

MODEL RESOLUTION

This branch/organisation condemns:

The indifference of the Metropolitan Police to the death of Cynthia Jarrett, caused by one of its officers.

The invasion of Broadwater Farm Estate by the Metropolitan Police on October 6th 1985 and their refusal to take full responsibility for the injury and damage caused, including the death of PC Blakelock.

The siege of Broadwater Farm Estate in the following months, whereby hundreds of people, many of them youths, were held with no access to lawyers or parents; whereby many people had their homes vandalised, their property removed, and their mail disrupted; whereby in the guise of making enquiries, the Metropolitan Police sought to hide its own incompetence by victimising the Broadwater Farm community.

The press and courts for colluding with the police in the disgusting Broadwater Farm show trials. All pretence of justice was thrown aside as people were convicted on clearly concocted evidence.

Therefore this branch/organisation resolves to:

- 1) Send letters of complaint to the Home Office and the Metropolitan Commissioner of Police.
- 2) Circulate the petition put out by families of the prisoners, and to keep the membership informed of developments.
- 3) Support calls for the release of all the Broadwater Farm prisoners from such organisations as the Broadwater Farm Defence Committee and the Tottenham Three are Innocent Campaign.
- 4) To make a donation of £.... to the Tottenham Three are Innocent Campaign.



c/o Grassroots Storefront, 71 Golborne Road, London W10 Tel 01-969-0687

- I want to get involved with the Tottenham Three are Innocent Campaign
- I want more petitions to circulate in my neighbourhood
- Please send me _____ packages on the Tottenham Three, I enclose a donation of £_____ (Minimum £1 for 10)

Name.....

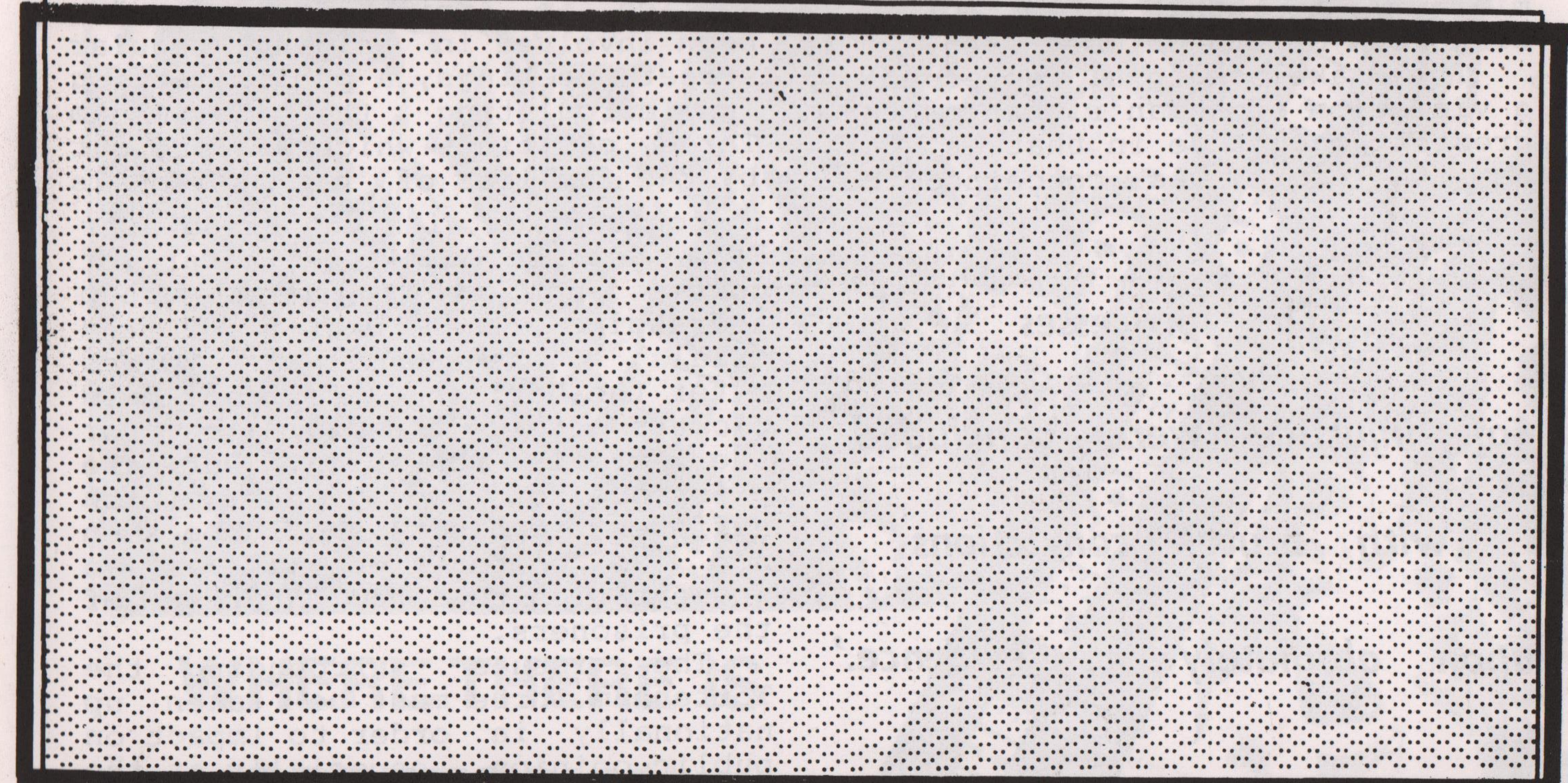
Address.....

FREE THE PRISONERS OF THE UPRISINGS

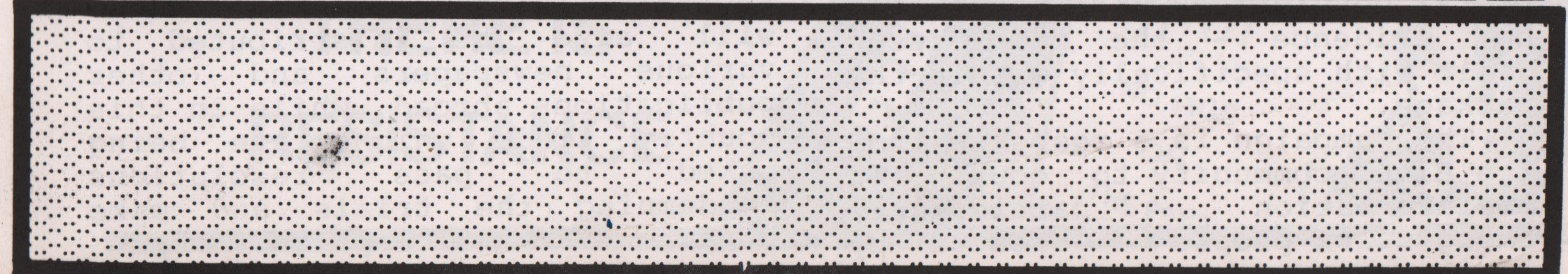
The frame up trials are over, but that makes it more important to step up the campaign for the release of the Tottenham Three and other victims of racist state attacks.

Raise the issue of the Tottenham Three in your workplace, your neighbourhood and your community.

Engin Raghup, Winston Silcott and Mark Braithwaite have been scapegoated by the state over the death of PC Blakelock and given life imprisonment despite a total lack of evidence. Read the full facts surrounding one of the biggest frame-ups in British legal history.



FREE ALL THE PRISONERS OF THE '85 UPRISINGS!



INTRODUCTION

This package is designed to lay the foundations in setting up a regional extension of the Tottenham Three Are Innocent Campaign, and thereby propagate more widely the facts about one of the biggest legal frame-ups in British history, where Winston Silcott, Mark Braithwaite and Engin Raghip were sentenced to life imprisonment (the first receiving a recommended 30 year minimum) for the murder of PC Blakelock on 5th October 1985.

The Blakelock trial represented a violation of human rights of the greatest magnitude in that as far as the court was concerned the

the propaganda waves released by the racist state media, and spread truth instead of lies, but more importantly to mobilise all people in active support of the prisoners and oppose the British state in its plans to further repress our community.

The Campaign in London came out of a national conference called 'Uprisings in the 80's' organised by the Black People's Campaign for Justice in April. It has so far been involved in holding regular street meetings, a public meeting and circulating the Tottenham Three petition which was put out by the families of the prisoners

in conjunction with the Broadwater Farm Defence Committee. We are of course not the only group addressing the matter of the trials - the BWFDC was formed after the Uprising itself and held pickets outside the Old Bailey for the trials duration. But the existence of two groups (with different emphasis) should be seen not as competition but as an augmentation to the interest of the prisoners.

The issues surrounding the Tottenham Three must be taken up nationally in order to impact on public opinion - especially at the time of their appeal against the convictions which is projected for February. Information on the Three will also be distributed to various newspapers and other publications abroad, while in this country trade unions are being asked to pass resolutions condemning the trials and make donations to the campaign.

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defendants had none. The processes of injustice were concluded with brutal convictions upon absolutely no evidence - the main issue dealt with specifically within the package.

The campaign is a response from the Black community to counteract misinformation - particularly among Black people - created by

We call on all Black and oppressed people to build the Tottenham Three campaigns in their areas in the struggle for justice

and freedom from state oppression.

FREE THE PRISONERS OF THE UPRISING!



**WHERE THERE IS
OPPRESSION
THERE IS
RESISTANCE**

COMMUNITY SELF-DEFENCE

The Tottenham Three are Innocent Campaign is a response to the increasingly fascist nature of state repression against our community - seen ever more violently in the past twelve months where the police have been responsible for the murder of Antony Lemard in Ladbroke Grove, London; the murder of Clinton McCurbin in Wolverhampton and the attempted murder of Trevor Monnerville in Stoke Newington, London. In each case the victim was a young working class Black man. In each case the police and the media have treated it as an 'unfortunate incident'. But these 'incidents' are merely the tip of the iceberg. Behind them lies a concerted campaign of racial harassment and intimidation by the police. The police are given wide TV coverage about how 'concerned' they are about their 'community relations' with Black people - a 'concern' which amounts to nothing more than a call for Black communities to abandon self-defence and put up with the periodic murder of Black people.

Up and down the country the work of the police has been supplemented by that of fascist gangs which the police ignore. Asian primary school children have been attacked coming out of school. Some people live with the fear of being stabbed or being burnt alive in their home every day and every night. What the press see as trivial, barely worth a mention, is a living nightmare for the victims.

This is the reality behind the Broadwater Farm uprising. The action of police and other fascist gangs is not isolated. It is against a section of society which is discriminated against as regards employment, housing, and

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education. The murder of Cynthia Jarret was not an accident. It was the practice of a racist British society.

The response of the Broadwater Farm community is an inspiration to all working class communities. They said no to police brutality; they said no to racism; they said no to a society which is only interested in exploitation; and they said no in the only way that makes sense - revolt.

Other working class communities in Britain have responded to state attacks. During the miners strike, mining communities fought back when their pit villages were under attack. Miners were killed on the picket line too - it was the hardest fought strike in recent British history. Yet while the

state wanted to crush the miners resistance, the capitalists still need miners to dig coal. In the inner-cities the situation is different. It is here that unemployed and unskilled workers are concentrated. The disaffected working class, and especially Black youth have developed ways of surviving the dole and refusing exploitative work conditions. While this alternative culture has tendencies which seek to prey on other working class people, it represents opposition to the state's interest to force the unemployed back to work for rates no better than the dole. The convoy, attacked in 1985, shows a similar picture - the refusal of a community of travelling people to passively accept life on the dole, begging the bosses for a



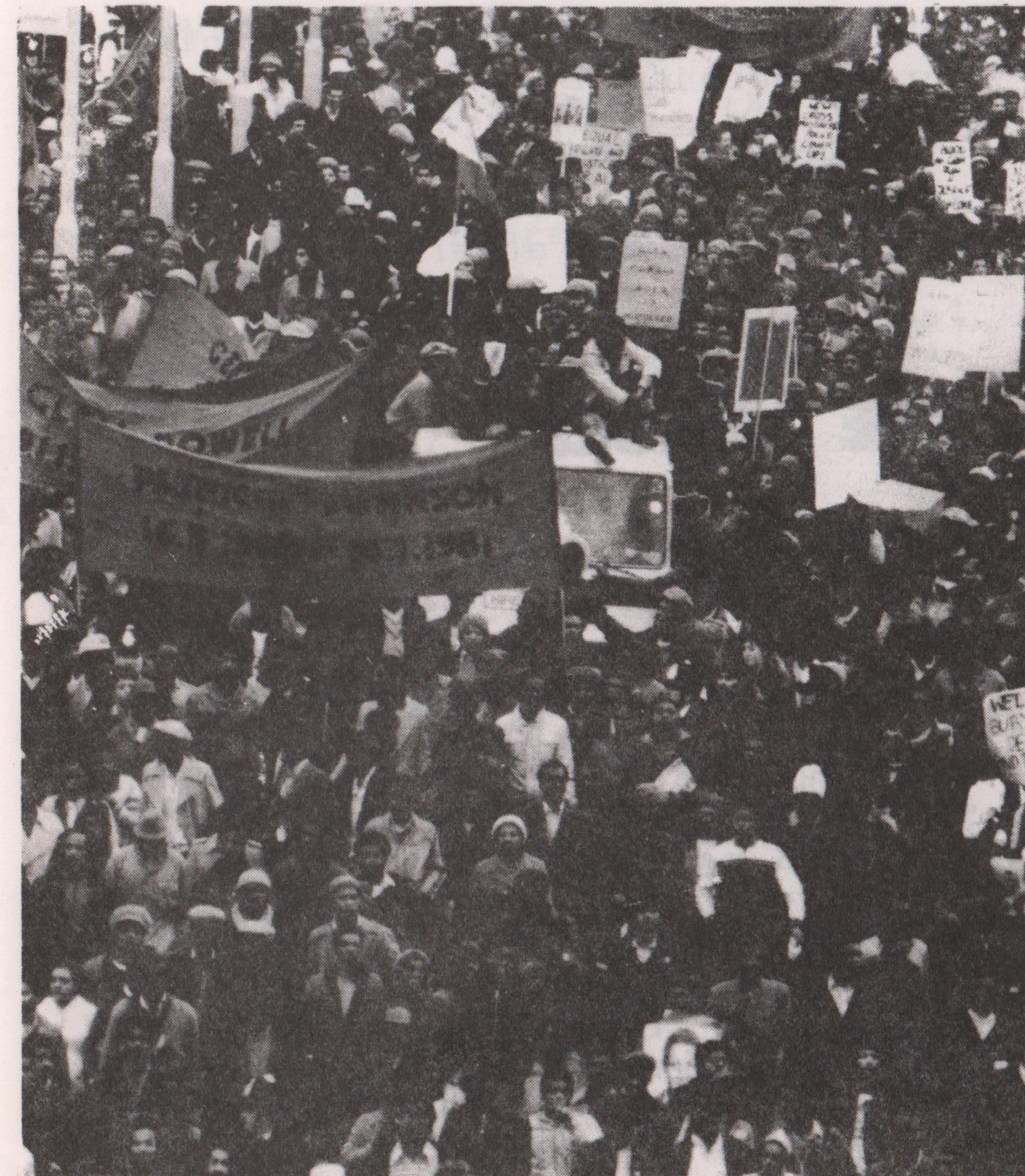
'Self-defence is not a matter of debate - it is a necessity.'

meaningless, boring job for a pathetic wage. The state's response was to try to smash this group resistance.

The state has drawn up its battle plan to smash working class resistance. It is spearheading its attack upon the black community. Self-defence is not a matter of

debate - it is a necessity. Black people have shown this throughout the eighties and before. The miners strike and the wapping strike have shown that workers have the enemy of capitalism in common. The issue is how to develop resistance to the state and the whole capitalist system. This means we must struggle in a way that is independent of the state, of its 'community leaders' and 'community workers', that is independent of the state's political parties, including the Labour Party. This autonomous resistance can only be fully realised with the destruction of the state and the abolition of capitalism.

The "Tottenham 3 are Innocent Campaign" draws attention to the state of seige which was imposed in the months following the uprising. We fight the lies and racism of the press and TV which has spared no effort in hiding the role of the police and other state agencies. We denounce the courts as shams, where individuals from Broadwater Farm have been framed in order to intimidate the working class as a whole. We place no faith in the legal or political apparatus. We call on the working class as whole to refuse intimidation and resist the power of the capitalist state.



THE BROADWATER FARM TRIALS

THE TOTTENHAM 3 ARE INNOCENT

On 19th March 1987 the Blakelock murder trial came to an end with the Old Bailey jury serving life convictions upon three men. In addition were three juveniles also charged with murder of which however they were acquitted before the trial ended. Two walked free but one was found guilty of affray and received 120 hours community service.

Police methods

The police poured a mass of human and mechanical resources into the investigation in their desperation to gain convictions. Over 400 arrests were made and a range of tactics employed to achieve the police ends, including:

* Blanket ban on access to solicitors or responsible adult representatives

* Sustained detention and intimidation

* Violence

* Deprivation of food and clothing during detention

* False offer of release in exchange for confessions and evidence against others

* Bribery

THE CASES

EVIDENCE ABSENT

Juvenile 1 — Acquitted of murder

This 15 year old youth was arrested at his ESN school on 9th October. The police tricked his mother into not attending the interrogation, only informing her of her son's arrest 3/4 hour after the interview had commenced. Under pressure he finally 'admitted' to cutting Blakelock, which the judge dismissed as 'make believe.'

Juvenile 2 — Acquitted of murder

A 13 year old white boy whose whole family was arrested soon after 6 October 1985. He himself was arrested on suspicion of looting a shop. He was interrogated at a police station over 3 days clad only in underpants and denied access to a solicitor by Chief Supt Melvin. Eventually in a signed statement he said he had been present at Blakelock's killing. He also 'admitted' to joining in and cutting the officer on the leg and chest, with the claim that it was the crowd's intention to parade his head around the Farm on a pole - a story grabbed by the Press and sensationalised. The judge dismissed this evidence as 'fantasy' and 'incredible.' Furthermore, forensic test showed that Blakelock had no cuts such as were described at all.



Juvenile 3 — Convicted of affray

This represents the most perverted of police procedures. They enrolled bribery and perjury in their efforts to secure a conviction.

The police produced a 'witness' called Jason Cobham to testify to seeing this juvenile at the scene of the killing. The defence was subsequently able to show that Cobham was being 'looked after' by the police having been awarded money, a secret rent-paid flat and two jobs.

Under cross-examination Cobham admitted to having participated in the uprising to an even greater extent than those who got seven years for affray - ie in throwing stones and petrol-bombs, setting a vehicle alight and being present at the killing, making him therefore a murder suspect. However these offences were overlooked by the magistrate who dealt with him and he was given a small fine. He had decided to

give evidence to avoid a long prison sentence. Cobham in court admitted that he had lied continuously and wasn't sure that he had seen the juvenile at all.

These damning facts were hardly reported in the Press, which was actively engaged in conspiracy with the police and state to conceal from the public their own corruption, deceit and hypocrisy.

THE ADULTS

Mark Braithwaite

Braithwaite, now 20, was alleged to have confessed to hitting a policeman with a bar. However the State could not assert categorically that it was Blakelock he had hit since he consistently denied that Blakelock had been touched. The 'admissions' were obtained as a result of threats and the debilitating effects of claustrophobia, fatigue and hunger.

In fact Braithwaite called alibi evidence establishing that he was not at the scene of Blakelock's death - evidence which could not be destroyed in court. He was convicted all the same.

Engin Raghip

Raghip is 21. Although he cannot read or write he is supposed to have read and signed a confession to being present and armed with a broomhandle in a crowd of 40 others around Blakelock's body. The State claimed he attempted to reach the body but failed because others preceded him, hence was guilty of murder through encouraging others to attack the officer. Raghip was subjected to 10 interviews over a period of 5 days in the absence of solicitor. In court he denied to having made any such 'confession' and also called solid evidence which again was not destroyed under cross-examination, to show that he was not on the estate at the time but on his way home.

**NO TO STATE MEDIA
FRAME-UPS**

Winston Silcott

Silcott, known as 'Sticks' and a 26 year old greengrocer was convicted of killing Blakelock on the basis of having a 'guilty posture.'

At the start of the trial he was convicted by the media. The Sun newspaper published his photograph and branded him as ringleader of the attack, firmly implanting his person into the minds of the public.

The police also tried to bribe a juvenile called Pyke to fabricate evidence against Silcott, intimidating him and his family to this end with the result that Pyke went into hiding. The police therefore suggested in court that it was in fact the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign he was in fear of.

What is this guilty posture?

In his 5th and final interview Silcott was shown a photograph as part of the police 'evidence.' He is said to have replied: "That's not me. I'm black. He's light-skinned and his nose is wrong." To another photograph he said: "If that's all you got, you've got nothing, man. You've made a big mistake - that's not me and you're trying to say it is me. That's stupid, man. Look if you have a photograph show me."

Melvin later suggested that he had participated in the killing. Silcott answered: "They are only kids. No one is going to believe them. You say they say that - how do I know? I don't go with kids."

Melvin then asked Silcott if he had murdered Blakelock, to which he replied: "You ain't got enough evidence. Those kids will never go to court. You can't keep me away from them." Melvin asked: "What do you mean by that?" Silcott: "I ain't saying no more and you've got a big surprise coming. You will probably be out of a job... Just take me down and charge me. I ain't saying no more. I ain't saying anything. You ain't go no evidence."

Dare to scale the heights
ORGANISE

NO EVIDENCE

Above all, one issue clangs throughout the whole trial - that convictions for murder were achieved with absolutely not a scrap of evidence. This admission is even more startling when consideration is given to the vast scale of investigatory measures employed by the police. Their official cameramen took thousands of shots of various aspects of the uprisings and persons involved, yet from this mass not a single one could be produced to incriminate any of the accused, including 'ringleader' Winston Silcott. Sophisticated and thorough forensic examinations were made by specially employed scientific teams - nevertheless for all their professional assistance the police ended up as clueless as they had started out. Also over 400 arrests were made - the trials of many are still continuing - yet neither from the systematic interrogation of this multitude nor from the meticulous house-to-house calls by detectives could the police supply any testimonies to support their charges of murder. They had in the end to resort to bribery and fabrication for their purposes of 'finding evidence.'



Braithwaite and Raghip had solid uncontestable alibis to detail that they had not been at the scene of Blakelock's killing. However the jury rejected the affirmations of these witnesses and instead accepted the 'confessions' concocted by the police after having inflicted their oppressive methods of treatment. We need to take a look at this oppression of the defendants. At the outset all were denied their legal right to have a solicitor present who could act as a check on police conduct. Brutality was perpetrated against

them, in terms of the sustained and intense pressures of detention and in the manner of their interrogation.



Juvenile 3 was a mentally retarded youth with a mental age of seven. He was arrested at his ESN school in contravention of an administrative standing order, and treated in a way totally wrong for a youth with learning difficulties. Engin Raghip underwent brutal and repeated questioning over 10 times for a period of 5 days. But seeing that such browbeating tactics under conditions of the profoundest duress failed to extract the false confession they sought, the police had to compose their own 'confession' for him. In Mark Braithwaite's case these conditions were aggravated by the fact that he suffered from claustrophobia and was also hungry and fatigued.

As regards Winston Silcott, so bereft of evidence were the police they had to be assisted by the state-backed media in their task to establish his guilt. Long before the final verdict the Sun and Star were at work with their own frame-ups - issuing a large headshot of Silcott accompanying sensationalist reports of 'the killer.' Added to that they invented scare stories of 'petrol lakes' stored in the garages of the Farm estate in order to heighten the public expectation of some terrorist criminal plot that was being hatched among the Black community.

The trial should never have gone ahead. Even the judge was compelled to dismiss murder charges against the juveniles on account of illegal police practices, and in absence of the jury - at which point it is clear to any reasonable mind that he

should have terminated the proceedings at once. However the same illegalities by which the adult defendants were abused and intimidated were found perfectly acceptable and sufficient to warrant convictions by the same jury.

It is instructive to consider a few well-known cases which illustrate how the similarities and contradictions of British 'justice' run together hand-in-hand. There is the Farm trial and also that of the Guildford 4 - four Irish people scapegoated and framed for a pub bombing - where the court had no need of evidence to reach a guilty verdict. However opposite circumstances prevailed in regards to the verdicts passed on the deaths of Cynthia Jarret and Clinton McCurbin with the evidence being abundant and undeniable, yet completely irrelevant to the finding innocent of the police murderers concerned.

The situation is becoming desperate. British courts are now making no pretensions about their professed regard for justice. They are simply exercising ruthless authority. Silcott's recommended minimum 30 year sentence is more than twice the normal term given for his convicted offence. We must fight against these appalling life sentences and prepare the community against frame-ups that will doubtless occur in the future.



Dare to swim against the tide
ORGANISE

SETTING UP A CAMPAIGN

This sheet deals with the practicalities of setting up a local Tottenham Three Campaign extension group and offers ideas on how the group might proceed.

Structure ■

As a campaign committed to justice, the group must have a democratic organisation, with all full members having an equal right to vote in meetings, and decisions being taken by the majority.

We advise that the Campaign should have its own Secretary who will be responsible for dealing with all incoming and outgoing correspondence, would hold Campaign documents and who would normally (but not necessarily) take the minutes of meetings. There should also be a Chair and Treasurer.

Principles ■

It is vital not to see the Broadwater Farm case simply as an isolated attack, or even a miscarriage of justice, but as part of the state's work in crushing resistance in our community and oppressing the

working class as a whole. Through their agents the police they seek to intimidate the working class and cow them into submission to their authority so as to accept the status quo. The criminalisation of Black people in general has made us all exposed to this cutting-edge of state repression. Now the community are uprising against such conditions the state are busy arming themselves with a panoply of weapons to defend their own security. The Tottenham Three Campaign fights against the specific injustices of the Farm trial but within the context of a steady progression to fascist control by the capitalist ruling class.

For this reason we believe that the Campaign should operate from the grassroots of the community and remain totally independent of state funds, whether central or local, hence we would oppose any application for financial assistance from eg the local council. Any money received from any quarter should never undermine the Campaign's principles of independence.

Action ■

The Campaign is aiming to mobilise public support in favour of the Tottenham Three and their appeal against the sentences. In

that respect it has two basic demands:

the quashing of the sentences and verdicts against Mark Braithwaite, Winston Silcott and Engin Raghip

the release of all prisoners of the Broadwater Farm uprising.

The prisoners' appeal against their sentences is expected to be heard around February 1988. Only with the backing of a mass of public can the verdict be

overturned.

The group should organise regular street meetings to publicise the cases of the Three. This would require a portable table for leaflets, copies of the Tottenham Three petition and the donation-box. Use can be made of a megaphone to broadcast the purposes, facts and aims of the Campaign, and to attract the attention of passers-by. As mentioned the street-meetings will also concentrate on collecting signatures for the petition (reproduce our copy enclosed.) This has been launched by the prisoners' families to be submitted at the time of the appeal to demonstrate the public concern.

Public meetings are also a feature of campaign work to draw in new members and to provide an opportunity for open debate. Collections should of course be made at the end. We will be able to provide speakers to make an address if it is so required. Fundraising is very important to the running of the Campaign. The majority of its regular income will come from public donations but special efforts can be made to raise larger sums through holding benefits which have to be carefully planned with sufficient notice given to be a success.

As a means of wider publicity in the public forum the group should, if possible, make a Campaign banner for representation at local festivals or gatherings. Maximum use should of course be made of the press and media to announce

any campaign activities.

In the midst of all the political work, the prisoners themselves must not be forgotten. It is important to establish and maintain links with them through letters and packages (respecting the restrictions on prison parcels). This does a lot to improve their morale and keep them informed about any action on their behalf. The more contact and news they receive from various areas the more they will be encouraged about how much they are being taken up in the public interest.

Winston Silcott ●

B74053 HMP Wormwood Scrubs, Du Cane Rd, PO Box 757 W12 OAE.

Engin Raghip ●

B78270 HMP Wormwood Scrubs, Du Cane Rd, PO Box 757 W12 OAE.

Mark Braithwaite ●

B78965 HM Youth Custody Centre, Bierton Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1EH

As campaigns working on the same issue, we need to be able to coordinate our activity and verify our progress. Arrangements must be made for exchange of the minutes of our meetings, press reports, and notice of Campaign functions.

