

# Baba Bakhtaura Defence Campaign

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*fresh release*

**Baba Bakhtaura  
Defence Campaign**



Baba Bakhtaura is a Punjabi folk musician living in Handsworth, Birmingham. Since 1982 the Home Office has been trying to deport him as an overstayer. Baba Bakhtaura has fought these attempts through legal appeals to the immigration authorities and the courts. All the time, the Defence Campaign has drawn political support from the local community and national supporters to ensure success in this struggle.

## DEPORTATION

Baba Bakhtaura came to Britain in 1979 as part of a visiting folk group. He applied for an extension of his visit so that he could stay a while with his family. When this expired he applied for another extension which was refused. He appealed against this but, unfortunately, outside the time allowed for appeal. The Home Office did not reply and Baba stayed on.

In 1982 Baba Bakhtaura was found to be an overstayer and was sentenced to 2 months' imprisonment. Having served his time, the Home Office then decided to deport him under the Immigration Act 1971.

## APPEALS

Baba appealed both to the Immigration Appeals Adjudicator and to the Appeals Tribunal, but his appeal was dismissed. The High Court, however, in a Judicial Review of the Tribunal's decision, said that it was wrong since both the Adjudicator and the Tribunal had wrongly applied the law. They should have considered the effect of Baba's deportation on the Asian community which would be deprived of his services as a musician. The court was forced to this conclusion by the many letters of support which were sent to the Home Office by individuals and community organisations.



The Home Office, however, appealed against this ruling and the Court of Appeal reversed it. But in June 1986 the House of Lords, in a decisive judgement, said that the Adjudicator and Tribunal had made a wrong decision. The interest of the community had to be taken into account in making a decision to deport. The Tribunal was ordered to give Baba a full hearing.

#### SUPPORT BABA BAKHTAURA!

This hearing will take place in the next few months and it is vital for as many individuals and organisations to show their support for Baba by writing to the Home Office. Ever since he came to this country, Baba Bakhtaura has contributed a great deal to the cultural life of the community by performing at countless social and charitable functions.

#### CAMPAIGNING AGAINST RACIST LAWS

Over the past 4 years, numerous pickets and demonstrations against Baba's deportation have ensured that his appeal has stayed alive while others have been deported (or left under threat of being deported) at a rate of 250 a month. This level of victimisation of Asian, African and Caribbean people shows the racist nature of the laws and the way in which they are operated. Labour and Tory governments have been equally guilty in passing these laws.

Baba's success upto now shows that the racist laws can be challenged by determined community campaigns. Many campaigns have won for black people the right to stay in this country. In this case, the ruling of the House of Lords means that the law itself has been amended under pressure from the community. This will help other black people who are fighting against deportation.

It is a basic right of all people to live in dignity and free from harrassment. Baba Bakhtaura must win his right to stay in Britain. You can support him by writing to the Home Office telling them to stop the deportation.

WRITE TO: The Home Office, Queen Annes Gate, London.

*Home Office*  
STATE REFERENCE NO: S517775 - BAKHTAURA SINGH

NO MORE DEPORTATIONS! NO TO RACIST LAWS!