over the past few months the racist violence against black people has increased to frightening proportions. Both in Newham and around London black people are attacked on the streets and in their homes, while places of worship are burnt to the ground.

In fact, we have reached a stage where racists talk openly of their violence, and when they are identified the police either fail to arrest them or let them off lightly.

But when black youth, like the Newham 8, defend their community from racist thugs, it is the Newham 8 and not the racist thugs that are arrested! Moreover, they are charged with conspiracy - a political charge 140 years old designed to suppress working class resistance.

The charges against the Newham 8 are a challenge against our right to defend ourselves against racist violence.

NEWHAM 8 ARE INNOCENT!

SELF-DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE!

NATIONAL NEWHAM EIGHT MARCH AGAINST

RACISM & RACIST ATTACKS

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

ASSEMBLE: 1.00pm Plashet Park ⊕ **EAST HAM**

Plashet Grove, East Ham, E12.

Called by **NEWHAM 8 DEFENCE CAMPAIGN**

Supported by: National Campaign against the Police Bill.