

CLASS STRUGGLE ★

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FREE THE BRADFORD 12

A major effort has been launched by the British state to smash the fast growing United Black Youth League in Bradford.

On July 30th and 31st, Bradford police arrested 11 black youths, mainly members and sympathisers of the UBYL. A twelfth youth was picked up later. All have been charged with conspiring to cause fire and explosions on or about July 11th, and intending to "endanger the lives of others". The Conviction carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

POLICE CLAIM 'CONFESSIONS'

The prosecution claims that police had found a cache of petrol bombs in some waste ground around Horton Hall, Bradford. They claim that the first 11 youths arrested had given 'voluntary statements' admitting responsibility, while they were held in custody in the Tyrils, the Bradford Police Headquarters.

The arrested youths were held for 2 days without access to solicitors or family during which time they were subject to racist abuse, threats and brutality at the Tyrils. On Saturday August 1st they were brought before magistrates where they saw their solicitors for the first time only briefly before being taken into court.

10 of them have been remanded in custody ever since, with the order being renewed at weekly appearances before magistrates.

On Sept 3rd five of them refused to appear before magistrates to continue the farce.

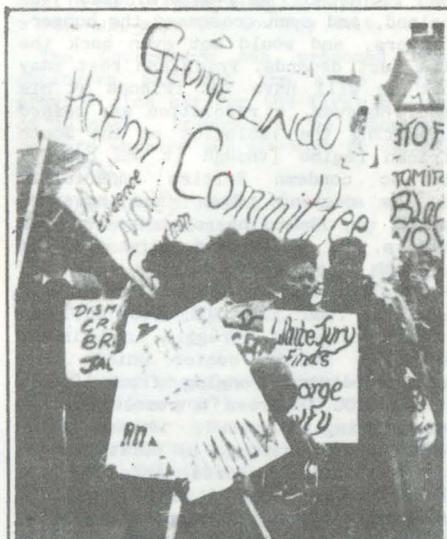
The same court has given bail to racists involved in the fire bombing of Asian premises.

All the defendants deny making any voluntary confessions and plead NOT GUILTY.

None of the youths have been seen carrying or handling petrol bombs.

No petrol bombs were used during the street resistance in Bradford on July 11th.

But all the youths have been active in campaigning against deportations, and state racism and declare their readiness to defend their communities against racist attacks.



George Lindo, a West Indian worker in Bradford, was convicted of a crime he never committed solely on the basis of a 'voluntary statement' taken from him in the Tyrils. His conviction was later quashed after one of the officers involved was caught red-handed fabricating statements.

BRADFORD 12 ARE ACTIVE DEFENDERS OF THEIR COMMUNITY

They have been among the most vigorous campaigners for Anwar Ditta for Jaswinder Kaur, for Nasira Begum and for Gary Pemberton - a West Indian worker from Bradford who was assaulted and framed by West Yorkshire police. All these campaigns were victorious.

On July 11th a gang of skinheads descended on Bradford determined to carry out further racist attacks. Black youth responded by going on to the streets to defend their community. 68 were arrested.

The people intend to defend their communities and they have the right to do so. A number of arson attacks against black peoples houses and cafes culminated in the recent fire bombing of Textile Hall, a local West Indian centre and the headquarters of the July 11th Action Committee which was set up to defend the Bradford 12. Yet it is black houses that are raided not those of racists.

This is the background to the framing of charges against the Bradford 12. The frame-up on the

conspiracy charges is a political frame-up aimed at breaking the readiness of black people to defend themselves against state racism and fascist attacks - a readiness that the people have clearly shown on the streets over the last few months.

MASSIVE SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY

The response of the black community in Bradford to the arrests has been overwhelming. 700 people turned out to support the militants at a recent meeting. "Have we not got the right to defend ourselves? Have we not got the right to speak about what we would do if we were attacked?" they declared. The British racist state has given its answer in advance - the conspiracy charges. The people will win their rights - through struggle. And that they are doing and will continue to do.

USE OF 'CONSPIRACY'

The use of such conspiracy charges by the state in such political trials is not new. The conspiracy laws are an important weapon in the states armoury against revolutionary and progressive movements because the evidence need only be hearsay and guilt by association. They do not have to prove (in this case) that the militants have actually used petrol bombs.

In particular, such 'conspiracy' trials have been used against Irish people in Britain. This link is deepened by the present aim of criminalising the just struggle of national minorities in Britain, in a similar vein to the criminalisation policy against national liberation fighters in Ireland.

BEAT BACK THE STATE OFFENSIVE

If the racist state succeeds in this repression of the present struggle of national minorities in Britain, if it successfully convicts these political prisoners, it will be delivering a message loud and clear to all those fighting the racist state. It will be a declaration of its intention to break up the growing revolutionary and progressive movements in Britain.

The defence of the Bradford 12 must be an important task for all progressive people. Our demands are clear:

DROP THE CHARGES!

FREE THE BRADFORD 12!