

NEWHAM 8

defence campaign

Newham 8 Support Group
c/o Commonground
The Wicker
Sheffield S3.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to bring to your attention the case of the Newham 8. Eight Asian youths aged 15-21 arrested on 24th Sept 1982, for defending themselves and their community from organised racist attacks. All the eight have now been charged with conspiracy to assault persons unknown.

The only conspiracy is police conspiracy-conspiracy to let increasing racist violence against black people go unchecked. Both in Newham and around the country we see black people being attacked and murdered on the streets, whole communities being terrorised and homes and places of worship burned to the ground. We wait in vain for the perpetrators of such attacks to be arrested and conspiracy charges brought against the murderers and fire bombers who speak openly of organised violence against our people. On the other hand when Asian youth defend themselves against violent racist attacks-as the Bradford 12 and now the Newham 8, the police charge them with conspiracy.

The charges against the Newham 8 are a direct political challenge on the black community and the working class as a whole. By charging the eight youths with conspiracy the state is challenging our right to defend ourselves against racist violence to survive in this country. This challenge must be met in an appropriate manner, for it is not just the Newham 8 who are in the dock, it is all of us!!!

The Newham 8 Defence Campaign is calling on all anti-racist and anti-facist groups, and organisations and individuals to show support and solidarity with a just struggle and affiliate to the Newham 8 Support Group. We urge your organisation to give maximum support to the eight-for they stood for our community-we in turn must stand by them.

You will find enclosed an affiliation form and details of the case and local activities that have been organised to publicise and mobilise for the demonstration on the 24th Sept. The affiliation fee is of a minimum of £5.

Yours in solidarity,

the Newham 8 Support Group.