

# defence campaign

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

## DEFEND THE NEWHAM 8 ! BLACK COMMUNITY ON TRIAL !

Eight Asian youths in Newham, East London - Parvaiz Khan (15), Gurjit Hunjan (17), Bhupinder Singh Sangha (16), Kulwinder Matwala (21), Vipun Pathak (18), Uttuyaka (16), Dalbir Johal (19) and Kalbir Singh Khela (19) - arrested for defending themselves and their community from racist attacks face conspiracy charges.

The youths were arrested on September 24th 1982, after incidents involving plain-clothes police officers. In the week preceding September 24th there were three major racist attacks by gangs of racist white thugs upon Asian schoolchildren at Little Ilford School in Newham. A number of Asian schoolchildren were hurt in these assaults and a 10-year old schoolkid hospitalised. 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.

Given the total failure of the police and the 'authorities' to respond to these racial attacks and to defend the community from further expected racial attacks some Asian youths gathered to escort the younger kids back home. They were set upon by three armed white men, who were actually plainclothes police officers who had not declared their identity. When the youths defended themselves, uniformed police appeared on the scene immediately and arrested the eight youths.

All 8 youths were racially abused and some assaulted by the police. One was hospitalised for several days as a result of his being beaten up by the police. The youths also face other serious charges ranging from threatening behaviour to actual bodily harm.

### THE ONLY CONSPIRACY IS POLICE CONSPIRACY

The only conspiracy is police conspiracy - conspiring to let increasing racist violence against black people go unchecked. In Newham, as elsewhere, racist attacks take place on a daily basis. All round us we see our being harassed, spat at, abused and physically assaulted. We see our homes and community places burnt to the ground and our very right to exist in this country challenged by racist thugs, immigration officials, and other elements of this racist society. While the Newham 8 await their trial, racist attacks in Newham schools still continue. In one recent attack Asian schoolchildren were attacked by a gang of racist thugs outside their school in South Newham. The response of the police was to tell the complainant to go and arrest the assailant himself! But when black people, for whom the fight against racism is a basic question of survival, defend themselves against such attacks the State criminalises them by using conspiracy charges. In the meantime we still wait for conspiracy charges to be brought against those murderers and fire-bombers who talk openly of organised violence against black people and who have fire-bombed ten Asian households in Walthamstow in East London in the last two years.

The Campaign calls upon all opponents of racism and oppression to give their support to the Newham 8 and help to make this just struggle a victory for us all.

For further information, future activities and speakers, model resolutions, or to help the Campaign in your area, please contact the Defence Campaign at the above address.

### HERE TO STAY, HERE TO FIGHT!

We have seen both Labour and Tory Governments bringing in racist immigration controls on black people, making us the scapegoats for the present economic crisis. On top of continual racial attacks and police harassment black people have to contend with racist and sexist immigration laws which keep our families divided and question our existence in this country. Internal passport checks, a pass law system, deportations, fire-bombings and physical attacks are a daily reality for black people in Britain.

It is in the context of this history of racism - both physical and institutional - that the case of the Newham 8 must be seen. By charging the 8 youths with conspiracy the State is challenging our very right to organise and defend ourselves against racist violence to survive in this society.

The Newham 8 Defence Campaign gives its support to all the victims of the racist and sexist immigration laws. We see your fight the same as ours. Together we must organise to fight both the immigration laws and the State's attempt to criminalise the Newham 8.

NEWHAM 8 ARE INNOCENT ! SELF-DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE !