

# **NEWHAM 8 ARE INNOCENT**

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On September 24th 1982, eight Asian youth aged between 15-21 years were arrested and subsequently charged with charges ranging from assault to conspiracy. Their alleged crime defending themselves and their communities from racist attacks. On September 24th 1983, exactly a year after the arrests, two thousand people from various parts of the country, marched on the streets of Newham in protest against racist attacks on Black communities and the Racism of the British State and the Police.

The trials of the Newham 8 start on Thurs. 10th November at the Snaresbrook Crown Courts. It is the prime responsibility of all Black people and all progressive groups to give support to the Newham 8, for at the end of the day it is not just the Newham 8 who are on trial.....it is all of us.

They stood for the community - we in turn must stand by them.

## **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)**

In Newham, the build up to the trials of the Newham 8 highlights the ability of the community to organise itself. Because the arrests primarily came about from racist attacks in and around schools, school students and teachers have been extremely supportive of the campaign. Students have been consistently publicising the campaign within their schools and youth clubs.

Black workers at the Ford factory at Dagenham and the Sunblest factory have spontaneously raised the issue amongst their fellow workers. In addition they have also raised valuable funds towards the campaign and are now mobilising towards the trials.

Over the weeks street meetings have become a daily phenomenon. Various members of the community are distributing leaflets at underground stations. Grocery shopkeepers are giving out leaflets at the cash tills. Leaflets and posters have gone up on various shop windows. The issue is being raised at Gurdwaras, Mosques, Temples and other places of worship. People are discussing the issue in cafes. The whole community is involved in the build up to the trials of the Newham 8.

The build up to the trials and the consistent pickets outside Snaresbrook Crown Courts will play an important role in the trials. This was shown in the case of the Bradford 12 when they were on trial. 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 all have to be at Snaresbrook Crown Courts at the trials of the Newham 8.

(coaches to Snaresbrook Crown Courts leave East Ham tube station everyday at 8.30am.)

## **SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE**