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CLASS STRUGGLE



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These 12 young Asian men, aged 17-25, were arrested last July in a series of dawn raids across Bradford. Many are members of the United Black Youth League, an independent organisation committed to fighting racism. In the first two days after their arrest, the twelve were subjected to racist abuse by the police. They were harassed and denied access to solicitors, friends and relatives. Most of them have already spent three months in prison and they were only given bail when they refused to go to court for the weekly remand hearings they considered a farce. When bail was allowed, conditions were attached. The most important of these is that the 12 are not allowed to take part in the campaign for their own defence.

LIFE SENTENCE

The 12 are charged with making explosive substances and conspiracy

to make explosive substances. These are the most serious charges in the country arising from the July uprisings. Yet, in Bradford, there were only minor disturbances and no petrol bombs were used. The case against them rests on so-called 'voluntary' statements made while they were detained, and on their record of political activity. All 12 are pleading not guilty to the charges.

NATIONAL MINORITIES ON TRIAL

The trial is clearly political. The aim is to put down some of the most active fighters against racism and thus intimidate the national minorities as a whole. The black community is on trial! The British state was shaken by the massive tide of rebellion that swept the country last July. About 3,500 were arrested and around the country local defence committees and action groups have organised

political and legal defence in their own areas. But nationally resistance to the repression following the summer has in many ways focussed on the campaign to free the Bradford 12. In attacking the UBYL, the state is attacking the right of national minorities to organise in their own defence. The severity of this attack has been widely recognised.

TRADITION OF RESISTANCE

The UBYL is part of the black youth movements that developed out of a long tradition of black people's struggles against racism in this country. The history of their fight is largely unwritten, and unknown by many. In fact black people have always fought against the racist oppression they faced here, just as in the Third World they have always resisted imperialism. Many different organisations have been built at different times, in the



FREE THE BRADFORD 12!

Trial Starts April 26

FREE THE BRADFORD 12

12 Asian youths charged with Conspiracy face life imprisonment for fighting Racism.

THE ONLY CONSPIRACY IS POLICE CONSPIRACY

BLACK COMMUNITY ON TRIAL

National Demonstration

1 pm Savile Mount Park

SAT 3 APRIL LEEDS

picket of leeds crown court

mon 26 april 10 am

Caribbean community and in the various Asian communities: at times alliances have been built between national minorities and with progressive white people. Often the particular committee or organisation has broken

down or re-formed, but the struggle has been continuous. In general black people have relied on their own communities for support, sometimes building new organisations, sometimes

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relying on traditional ones like the temples and mosques.

YOUTH MOVEMENTS

Among the younger generation new forms of resistance and struggle emerged. In Brixton in the late 60's, the Black Panther movement grew up. The famous Mangrove trial resulted from a police attack on a club used by young blacks. The Rastafarians developed their own particular style of resistance to imperialism. Often the older and younger generation fought together like in the New Cross Massacre campaign, but it was the youth who turned out in their thousands to take over the streets of London on the Day of Action in 1981.

In the Asian communities, it was the youth movements who raised the slogan, 'Here to Stay, Here to Fight!' Again it has often been the youth who spearheaded the fight against racism - against racist attacks, against the immigration laws, and on many other issues, as in Brick Lane where numerous Bengali youth groups grew up in the 70's.

And although many different people joined in, it was the black youth who led the country-wide uprisings last summer.

UNITED BLACK YOUTH LEAGUE

The UBYL grew out of this new militant trend. In Bradford some of those now on trial raised the slogan 'Here to Stay, Here to Fight!' At a time

when many people, particularly the Anti-Nazi League were focussing on the fascist organisations like the National Front, they targetted state racism: immigration and nationality laws, the police, the courts and many different forms of state racism. They took up the defence of individuals threatened by racist laws and won them the right to stay. One of the best known campaigns was fought to stop the deportation of Saeed Rahman who was leading a fight against redundancies when he was suddenly picked up as an 'illegal immigrant'. The Asian youth organisations led the fight and by building massive support in the community, they won it.

A LIVING LEGEND

The United Black Youth League was formed

later and the most famous battle in which its members were centrally involved was the fight to bring Anwar Ditta's children here. Anwar has become, as a UBYL spokesman said: 'a living legend among her people'. Because of her courage and the determination of those who supported her, another victory was won. This victory was a watershed in the history of individual campaigns and has inspired many others to follow her example. As Anwar Ditta often says, her victory was a victory for all black people.

BLACK PEOPLE MUST UNITE

The UBYL often used the slogan 'Black People Must Unite'. They hold that the oppression faced by Asian and Afro-Caribbean youth calls for a common organisation. They successfully fought a defence campaign around Gerry Pemberton, an Afro-Caribbean, in Bradford who was wrongfully accused of assault by the police. They take a consciously anti-imperialist stand and see the struggle of black people being not just against racism but against the whole system of

imperialism. They make conscious links with the Republican movement in Ireland and consistently supported solidarity activities in this country.

DEFEND THE BRADFORD 12!

It is clear from their record that the UBYL is under attack because they stand for the defence of the black community and the unity of all those opposed to imperialism. That is why the campaign is calling on all progressive people to support them and demand that the charges be dropped. Defence committees have been formed in Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester, Nottingham, Birmingham, Huddersfield and London. In December 2,000 marched in Bradford. More recently a local demonstration in Bradford attracted 900 on March 20. We call on all progressive forces to unite and support the demonstration on April 3 and the mass-picket on 26 April. The courts are using their well-tested weapon of the conspiracy laws. We have a much more powerful weapon, the power of the angry and militant people!