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JUSTICE FOR THE PRYCES

28 AUG 1985

Once again, the Black community is under attack, both from racists on the streets, and racist police and courts.

Eustace Pryce, Colin Roach, Michael Ferreira, Akhtar Ali Be g, Peter Burns, the Kassan family, these are just some of the names of Black people murdered by racists.



MURDER

On November 29th 1984, sixteen year old Eustace Pryce was murdered by racists on the streets of Newham. The murder happened after racists provoked a fight, and black youths responded. Eustace was not even involved in the fight, but was stabbed in the back of the neck and died almost immediately.

Three plain clothes police officers actually witnessed the incident from a bus. Their response was predictable. They did not arrest the murderer, but instead arrested Eustace's brother Gerald. Gerald was arrested on the grounds that he was in a distraught state and looked as though he was about to do something dangerous. He was then denied the right to go with his dying brother to the hospital, and taken to Plaistow police station. When an aunt tried to visit Gerald at the station, she was not allowed to see him, and he was only released hours later to find that his brother was dead.

Racist Police, Racist Courts

The police brutality continued in the weeks that followed, and Gerald was re-arrested on December 18th, and charged with affray. He was continually denied bail and only released on January 7th, under restrictive bail conditions.

The white murderer, on the other hand, was only arrested after considerable community pressure, and was given bail almost immediately, on the grounds that it would be wrong to keep him in prison over Christmas.

The bail conditions imposed on Gerald since January (which were only reduced on July 31st) meant that he could not even come into Newham to see his family, friends or pregnant girlfriend. Gerald has been denied the basic human right to mourn with his family while the murderer of this brother walks free.

Justice for the Pryces

The Pryce family are not alone in their suffering, and the catalogue of violence goes on and on. In 1979, Michael Ferreira was killed by racists in Hackney. When his friends carried him to the police station they were treated as though they were criminals by police officers who left Michael bleeding unattended in the station. He later died in hospital. In the courts, the callousness continued, and Michael's mother, shocked by the light sentences given to his murderer was forcibly removed and thrown into a prison cell.

THE MESSAGE FROM THE POLICE AND COURTS IS CLEAR. THERE IS NO JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE, WHEN MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY ARE MURDERED, THEIR FAMILIES ARE TREATED AS CRIMINALS.

Gerald goes on trial on October 8th, alongside two Asian and two Afro-Caribbean youths, also charged with affray. Community pressure resulted in Gerald's bail conditions being partially relaxed, and only community pressure will finally bring about JUSTICE FOR THE PRYCE FAMILY!

Remember Eustace.. .. Defend Gerald

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