PLO PLEDGES

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TIL VICTORY

that Israel had suffered 10,000 casualties over period. The Israeli army, the Begin government's "loyal opposition", had been shocked by the invaders, a barbarism that the World has been shocked by.

barbarism. The World has been shocked by the barbarism of the invaders, a barbarism only to be described as the aspect of the Nazis: a world that has been deprived of medicines, a world that has been forced to wear only the clothes on their backs, a world that has been poisoned and a world that has been shelled. A Norwegian doctor has told how he

were about 500 people sitting in the sun.

"Around them were seven armoured personnel carriers with heavy machine guns and many heavily-armed soldiers.

"Most of them had sticks with nails in them, or rope with lumps of iron. And they beat the prisoners regularly. Anyone who came in their path was beaten.

"I saw a 60-year-old man overcome with the heat and lack of water. He was beaten by four or five soldiers. Then they tied him up. Later I saw him dead.

"I saw seven killed in this way and I was told of another five. But I was only there for 36 hours for the interrogation. Some had been beaten to death, others had died from the heat."

Eventually Dr. Berge was put on a bus with Palestinians for the journey to Israel. The Palestinians were hooded and tied.

"The soldiers took them out every so often and kicked them in the head. They stopped at kibbutzim to let people heat them.

If found 'guilty' they could have been sent down for life. Instead, they were acquitted on all the charges.

The defence was clear. National minority communities have been systematically attacked by racist thugs. The police have just let this go on: they're claiming not to know of any racist attacks - as they did during the trial of the Bradford 12, after the murder of a black taxi driver in Bradford and a number of other, obviously racist attacks. They've ignored reports from black people about such attacks, and have not made any effort to catch the thugs who carry them out.

A succession of defence wit
**BRADFORD 12**

The trial turned into a trial of the racist state and presented a powerful political statement of the right of black people to organise and fight in their own defence.

The claims of the police, their prosecutor and the judge that this was not a political trial was belied by the open, forthright and vigorous political defence put forward by the Bradford 12.

The legal defence in the courtroom had solid support in the campaign waged outside court by the Bradford 12 Defence Campaign.

Campaigning groups were established in many towns and their activities brought widespread publicity to the case. The campaign organised support in the public gallery of the courtroom every day and regular pickets and demonstrations.

One defendant was released on the Judge's direction at the end of the prosecution.

When the jury rejected, by 11 votes to 1, the entire police story and their claim that the trial was not political, the courtroom erupted into unprecedented scenes as the defendants, lawyers and observers cheered and applauded the Jury.

The Jury clearly accepted the defendants' argument that they acted in self-defence and that was no offence.

The National minority communities have declared their unity and their intention to defend themselves. They have now won a major battle to establish that right in the face of vicious opposition from the state.

The Revolutionary Communist League consistently supported the Campaign to free the 12. We join with all others who took part in the work in applauding this victory, a victory not just for the 12 brothers but also for the democratic rights of all national minority and working people.

**SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE!**

**INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT**

In our last two issues, we have reported on the international solidarity activities with the Bradford 12.

Subsequent to those reports, "Concret", the newspaper of the Party of Labour of Belgium, again gave coverage to the trial. A Tamil language daily paper in Sri Lanka reported on the solidarity work of the Sri Lanka Communist Party (Left). "Unity", newspaper of the United States League of Revolutionary Struggle (Marxist-Leninist) extended support, as did the Working People's Alliance of Guyana, Workers' Party of Jamaica, All-India Co-ordinating Committee of Working Women, Indian People's Association of North America, Democrazia Proletaria of Italy and progressive organisations in France. In Ireland, both Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Socialist Party gave their support. Na Fianna Eireann, the youth wing of the Republican movement, organised a petition, in support of the 12, and calling for the charges to be dropped.

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**SEX SNOOPERS**

*From: A Birmingham couple*

We were glad to read that the Civil Service Unions are finally going to try and do something about the DHSS "sex-snooper squads".

When we came to Birmingham 10 years ago we suffered at the hands of the DHSS cohabitation rule. We never hid the fact that we lived together, but we could show that we were financially independent. At our appeal we had documents to show separate bank accounts, the flat was in both our names, we had letters from our doctor and our landlord saying that they considered us as being financially independent of one another.

Despite all that the ruling was upheld that the woman was financially dependent on the man! The person (a woman!) representing the DHSS summed up her department's attitude: "The financial arrangements were our own personal concern; what was important was that we slept together."

As a result only the man got any benefit. It was entirely up to him whether he gave any to the woman. We got less than if we had been two men sharing the same flat.

Successive Labour and Tory governments have let the DHSS discriminate against women for far too long. Women should have the right to be treated as equal human beings, whether or not they choose to live with a man.

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**VICTORY TO THE FEDAYEEN!**

**REVOLUTION UNTIL VICTORY!**

**SUPPORT REVOlutionary Communist Co-ordinating Association (ML)**

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Despite all that the ruling was upheld that the woman was financially dependent on the man! The person (a woman!) representing the DHSS summed up her department's attitude: "The financial arrangements were our own personal concern; what was important was that we slept together."

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