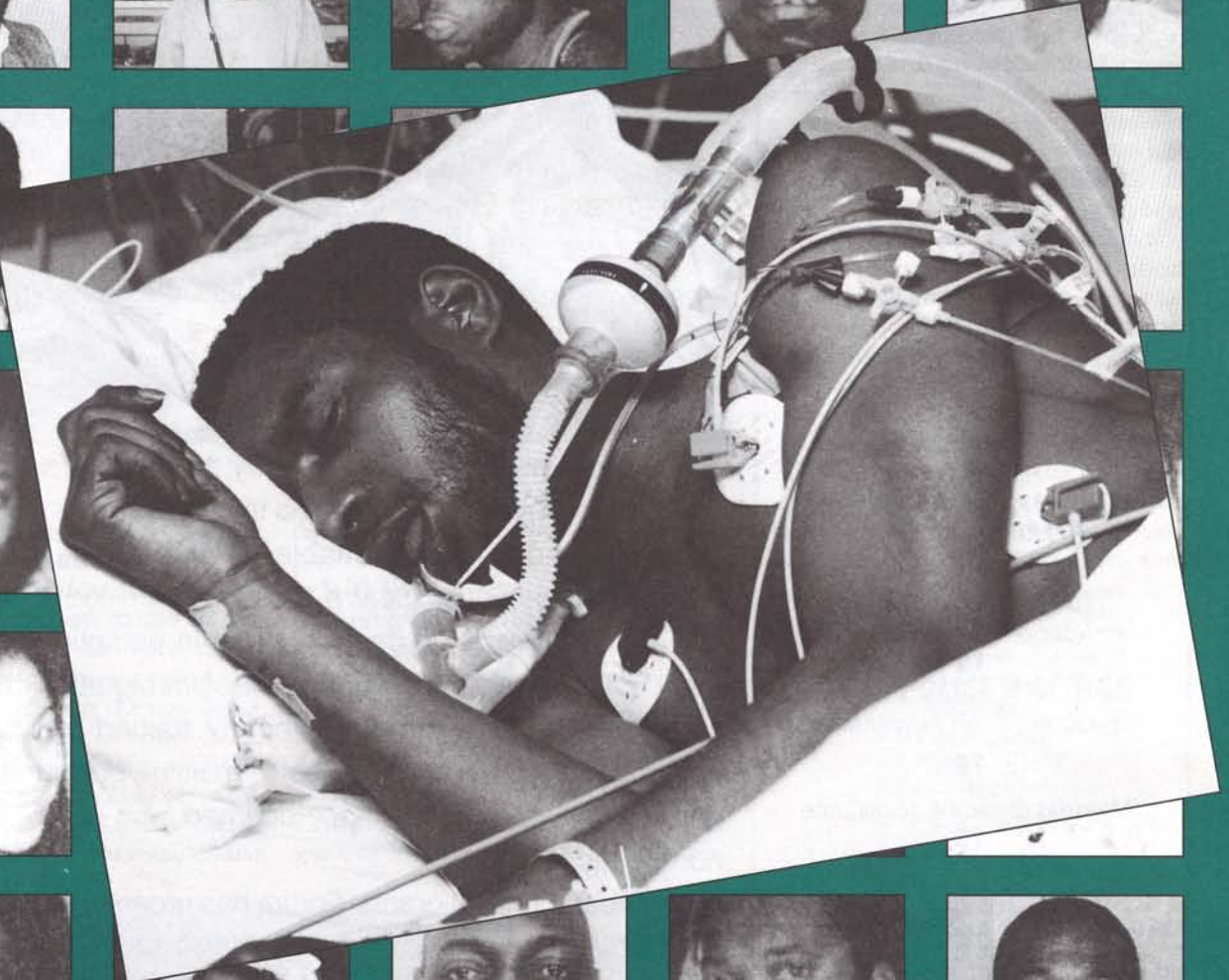
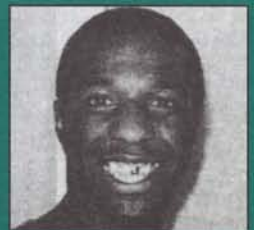
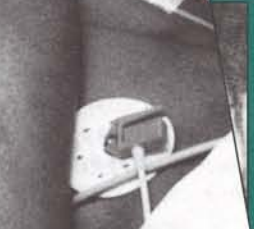
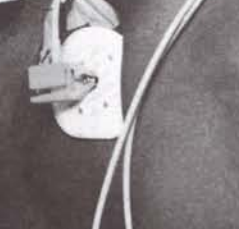
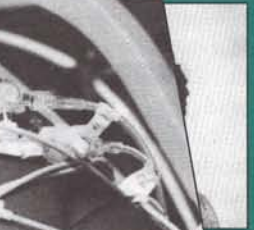


CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
**carf**  
RACISM & FASCISM

No 26 June/July 1995

80p



Who's next?

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Fascism  
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## EDITORIAL

Yet another black man has died in an encounter with the Metropolitan police. Brian Douglas' skull was fractured during a stop and search operation on the streets of south London in which officers were wielding the new American-style two-foot batons. Douglas, like so many black people before him, was the victim of a particular form of policing of the inner city – which, when faced with young black men, presupposes wrongdoing and proceeds with such undue force as to invite resistance – and so criminalises them..

If one section of the black community is suspected of criminality, another is suspected of illegality. Teachers and health workers are now to be turned into immigration spies, informing the Home Office of irregularities. Employers too will be obliged to investigate the exact status of their employees. For those undocumented Third World workers who slip through the nets, the government is bringing back the notorious police immigration 'fishing raids'. And the Passport Agency has just set up a special team to work on introducing a national identity card – the easier to locate them in the future.

For those asylum-seekers already thrown into detention centres and thereby criminalised, there is to be yet another form of policing – private and non-accountable. Group 4, which already runs Campsfield detention centre, has been invited to form the new MUFTI 'riot squads' to control unrest in detention centres and to carry out removals and deportations of immigration prisoners. Thus a private squad of unvetted, poorly trained individuals will be carrying out some of the most sensitive policing duties. What redress will there be for those deemed 'non-persons' against this non-public body?

The head of the Migrants' Forum has recently welcomed the idea of introducing identity cards on the basis that this would 'add status to the legally settled black community'. But on the above showing, identity cards are not going to make any difference to black people, whether legal or otherwise. If anything, they would only add legality to existing police harassment procedures. ■

## WE SHALL NOT FORGET

On the cover, the following (small pictures left to right from the top): Orville Blackwood, Kwanele Siziba, Jerome Scott, David Oluwale, Leon Patterson, Joseph Nnalue, Colin Roach, Melita Crawford, John Mikklesen, Cynthia Jarrett, Shiji Lapite, Anthony Lemard, Ian Francis, Brian Douglas, Omasase Lumumba, Richard 'Cartoon' Campbell, Joy Gardner; main picture: Brian Douglas (photo David Hoffman).



# 'Who killed my brother?'

David Hoffman



Donald Douglas speaks at a rally outside Kennington police station

On 2 May, Brian Douglas, a 33-year-old African-Caribbean concert promoter from south London, became the 49th black person to die in the custody of the police. After being stopped for a minor motoring offence by two officers armed with the new long-handled batons, Brian who, police claim, was in possession of a knife, a CS gas canister and a small amount of cannabis, was arrested. He was taken to Vauxhall police station, where he was detained and

examined four times by police surgeons. Fifteen hours after his arrest, he was taken to St Thomas's hospital, where examination revealed that he had no general coordination, half of his face was paralysed, and his speech slurred. He died from haemorrhages and a fractured skull. Stafford Solomon, who was arrested with Brian, sustained a broken wrist.

Brian's brother Donald spoke to CARF: 'We want justice for Brian, we want to know who killed my brother.

The two arresting officers, PC Tuffy and PC Harrison, are the subject of a Police Complaints Authority inquiry but the track record of these inquiries is that they do not deliver.' Donald is angry that the officers were given compassionate leave rather than face immediate suspension. 'When a youth worker or a social worker is accused of child abuse they automatically face immediate suspension, yet these officers are given compassionate leave after being accused of killing my brother. Is this all that the life of a black person is worth?' The statistics on deaths in custody compiled by the Institute of Race Relations (see box) show all too well the value that the police put on black life. Not one police officer has so far been convicted for the murders of these people.

For Brian Douglas's family, the official PCA inquiry and the postmortems are not enough to uncover the truth. Outrage from the local black community led to one of the biggest black mobilisations that south London has seen for years and the establishment of a justice campaign. The family is arranging its own post mortem and demand an independent inquiry into Brian's death. Donald Douglas has vowed, 'We will leave no stone unturned. We want answers.' ■

Justice for Brian Douglas Campaign, 77a Acre Lane, London SW9. Tel: 0171 733 7790.

## STOP POLICE KILLINGS

**Demonstrate for Brian Douglas**

Saturday 10 June

Assemble 12 noon

The Pond, Clapham Common

London SW4

**Total number of black deaths in custody (police, psychiatric and prison) since 1969 108**  
**involving the police 49 ■ in prison 47 ■ in psychiatric care 12**

## JOY GARDNER TRIAL

As CARF went to press, the trial of the three police officers charged with the manslaughter of Joy Gardner in August 1993 was proceeding at the Old Bailey. To restrain Ms Gardner, a 40-year-old mother, and take her away from her north London home for deportation, the officers handcuffed her wrists to a leather belt around her waist, bound her with a second leather belt round her thighs and put a third around her ankles. Then, as she lay trussed and bound on the floor, they

wound 13 feet of adhesive tape seven times around her head and face.

DS Linda Evans said that she considered what the three had done was 'reasonable in all the circumstances'. Campaigners, on the other hand, wonder why there were no murder charges. However, no police officer has ever been convicted of murder in the long history of violence against black people, and only one for manslaughter.

The court heard that Scotland Yard's specialist Alien Deportation Group was a law unto itself, developing and using gags and body belts used nowhere else in the

Met. Gags were used 'on numerous occasions', despite instructions in 1983 that their use was 'very difficult to justify' outside an aircraft.

The judge has clamped down severely on campaigners and observers, threatening contempt proceedings for those handing out leaflets outside court, clearing the public gallery after someone shouted 'disgusting' about the equipment used to restrain Joy, and saying he would halt the trial if protests continued. There will be a full report in the next issue of CARF. ■

Justice for Joy Campaign, c/o PACE, Selby Centre, Selby Road, London N17 8JN.

Politicians may pontificate about Europe's respect for human rights. But saving money is the motivating factor behind asylum and immigration policies, and in the process human rights and democratic principles are trampled on.

# The accountancy of asylum

In 1994, the Home Office called in a firm of accountants, KPMG Peat Marwick, to identify how to cut costs in asylum procedures. The firm recommended abolishing rights to appeal hearings in 'fast-track' cases, extending the fast-track procedure to people from so-called 'safe' countries of origin, and extending visa requirements to cut down on the numbers able to enter.

## The numbers game

The Peat Marwick report acknowledged that such changes would be 'not easy politically', but home secretary Howard welcomed the proposals, and immediately announced a package of measures designed to save £100 million in benefits by getting people processed, rejected and out of the country more quickly.

But saving money through reducing asylum-seekers' rights is not the only way to cut costs. In a climate in which the financial costs of reception of refugees weighs heavier than the human costs of maltreatment, anything goes. If detention of asylum-seekers deters others and so cuts costs in the longer term, the policy is detention. And if money can be made out of refugees by the private sector, all well and good.

## Asylum: a branch of the economy

The emphasis on money results in bizarre arguments. For instance, the German newspaper *Die Zeit* conducted an investigation in 1993 into whether it was true, as the popular argument had it, that asylum was a drain on the state because of refugees 'soaking up welfare benefits'. 'The Germans in the pub say asylum-seekers are just cashing in on the money. These are empty words,' argued *Die Zeit*. 'Asylum provides work. Asylum brings money. Asylum is a branch of the economy. The state pays. And German firms reap the profits.' It cited the example of the payment of welfare benefits in kind, in food parcels: 'Instead of the refugee getting the money, a German butcher gets it.' Similarly, the building of hostels for asylum-seekers has brought profit to firms like that of Berlin businessman Helmuth Penz, who won

contracts for the construction, administration and security of nine hostels housing 2,500 refugees.

## An expanding private sector

The privatisation of the management of detention centres for refugees both cuts costs and allows private enterprise to make a profit. In Norway, all refugee reception centres were privatised in July 1994; 50 were immediately closed and the others run on commercial lines. In Britain, Group 4 and Securicor have run detention centres for years. Costs have been driven down: according to parliamentary answers by ministers, the cost per week of immigration detention went down from £800 in November 1994 to £540 in April 1995.

The amount of profit Group 4 makes from running Campsfield House, near Oxford, and other detention centres is shrouded in mystery. How much it is paid per year for running these centres is unknown, since ministers have refused to answer this question. The government also refused to disclose how much Group 4 spend on prisoners' diet. While the effect of private management of prisons on prisoners' health and welfare is unknown, inspector of prisons judge Tumim issued a damning report on Campsfield in April 1995, saying that health care at the centre needed 'a complete overhaul'.



Austin/Guardian

## Legalising private violence

If private profit derived from locking people up is inherently objectionable, as well as dangerous, the proposal for a Group 4 riot squad is positively terrifying. The plan, for an 'instant response' public order and deportation squad based at Heathrow and Gatwick airports as well as Campsfield, is in itself a kneejerk reaction to criticisms of the Inspectorate of Prisons that Group 4 has shown itself unable to respond to outbreaks of disorder. The report referred particularly to the events of 5-6 June 1994, when 17 detainees absconded (see CARF

21). But the response is to arm £4-an-hour 'detention orderlies' with 'control and restraint equipment', pay them an extra 50 pence an hour and let them loose on vulnerable asylum seekers who have committed no crime. How, in a supposedly democratic society, can ordinary citizens be given such extraordinary powers to use violence to preserve profit? And who will join these new riot squads? Campaigners have already raised concerns about the ease with which fascists could get such jobs. When in 1993 Germany started to recruit

## NEW EURO NETWORKS

### United for refugees

Anti-racist groups, including CARF, from 13 different countries have launched a support campaign for refugees under the auspices of the European network, UNITED for Intercultural Action.

Action is proposed for 16 June, designated 'International Refugees Day', as it is the anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Convention. Campaigners are encouraged to bombard embassies with faxes and phone calls protesting against racist asylum policies and to put a series of tough questions to national governments concerning refugee policy. In Holland, 'Nederland Bekent Kleur' will demonstrate outside the EU office in the Hague on 16 June. A week later, on 24 June, anti-racist campaigns in the UK are mounting a day of action with protests at Harmondsworth, Campsfield, Winson Green and Haslar.

Over and above this, UNITED is collating information on the number of people who have died in any circumstances connected to their refugee status. So far, 121 deaths have been documented since 1993. But the true figures, UNITED admits, are far higher and impossible to record. A regional ombudsman in Andalusia, for instance, has said that 1,000 north Africans have died or disappeared, presumed dead, trying to cross over into Spain.

UNITED for Intercultural Action, Postbus 413, NL-1000 AK Amsterdam, Holland.  
Tel: 00 31 20 683 4778.

volunteers along its borders with Poland and the Czech republic for an auxiliary border police force, it emerged that of 200 members of a similar force in Berlin, 89 had a criminal right-wing background; offences included gun-smuggling and attacks on immigrants.

### Deportation on the cheap

European governments looking for further ways to cut costs by organising mass deportations are causing grave human rights violations. The Dutch authorities chartered a flight in March to expel 44 Zaireans, not just from the Netherlands but from Germany and France too. A Ministry of Justice spokesperson said, 'It is illogical and costly to have three planes take off on the same day from three different countries to Zaire.' Deportees, accompanied by 100 police and immigration officials in a military-style operation, had their arms and feet bound with adhesive tape. One deportee had a miscarriage at Schiphol airport. Others were assaulted by police officers who made racist jokes. The Dutch Refugee Council commented that such large-scale deportations are 'conspicuous, creating additional dangers of persecution on arrival', adding that 'the situation in Zaire is so chaotic that the Dutch government should refrain from taking any risks.'

Germany and Switzerland have gone a step further in saving costs of deportation: they make asylum-seekers pay. Some German states have charged those awaiting deportation for the cost of their stay in a prison cell (£54 per night in the Social-Democrat state of Baden-Württemberg; those unable to pay have valuables seized), while Switzerland deducts deportation costs from benefits.

In the UK, in April, the Home Office proposed the resumption of 'fishing raids', discontinued in 1980 after complaints that innocent people were being picked up for deportation. The announcement will give the green light to the wholesale detention of black people who cannot immediately produce evidence of identity and entitlement to work, and is bound to lead to wrongful detentions and deportations. The rationale is to save the Home Office the trouble (and cost) of tracing, naming and getting warrants for the arrest of real immigration 'offenders' and to net more proposed deportees in the raids.

### Contracting the state sector

The final way of balancing the books for European governments, however, is by shrinking the welfare state, making all



David Drew



welfare benefits strictly off limits for most immigrants, reducing benefits for asylum-seekers and cutting off eligibility as soon as an asylum claim is rejected. In Denmark, asylum-seekers must work for welfare payments. In the Netherlands and Belgium, they lose rights to benefits once

they are turned down, making it impossible for them to stay in the country to appeal.

The French system of control links eligibility for welfare benefits firmly to legal residence, and the French intend to make use of their presidency of the EU (which lasts until the end of June) to get agreement for a similar system Europe-wide, to reduce spending on social security. In March the French government proposed that all European Union states bring in laws for compulsory identity cards for foreigners, to be produced for access to any welfare provision. If the proposal is adopted, large numbers of people whose status is uncertain will be too frightened even to attempt to claim any benefits for fear of deportation.

### Getting rid of the 'surplus'

Having France at the helm of the EU is alarming, too, because of the amazing round of deportations that France has embarked on over the past year, informed, it would seem, by Le Pen's philosophy of 'induced repatriation'. New categories of people affected include foreign supply teachers, many from Algeria, and overseas students. The wholesale deportations have provoked anti-deportation campaigns which have emerged in schools and colleges. The teachers' union SNES has spoken out against 'round-ups' of foreign children and a climate of 'xenophobia', and in Hauts de Seine, the then interior minister Charles Pasqua's constituency, teachers have rounded on the chief inspector of education after an internal memo was sent to all head teachers calling on them to inform on all pupils of 16 or under with an irregular immigration status.

A taste of the inhumanity of the French laws is seen in the treatment of a Moroccan student with a rare illness which needs constant monitoring. He was forced on to a ship at Marseilles and deported to Morocco on the ground that his attendance at university was 'irregular'.

The signs are that the offensive against students spearheaded by France is spreading across Europe. Norway recently attempted to deport a Tamil student to Sri Lanka because immigration officials (not the university) considered that he 'wasn't making enough progress in his studies'.

In the UK, the president of Brighton University students' union, Zimbabwean Pancho Ndebele, was refused an extension of his student visa to complete a second year sabbatical and deported. The Department of Education has ruled

## NEW EURO NETWORKS

### Roma link-up

Moves to set up a database to link up Gypsy organisations across Europe were made at an important International Heritage Festival for Gypsy and Travelling People held in Edinburgh in April.

The conference, organised by the Scottish Gypsy Traveller Association (SGTA) and attended by Roma and traveller organisations from the Czech Republic, Netherlands, Germany, England, Scotland and Ireland, heard of the frightening resurgence of anti-Roma racism across Europe as well as focussing on the lack of site provision for travelling people in Scotland. Over 100 delegates were privileged to hear the address of Holocaust survivor Hans-Georg Böttcher, the chair of the Roma Union in Frankfurt.

A graphic example of how European immigration laws discriminate against Gypsies was given when the 22-strong delegation from the Czech Republic, including a baby and four children, who had come to dance at the festival, were detained for five hours by immigration officials at Dover. The SGTA, anticipating problems, had ensured that the British Council in Prague issued the dance company with official invitations. But this did not impress British immigration officers who decided to issue deportation orders against two of the number on the grounds that they had 'worked illegally' in Germany. The illegal work – a guitar performance for which the two had been given £20 to cover expenses!

Further information from SGTA, Stepping Stones, 112 West Bow, Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2HH. Tel 0131 225 4472.

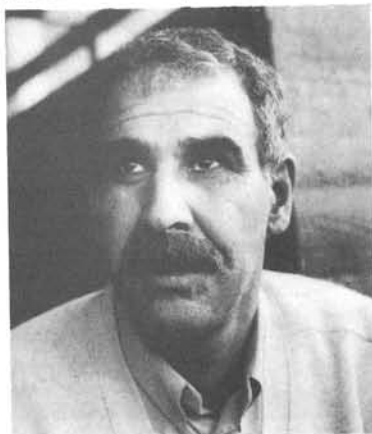
that overseas students and asylum-seekers must pay full fees for part-time studies, despite protests from the Refugee Council. The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is furious about rule changes which will prevent Commonwealth nurses from staying in the UK after finishing their formal studies to carry out the one-year practical training experience. The Home Office justifies the change by saying that there is no longer a nursing shortage or a need for overseas nurses to staff the NHS. The nursing profession disagrees. The changes will leave the profession 'teetering on the brink of crisis', says the RCN, which goes to show that anti-immigrant, 'cost-cutting' measures will ultimately result in a contracted welfare state for all. ■

## NEW EURO NETWORKS

### Defend the Kurds

In May, a series of meetings in London brought together Kurdish activists, anti-racist and refugee groups and human rights lawyers from a number of European countries. The meetings were timed to coincide with the start of the hearings to extradite European PKK representative Kani Yilmaz from Britain to Germany to face charges which, his lawyers argue, are politically inspired. Yilmaz was arrested on his way to address a House of Commons meeting last October, having been admitted to Britain a few days before. He has been held in Belmarsh high security prison ever since. The extradition hearing is held in a special court inside the prison.

Kurdish refugees are being deported from Germany and other European countries (including Britain) to Turkey despite Turkey's escalation of its war against the Kurds. The campaign calls for an end to the criminalisation of the Kurds in Turkey and Europe; repeal of racist immigration and asylum laws; no to Europol and EC secrecy laws; an end to political and racial victimisation; and the release of Kani Yilmaz and other Kurdish political prisoners.



Kani Yilmaz

A legal group has been set up to provide a European network of solidarity and assistance to Kurdish refugees.

Defend the Kurds – Defend Human and Civil Rights in Britain & Europe.  
Tel: 0171 586 5892.



The Labour council promised to unite the communities and combat racism. Has it succeeded?

# Labour's pledge to Tower Hamlets

One year ago, the ruling Liberal Democrats on Tower Hamlets council were swept from office. And, when Derek Beackon lost the BNP's sole council seat in Millwall, its projected electoral breakthrough failed to materialise. As 43 of the 50 seats on Tower Hamlets council were captured by Labour, BNP and Liberal-Democrat losses were the Labour party's gain. So has Labour lived up to its election-victory promise, articulated recently by Tower Hamlets mayor councillor Arthur Downes, of 'Uniting our communities and combating racism'?



The BNP has not repeated its Millwall success

## Dismantling institutional racism

If Labour was serious about this, then the first task would be to dismantle institutional racism in housing policies which have been at the cutting edge of racism in the borough. Institutional racism in housing has not been the sole preserve of the Liberal Democrats. Each of the three mainstream political parties has used its power over public housing in central and local government in ways that have helped reinforce and develop a climate of racist hostility in Tower Hamlets. And Labour, both locally and nationally, was part of this, as documented in reports dating back to 1977. Mark Adams, the author of the latest report, *Tower Hamlets: the race for power*, which details the council's racist housing policies and the role of each of the three main parties in reinforcing and developing racism, is disappointed with the new Labour group's lack of a formal response to the report. He acknowledges that there have been positive signs, for instance, that the notorious 'sons and daughters' policy has been abolished, along with several policies which discriminated against the homeless, 70

per cent of whom are black. But, he points out, 'The council's latest monitoring report, the first for more than 18 months, shows that white applicants continue to be favoured in the allocation of council and housing association homes, while Asian applicants receive less than their fair share.'

## Opposition to anti-racism

After the initial excitement over the Lib-Dem and BNP defeat, anti-racists, who had had little choice but to characterise a vote for Labour as a vote against racism, woke up to familiar and formidable local obstacles to change. Although Labour had 72 per cent more council seats than the Liberals, its success was also due to division amongst other parties. Thus, although Labour secured 73,000 votes, the parties which played the race card attracted 59,000 (10 per cent less) of which 15 per cent was for the BNP. In Millwall, the BNP obtained 28 per cent of the vote (in three by-elections since May 1994 its share of the vote has varied from 12 to 19 per cent). This popular support for racism has continued to be reflected in many tenants' associations and community groups, in the town hall and, most importantly, in continued racist attacks.

## Slow pace of change

Tower Hamlets black communities still live under siege; Labour's victory has hardly touched their lives. Indeed, although many black organisations, including the newly-formed Women United Against Racism, went out of their way in 1994 to mobilise black voters (the turnout on the Isle of Dogs was 75 per cent, twice as high as usual), this did not necessarily reflect black people's faith in Labour's anti-racism.

According to Nasir Uddin of Youth Connections, 'There was a sense that anything has got to be an improvement on the Lib-Dem administration.' But while acknowledging that Labour had hard tasks ahead in reversing the Lib-Dems' destructive decentralisation programme, Uddin cannot see many significant changes in terms of racism on

the ground. In 1993, 61 per cent of Somali and Bangladeshi families rehoused into new housing association homes on the Isle of Dogs said that they felt less safe in their new homes and even preferred the unhealthy, cramped conditions of homeless accommodation – their feelings have not changed since then.

Nevertheless, under Labour councillors Phil Maxwell and Abdus Shukur, there does seem to be a will to shake up institutional structures in housing. Having given a public commitment to tackling racial violence, the housing department has initiated possession and injunction proceedings against up to 20 racist tenants, supported the Community Alliance for Police Accountability's (CAPA) emergency helpline and is considering an estate-based project with the idea of seconding a lawyer to Limehouse police station to secure convictions against council tenants accused of racial harassment (on the lines of a project in Plumstead, south-east London).

## Acting on community demands

Effective strategies against racial harassment also require a council that is responsive and willing to act on community demands. Black communities in Tower Hamlets have for some time had their own strategies for dealing with racist attacks but, apart from a brief period in 1983-84 under the GLC, there has been little or no support from the council. What is hopeful is that the new housing administration does seem at least willing to listen to community groups. Councillor Phil Maxwell told CARF that 'in order to deliver on our initiatives in the anti-racist arena we must build an effective partnership with community organisations'.

CAPA and the law centre acknowledge some progress in the last year, but, says Ranjeet Lohia of CAPA, 'it's taken continual pushing'. CAPA and the law centre still see many gaps in the council's approach; for instance, legal action on perpetrators is not well coordinated, priority transfers are delayed and there is a danger that the new racial harassment panels, incorporating the multi-agency

approach, are little more than talking shops. Mumtaz Zamed, a local resident and racial harassment field worker, echoes this, 'The council's response to attacks varies across different areas and different staff.'

Jean Geldhart of Tower Hamlets Unison comments that while 'we welcome the new "up front" commitment to tackling racism, staff are becoming frustrated at the slow pace of change'. Most worryingly, any progress made may be arrested by infighting within the Labour group itself, which has culminated in a death threat against one Bengali councillor. Long-time black activist Kumar Murshid told CARF, 'There is a serious problem with divisions in the Labour group. Continuity and commitment are essential and these are being jeopardised by internecine battles that can only set back progress in crucial areas like housing.'

### Uniting communities with new homes

On being returned to office, one of the Labour council's first acts was to promise '1,000 homes in four years.' It was hoped that the new programme would be a way (to quote the mayor) of 'uniting our communities'. But although 350 new rented homes have already been built, and this despite severe government-imposed cuts in the Housing Corporation's funding, a consensus on the need for more housing can not be assumed. The Association of Island Communities newspaper, the *Islander* (which frequently expresses racist views) recently wrote about 'houses, houses everywhere' and argued for a brake on housing in favour of industry.

The new programme should have provided the council with an opportunity to break out of narrow council and professional confines to form an alliance with housing associations, community organisations, the homeless and the badly housed. Such an alliance would have had the potential to unlock more funds in a 'New Homes Campaign'. But, in order to do this, the council would have had to engage white residents suffering poor housing conditions alongside the black homeless and poorly-housed. It would need to win white tenants over to a clear anti-racist focus. But the indicators from various new housing

schemes in the borough, such as the Estate Action schemes in Millwall and Bethnal Green and projects initiated by the Bow Housing Action Trust which have attracted millions in investment, is that new schemes have very little racial equality focus.

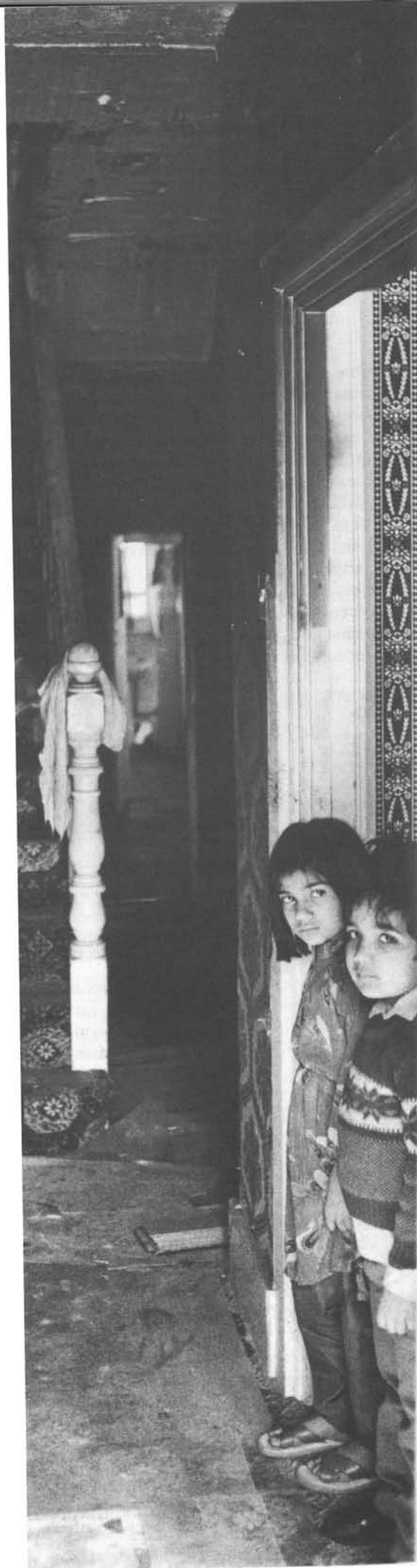
### Undermining the BNP's base

While the leading racist white tenants' organisation, Action for Equality on the Isle of Dogs, appears to have withered away, racist tenants organisations are still thriving in many parts of the borough. Yet no major initiative has yet been launched by the council to challenge them. Councillor Phil Maxwell acknowledged to CARF that 'anti-racist work with white residents is a weak area of our strategy which needs to be challenged'. A recent offer by the council to fund tenants association activities if they demonstrated a commitment to equality, was rebuffed by tenants associations on the Isle of Dogs, who did not want to have an 'equality check'.

It is not just the council that has failed in its role in challenging white racism. Disappointing, too, has been the attitude of groups like the Docklands Forum. Representing some community groups, trade unions, tenants' associations and local business interests, the Forum would have been well-placed to tackle attitudes within the tenants' associations. But a pamphlet published by the Forum with the aim of challenging white residents' racist perceptions contained no black perspective, nor any recommendations on how to tackle institutional racism.

The old Labour-controlled Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood failed to take up anti-racist challenges in their white constituencies and instead made concessions in housing to white racists. The new Tower Hamlets-wide administration, in attempting to bring about some change, has certainly not gone down the road of appeasing racists.

But no amount of tinkering with the system will be effective unless it is matched with a willingness to go out and win the arguments against racism where it counts, to undermine the arguments of the BNP with the clear message of 'Equal rights for all', based on safe neighbourhoods with more and better homes. ■





## INTERVIEW

# Racism, housing and profit

CARF spoke to Adil Rehman of the Newham Monitoring Project about new campaigning approaches to racism and housing.

**CARF:** For many years NMP has been at the forefront of campaigns to make local authorities more responsive to racial harassment. Why does the latest Annual Report suggest that the fight has to be fought all over again?

**Adil Rehman:** Because the whole nature of housing has changed. The main provider of housing is no longer councils, but housing associations. Three years ago, there were only about three housing associations in Newham, now there are twenty, and their headquarters are not local.

There is a major difference now. Housing associations work on the idea of 'profit engineering' and different housing associations are competing with each other for funds. As dealing with racial harassment is not a profit-making venture, it drops down the list of priorities of the housing associations. At least, before, we had some measure of control over Newham council's policies through elected representatives. Now, we have no local democratic controls over housing associations. It is totally at the discretion of officials as to how they deal with racial harassment, even whether they inform the council or community organisations like NMP about attacks. Basically, if racial harassment is a profit-maker, they'll deal with it, but if it's not, they won't.

### Have policies been adopted to counter racial harassment?

Housing associations are copying local authority racial harassment policies, so it's all very good on paper. But what good is this when there are no designated officers to deal specifically with such harassment? What you have instead is a general officer who is responsible for dealing with racial harassment, voids, rent arrears, etc. And he or she is responsible not to the community but to the housing association's primary role of making more profit. And because the pressure from local community organisations and elected councillors can't be effective, the attitude within the housing associations is 'we are the managers and we are going to do what we want'.

For instance, a woman in south Newham was not only suffering general abuse, shit through her door, windows smashed, that kind of thing, but she was also the victim of an arson attack. For five months she reported this harassment, carried out by local youths from a housing estate, every single week to the housing association. And every single week she would get a letter telling her 'we're dealing with it'. The council's attempts to pressurise the housing association had no effect. In fact, the council and the housing association kept passing the buck to each other. Many more black families will find themselves falling through the bureaucratic gap this woman fell through. For the housing association will say, 'Well, she may be our tenant, but it is council tenants who are harassing her.'

### Does the council have any power over housing associations?

The council still holds nomination rights and has an overseeing role. If there is racial harassment, for



Council tenants like Rosina McDonnell have been evicted for racial harassment. What will housing associations do?

instance, the housing association should report it to the council and the council should arrange a meeting to decide on what action should be taken. But what you are seeing now, especially with compulsory competitive tendering, is the council increasingly being thrust into the 'profit engineering' role whereby its principal concern is making money...

### What effect will compulsory competitive tendering have?

CCT, as it is commonly known, is the government's privatisation proposals which will come into operation fully in April 1996 and which effectively mean that all local government housing services – including rent collection, chasing arrears, supervising estate services and general housing management which includes harassment, nuisance and tenancy issues – will be contracted out. What is crucial and central to each contract is generating and collecting income. This leads to the bizarre situation whereby racial harassment cases are only of interest if they generate money. Contractors will seek to reduce time spent on racial harassment cases as other management issues like rent arrears and voids will take priority.

Over and above this, CCT is bringing about a situation whereby housing associations must become bigger and bigger if they are to compete. Smaller, black housing associations, with the expertise and know-how, are being swallowed up, and the larger housing associations are building anywhere where there is land so that they can meet their targets.

### So what is NMP doing to challenge housing associations locally?

There are no short-term solutions. First, we have to identify the key players in the housing associations, remembering, at the same time, that these organisations and their top bureaucrats are not based in Newham, and the profit made from their ventures does not go back into the borough. We also have to make our faces known, and monitor their policies, recognising that these are new organisations with new workers lacking the skills and experience to deal with racial harassment.

### Are they responsive?

Frankly, no. And some of the worst are the bigger ones. What has come across from our meetings with them is, 'If you can solve the problem, and save us money, fine. But don't expect us to waste time when we could be making money somewhere else.' In the final analysis, what we have to impress on these people is that it is lives and people's safety that should be the priority, and not profit. ■

Even as the trial of the officers charged with the killing of Joy Gardner raises questions about the physical techniques used in deportations, campaigners are demanding, in the light of other immigration deaths, new procedures to prevent further deaths.



## CAMPAIGNS AND REPORTS

### No more immigration deaths

Many people do not know their exact immigration status, but, because of the anti-immigrant culture peddled in the press, created in no small measure by government moves to clamp down on 'scroungers' and to set up new control units for the incarcerated, they live in a climate of fear.

Imagine you are Kwanele Siziba. She came to Britain from Zimbabwe to celebrate the christening of her niece. She was on a visitor's visa. Because she tripped and broke her wrist, she was undergoing treatment before returning to Zimbabwe. On 27 April 1994 she heard violent banging at the front door of the 12th floor flat where she stayed with her sister in Hackney. Terrified, she listened as men threatened to kick her door in.

She knew what had happened to Joy Gardner and she had heard about the brutal death of asylum-seeker Omasase Lumumba in Pentonville prison. She simply panicked. Trying to climb down from her balcony to the flat below so as to avoid the men at the door who she was sure were from the immigration service, intent upon her deportation – she lost her grip because her wrist had not healed, and fell to her death. The tragedy was compounded by the fact that the men at the door were neither from immigration, nor looking for her. It was a bailiff from the Lord Chancellor's office, accompanied by police, looking for her brother-in-law who had committed a driving offence. On 24 November an inquest returned a verdict of misadventure.

Just six months after Kwanele's death, a young Nigerian father of two died in a very similar way. Following an anonymous tip-off, police and immigration officers called at 8.10am on a Sunday at the flat of Joseph Nnalue in Stockwell. Joseph, in the middle of dressing for church, heard his wife being questioned downstairs. He attempted to leave the flat via the plastic drainpipe. Dressed only in boxer shorts, he clung to the pipe which collapsed under his weight. He fell 40 feet onto iron railings below and died fifteen minutes later as he struggled to crawl into the garden. His body was left on the grass for six hours.

But according to the testimony of his wife the callousness of the officials did not end there. Grace Abrahams, who was 35



Families remember the victims of racist policing in Hackney, east London. From left: Lamida Lapite (wife of Shiji Lapite); Pamela Simms (daughter of Aseta Simms); holding wreath, Theodora Matthews (sister of Kwanele Siziba); and right, John Monerville (father of Trevor Monerville)

weeks pregnant at the time, was forcibly restrained by police officers when she attempted to discover what had happened to her husband after hearing 'a sliding noise' outside. Looking out of the window, she saw a blanket covering his body. Yet no one would explain what had happened. Instead she was questioned about her immigration status.

At the inquest on 14 February, which returned a verdict of accidental death, friends of the family were appalled at the attitudes of immigration officials. One officer gave evidence that he saw a pair of legs dangling at the window and when he looked again they were gone. When questioned as to what he thought he had seen, he smirked and said he had thought it was a window cleaner.

For once the coroner spoke out. He called for a Home Office review of immigration officers' procedures, suggesting that they should have proceeded with more caution and should certainly have checked in Home Office files about

Ms Abrahams' status (which was legal) before subjecting her to interrogation. Immigration officials were asked why they had not issued some sort of caution at the door to the effect that people did not have to let them in and did not have to answer their questions. Campaigners also point out that the presence of the police in such cases (there only to prevent a breach of the peace) immediately frightens people into thinking they are about to be arrested.

Ms Abrahams' solicitor told CARF: 'It is incumbent on the home secretary to make sure that a panic is not created. Even those charged with murder are told their rights. But officers who make a raid seem to assume that everyone is going to be an overstayer (without even having checked first). There is such a fear being created that reasonable people suddenly behave in an irrational manner. The sad thing is that immigration rules are not always that clear and there is a large area of discretion, but people panic before they can get proper advice.'



## The BNP's electoral strategy failed abysmally in the May local elections.

The BNP stood nine candidates (compared with ten in May 1994) mainly in the north and Midlands. Only one of its candidates polled over 200 votes and all except one came last.

If the BNP fared badly the has-beens of the NF did even worse. They came under pressure from the BNP in what used to be their West Midlands heartland, and were all but wiped out elsewhere. They stood thirteen candidates.

**Lancashire:** The BNP's *Mick Gibbons* (Blackpool, Anchorholme) canvassed with his rotweiler, proving that the Blackpool branch consisted of no more than one man and a dog since a number of members were sent down for an attack on Omani airmen in 1994. He ended up attacking local anti-fascists with a baseball bat while canvassing. He got a total of 39 votes. In Rochdale, BNP organiser *Ken Henderson* came third with 104 (4%) votes.

**Staffordshire:** All four fascist candidates also stood in the 1994 local elections. Their experience doesn't seem to have taught them very much as none of them got above double figures and all came last. For the BNP, *Steve Batkin* (Stoke on Trent, Fenton Green) saw his vote drop by a third from May 1994. The NF stood in Cannock, where *John Law's* vote dropped by two thirds and *Paula Carmichael's* dropped by half. *Andrew Carmichael* polled 52 votes.

**West Midlands:** Both the BNP and NF concentrated their campaigns here, stand-

According to the Institute of Race Relations, which monitors deaths of black people in custody, deportation, or the fear of it, has already contributed to the deaths of Siho Iyugiven, Kimpua Nsimba, Omasase Lumumba, Turan Pekoz and Joy Gardner, as well as Kwanele and Joseph. The Kwanele Siziba Memorial Campaign, formed to resist state attacks on migrants and asylum-seekers and prevent further deaths, is demanding, amongst other things, an end to the criminalisation of asylum-seekers. ■

This article was prepared with the help of Inquest, 330 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Kwanele Siziba Memorial Campaign c/o Colin Roach Centre, 56 Clarence Road, E5.

# Fascist election flop



Ken Henderson



David Bruce



Mark Cotterill

ing nine candidates between them. The BNP's campaign coincided with a series of violent attacks on anti-fascists at the University of Central England led by BNP member Andy Garshead, who recently enrolled as a student. West Midlands organiser *Keith Axon*, who stood for the Birmingham Oscott seat last year, saw his vote halved. The BNP also claims to have set up a new branch in Wolverhampton.

The six NF candidates stood in Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall, Solihull and Birmingham. In Birmingham, Kingstanding, its candidate *Alfred Sutton* lost out to the BNP's *Daniel Langton*. In Sandwell the two candidates – *John Lord* and *Mark Salmon* – polled 6 and 7% of the vote, compared with 9% last year. In Dudley (Lye & Wollescote) *John Stokes* saw his vote halved.

**Hertfordshire:** The NF's two candidates in Hemel Hempstead polled 50 votes between them, while BNP deputy *Dave Bruce* probably wishes he hadn't bothered standing in Broxbourne, where he managed 66 votes, about half of his vote last year.

**Devon:** The National Front stood *Karen* and *Gary Needs* in Exeter. A strong campaign by Exeter AFA highlighted the involvement of Gary Needs in producing Combat 18 hitlists; the Needs managed less than 50 (1%) votes between them.

Former NF member *Mark Cotterill* stood as an Independent Conservative in a three seat ward in Torbay. He got a disturbingly high 411 votes, mainly because the Conservatives only stood one official candidate and there was little anti-fascist opposition. Cotterill produces the 'Patriotic Forum', which advocates infiltrating the Tory party.

**Elsewhere:** The BNP's candidate in Ashfield, Notts, *Gary Marshall*, known for his attacks on his girlfriends, got 96 votes and came last, while in Epping Forest, Essex, *Isobel Hernon* got 142 (10%) votes. In a separate local by-election in the Downham ward, Hither Green, South London, *Barry Olley*, a former NF member standing as a Conservative, polled 306 votes (11.5%).

## Combat 18 threatens Scottish candidates

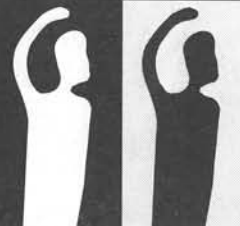
Asian candidates standing in the Glasgow local elections in April were subjected to a campaign of harassment from Combat 18. The Labour candidate for Pollockshields East, Mohammed Sarwar, received death threats and his car windscreen was smashed. Threats were also sent to the Woodlands ward SNP candidate, Abdul Khan, and to Jewish groups in the city.

The attacks coincided with a claim by US white supremacist and author of the notorious *Turner diaries*, William Pierce, to have set up a 'unit' of about a dozen supporters in Glasgow. Pierce's book is the bible of survivalist groups and foreshadowed the recent Oklahoma city bombing.

There are also fears that Combat 18 is attempting to gain a foothold in Edinburgh after C18 material appeared at the Heart of Midlothian ground at Tynecastle Park. During the election campaign the SNP offices were daubed with C18 graffiti.

The rabidly anti-Republican Independent Loyal Orange Order (ILOO) plans to hold a march and rally in west Edinburgh in June.

STOP THE DETENTIONS



STOP THE DETENTIONS

### NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST DETENTIONS AND DEPORTATIONS

As part of a European-wide action there will be demonstrations outside detention centres and prisons to protest at the continuing detention and criminalisation of refugees and immigrants.

## SATURDAY 24 JUNE

**Demonstrate at:**

**Campsfield detention centre,**  
Kidlington, Oxford 12 noon,  
**Harmondsworth detention centre,**  
(Hounslow West tube) 12 noon,  
**Haslar prison** (ring 01705-698 435 for details),  
**Winson Green prison** (ring 0121-551 4518 for details)

## CAMPAIGNS AND REPORTS

The ILOO has links to the paramilitary UVF as well as the BNP and NF. In 1993 an Orange Order parade in Edinburgh ended in violent clashes after UVF banners were displayed.

### Combat 18 targetted

Unless Charlie Sargent can produce another of his 'get out of jail' cards it looks as though he may be off the streets in the not too distant future. He and Will Browning, already on police bail following raids on their homes over Christmas, have been charged with assaulting a group of women teachers at a pub in Halifax in March.

A new Leeds BNP pamphlet *White Lies* peddles the line that fascist violence in Leeds has nothing whatsoever to do with the BNP and that Combat 18 activity in Leeds was all the work of one individual, Tony White, who was an infiltrator passing information to anti-fascists and the police and attempted to smear honest decent nationalists in the area. Leeds BNP involved in violence – who would entertain such an idea!

### BNP headquarters inquiry

The Bexley council inquiry into the BNP headquarters in Welling took place in April. Richard Edmonds claimed that the premises were not used as an office but as a bookshop. Even more outrageous was the assertion that there had been no racist attacks in the area since they moved in.

The final decision on the fate of the headquarters rests with John Gummer. If Bexley council wins, the BNP will have to restore the premises to a bookshop by removing the fortifications that have transformed it into a bunker. ■

## POLICING

### Sporran caught in bicycle chain

The chair of the Police Complaints Authority has revealed that about one police officer every fortnight opts for early retirement or resigns rather than face disciplinary proceedings and accept responsibility for corruption, racism or other unacceptable behaviour. CARF readers may remember Chief Superintendent Bernard Taffs of Shoreditch and Hackney police station, and will be interested to hear that he has left the force. Taffs' distinguished career in community relations included describing Hackney Community Defence Association as 'toytown revolutionaries'. The PCA described a letter from Taffs to the Newham Monitoring Project as 'ill-conceived, inappropriate... offensive... totally unacceptable'... blah blah blah, but regret that no action can be taken as he left the force a month before the PCA judgement. They go on to say that 'were he still serving, we would have recommended a charge of bringing discredit on the reputation of the police service'. Taffs may have escaped justice this time but we are sure his name will crop up again soon – perhaps working for Group 4 or as a racial awareness trainer for the Met? ■

### Victory for the Imbert family

Ruby Imbert and her son Colin won an apology from the police and £28,000 damages for assault, wrongful arrest and false imprisonment in an out-of-court settlement which brings to a triumphant end the campaign, supported by Newham Monitoring Project, which started three years ago.

In June 1992, police tried to arrest Colin in the belief that he was Jason Imbert, Colin's brother. After both Colin and his mother denied that he was Jason, the officers forced their way into the house and dragged him out, in the process beating Colin and pushing his mother heavily in the chest, causing her to collapse with severe chest pains. Ruby Imbert was in hospital for five days. Colin was charged with two counts of assault. The charges were thrown out in January 1993. In welcoming the settlement, NMP pointed out it was very rare to get an apology from the police. ■

Mr A Rahman  
Newham Monitoring Project  
362 Katherine Road  
Forest Gate  
London E7 8NW

METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE  
Shoreditch and Hackney Division  
Shoreditch Police Station  
4 & 5 Shoreditch 15/20  
London N1 7LF  
Telephone 071-488 7212

EXT: 5426

Dear Mr Rahman,

RE: COMPLAINT BY MR AUGUSTE

Thank you for your letter of 11th August 1994 which has been passed in me by Superintendent HUDSON who has already written to you. This complaint will be submitted as a complaint against Police.

Your letter is a disgrace to any reasonable balanced consideration of this issue. I have, however, come to know that this is the habitual approach from your strange project.

If you cannot perceive your prejudices for yourself then I will point them out to you. It will also point your prejudices out to those with whom you choose to communicate.

Your letter manifestly declares your naivety. It is difficult to take such arrogant nonsense seriously.

With very best wishes to you and.....

May your sporran never catch in your bicycle chain.

Yours sincerely,

*Bernard Taffs*  
BERNARD TAFFS  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT  
SHOREDITCH & HACKNEY POLICE STATIONS

### Police accountability charter launched

Newham Monitoring Project, in conjunction with South Newham Action on Policing (SNAP), is launching 'Newham's Charter for Police Accountability'. The Charter calls for an independent police complaints system, statutory powers to ensure that senior police officers are accountable for local operations, and genuine public involvement in the shaping of policing policy. It has been drawn up in response to the increasing volume of police harassment cases that NMP has recorded in the last six months, and marks the start of a 'summer of action' by campaigners in Newham. This will include protests against the random use of stop and search powers by the police which is particularly targeting young people. NMP will also be working closely with refugee organisations in a campaign against arbitrary passport checks and the harassment of suspected 'illegal' immigrants.

A spokesperson for NMP said that the Charter is intended to 'highlight that the concept of "policing by consent" is meaningless while the public have no means of holding the police to account.' The Charter will be launched on 29 June at a meeting in the Shalom Centre, East Ham High Street North, London E12, starting at 7.30pm. The meeting will be addressed by local residents who have suffered at the hands of the police. ■



A secretly filmed *World in Action* programme transmitted on 23 April showed how appreciative a group of Manchester police officers were of their dinner entertainer Bernard Manning, who regaled them with a string of racist 'jokes'.



## • RACIST VIOLENCE • SELF-DEFENCE •

**Marlon Thomas**

Four fairground workers from Bob Wilson's funfair have been convicted of violent disorder and grievous bodily harm after going on a violent racist rampage which left 19-year-old Marlon Thomas brain damaged and unable to speak or move more than a year after the attack. The jury at Bristol Crown Court returned unanimous verdicts after hearing how the gang had armed themselves with a baseball bat, a metal bar and a hammer before attacking nearby black youths. Campaigners were disgusted that the judge refused to recognise the racial element to the attack and at the short sentences, which ranged from two to five years, that the attackers received. Marlon's brother Leroy commented after the trial that 'my family is still serving a life sentence'.

**Satpal Ram**

CARF is pleased to report that mutiny charges against Satpal were thrown out of court in April. The charges were brought in January 1995, over a year after Satpal is alleged to have thrown a cooking pot at a prison officer. They coincided with pressure on the home secretary to refer his murder conviction to the Court of Appeal. The Free Satpal Campaign claims that the charges 'were concocted in an attempt to prejudice the appeal, by portraying him as a "prison rioter"'. Satpal's appeal date is expected to be set in the near future. Meanwhile his supporters will be holding a public meeting on black self-defence at 3pm on Sunday 25 June at Ravidass temple, Union Row, Handsworth. Ring 0121 551 4518 for further details.

**Donna O'Dwyer**

Donna O'Dwyer fell to her death while attempting to escape from a firebomb attack during a party in July 1994 in Leyton, east London. The trial of Peter Charles Thurston, charged with her murder, began at the Old Bailey on 24 April. After almost two weeks, the judge declared a mistrial and discharged the jury. A retrial is scheduled to start on 25 September.

**Shah Alam**

New witness evidence in the case of Shah Alam, the student who was viciously beaten in Poplar, east London last year has led to the arrest of two men on charges of attempted murder. Disgracefully, however, they have both been granted bail. The committal is expected to be held in June. ■

Picture: Darren Jakobsen

## • ON THE SHOPFLOOR • ON THE SHOPFLOOR •

**Landmark victory**

The long-running dispute at John Haggas plant in Keighley, West Yorkshire, against racial victimisation and for unionisation, has finally come to an end.

On 25 April, an industrial tribunal ruled in favour of 87 Asian night-shift workers, instructing Haggas to pay each of the applicants between £1000 and £2000 in compensation and to implement the CRE's Equality Code of Practice within three months. But the best news of all is that the industrial tribunal has instructed

Haggas to sign trade union recognition agreements by 15 August, laying down a three-month time limit for the union agreement to be negotiated. If agreement is not reached in this time, the legal stay on the tribunal case will be lifted.

A landmark victory for the Transport & General Workers Union, the agreement was greeted with much celebration in Keighley and throughout West Yorkshire.

Further information from Bradford REC, Oakwell House, 8 Oak Avenue, Bradford BD8 7AQ.

**The Price for Justice****A letter from Doreen and Neville Lawrence**

*Dear friend*

Saturday 22nd April 1995 marked both the second anniversary of the death of our son Stephen and the start of a private criminal prosecution for the perpetrators of his murder.

Stephen was murdered 200 yards from the place where 16-year-old Rohit Duggal fell prey to a senseless and brutal racist murder and both died in the same borough which saw young Rolan Adams fatally slain.

Unlike the murders of Rohit Duggal and Rolan Adams no one has faced justice for Stephen's murder – until now. The Crown Prosecution Service discontinued its prosecution against two defendants in July 1993 and were prepared to allow the most brutal racist murder in the heart of the community to gather dust in a filing tray. Our private criminal prosecution is the only means left to get to the truth behind the last night of Stephen's life.

Since the start of our legal action we have been overwhelmed by the support, both physical and financial, to our campaign – **The Price for Justice**.

**The Price for Justice** aims to raise funds for our historic legal challenge. The price is a high one and involves risks – defeat alone could result in us facing legal costs – but it is a risk that we are prepared to take.

**The Price for Justice** aims to put the evidence behind the murder of Stephen to the one group who have been denied access – a jury.

**The Price for Justice** aims also to highlight the consistent way in which justice is denied to the victims of racial violence and murders.

Can you help ensure that the truth behind Stephen's murder and justice for all victims of racial murders can finally be achieved? Any contribution, however small, will be gratefully received. You may be able to organise an event or maybe you are in contact with a venue where a benefit can be hosted on behalf of the campaign. If you belong to an organisation with a mailing list, please reproduce this letter and let others know about **The Price for Justice**.

With your help and support, which has sustained us throughout the years, the final hurdle in our campaign will be reached and justice, so often absent in Stephen's and many other cases, will finally be achieved.

Yours faithfully,

*Doreen and Neville Lawrence*

Please send donations payable to the 'Stephen Lawrence Family Campaign' to PO Box 3433 London SE18 3SS. Tel/Fax: 0181 317 0960.

**More workplace racism**

A TUC report, *Black workers and the labour market*, shows that black workers are paid less than white workers for similar work. And nearly one in five black people are unemployed, compared to less than one in ten whites.

The report, based on data from the Autumn 1994 Labour Force Survey, contains information on low pay and unemployment. Black workers are not only disproportionately represented amongst the low-paid, but at the bottom of the earnings distribution the lowest paid 10 per cent of workers earned £2.73 an hour or less, 18 per cent less than the equivalent figure for white workers. ■

## Raghbir must stay



Raghbir Singh, West Midlands-based editor of the Punjabi newspaper *Awaze Qaum*, is faced with deportation. He was arrested in connection with the murder of Tarseem Singh Purewal, a Sikh newspaper editor who was killed in Southall earlier this year. Although police decided Raghbir had no involvement in the murder and released him without charge, he was rearrested and told he was being deported on grounds of national security. The Home Office claim that he could be involved in terrorism because he has written articles critical of the Indian government. He has not been charged with any crime, nor is he allowed to know the specific allegations made against him, and can appeal only to a secret committee of Home Office advisers. Raghbir, whose wife and two children are British citizens, is being held in Winson Green prison in Birmingham, where regular demonstrations have been held by the local Sikh community and the National Union of Journalists. ■

Contact Birmingham NUJ, 723 Pershore Road, Birmingham B29 7NY. Tel: 0121 415 5866 for campaign details.

### Sweatshop tape

The Banner theatre company have produced a tape containing the music and words from their 'Sweatshop' production (see *CARF* 24). It tells the story of the fightback against low wages and inhuman working conditions in the words of homeworkers in the West Midlands and Leeds, machinists in Luton and Texas, and factory workers in Birmingham and Indonesia. ■ Available for £7/£5 unwaged plus 50p postage from Banner Theatre, Friends Institute, 220 Moseley Road, Birmingham B12 0DG. Tel: 0121 440 0460.

## CARF goes to Jersey

Jersey, the holiday island of your dreams! CARF found otherwise on a three-day visit which coincided with the VE day celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Jersey from the Nazi occupation of 1940-45.

'Since we were occupied, we have a responsibility to fight fascism in all its forms,' says councillor Gary Matthews, who organised the CARF visit. Matthews, of 'Liberation 50 Human Rights Monitoring Group', and Unmesh Desai of CARF, laid a wreath at the official VE day commemoration in memory of the victims of fascism and to remind the people of Jersey of the horrors of the island's camps where Russians, Ukrainians, Polish and Spanish workers were used as slave labour during the occupation.

Activists from Liberation 50 and others also organised a public meeting on the island at St Helier's town hall, drawing Jewish, Portuguese and women's groups together to discuss the pressing concerns of modern racism. 'Jersey bears out the theory that racism is not just endemic in urban areas but is present in rural areas too,' says Matthews. In the run-up to the

public meeting there had been a number of racist attacks, including a particularly vicious assault on a 56-year-old Guyanese by three skinheads. A small-scale BNP group is known to be active in Jersey, although it uses Exeter BNP's PO box.

Unfortunately, the attitude of the Jersey establishment seems to be to deny that racism is a problem. CARF was particularly pleased to assist campaigners in attempts to get the issue recognised, with visits to the Attorney General, police and to a high school to debate with 100 sixth-form students.

As a result of the public meeting, the 6,000-strong Portuguese community, mainly migrant workers with few citizenship rights, have gained in confidence. The discriminatory nature of Jersey's housing laws has also been put on the agenda. And Liberation 50 will continue to monitor and campaign against racist attacks and the BNP. 'It might be hard for CARF readers elsewhere to understand this,' Gary Matthews told CARF, 'but in Jersey we really need to go back to basics. There is no protective legislation against racism on the island, which means that basic human rights are ignored. Jersey is no paradise island.' ■

If you live in Jersey and would like to get involved, contact CARF.

## Bridget Tongo

Bridget Tongo and her three children, who have lived in London since 1986, are facing the immediate threat of deportation to Nigeria. Bridget's eldest son, aged nine, suffers from sickle cell anaemia and cannot afford to receive treatment in Nigeria. The Home Office response to the family's plight was to ignore their request that correspondence should be sent to a representative and instead send a notice of deportation to her old address, unknown to Bridget or her representative. As a result Bridget lost her right of appeal for good. Judges said that while it was 'unfortunate' that the representative was not sent a copy of the deportation notice, this was not unlawful.

Bridget has succeeded in gaining the backing of the local authority for her case despite the campaign against her by local Tory councillors who argued that 'she shouldn't have had them [her children] then' and accused Bridget of 'bringing her problems upon herself'.

Bridget now urgently needs letters of protest to be sent to the Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT (Quote reference T205120). ■

For more information contact: Waltham Forest Anti-deportation campaign, c/o William Morris Community Centre, Greenleaf Road, Walthamstow, London E17. Tel/fax: 0181 503 6628.

## Hundreds support Okolo family



On 29 April, over 300 people marched in solidarity with Florence Okolo and her two daughters to demand the right to stay in Manchester, where they have made their home. The demonstration was supported by St Philip's primary school, the Church of the Ascension, branches of Unison and other trade unions, and political and community groups, other people facing deportation, and some, like Helen Aladesanwa, Ken Kasambara and Mohammed Idrish, who have successfully campaigned to stay.

Florence's legal appeal against the deportation is expected soon. Please write to the Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT, requesting that Florence be allowed to stay (Quote reference O120846). ■

Copies of letters to Okolo Family Defence Campaign, St Philip's Primary School, Loxford Street, Hulme, Manchester M15 6BT.





## End of season review

Roger Scoon, anti-racism officer of the Football Supporters Association, writes:

No doubt many a media pundit would proclaim the season just gone as a bad one for football. We have seen bungs, drugs, gambling and violence. Despite this litany of woe there have been several positive developments in English football, not least in the issue of tackling racism.

Last season saw a surge of determination to confront racism within football. The FA's joining of the 'Let's kick racism out of football' campaign as an active partner is a major achievement, as in the past the football authorities have tended to ignore the problem. Now that the FA has admitted that there is a problem, its involvement should be nurtured, not steam-rolled. Plans are already being laid for next season, which should see a bigger and more comprehensive anti-racist programme than before.

At a local level clubs are also doing their bit. Blackburn is actively promoting itself to the local Asian community, and making them feel welcome at Ewood Park. It was pleasing to note in the *Independent* that in a front page picture of Blackburn fans celebrating the league championship, a female Asian fan dominated. Commercial organisations have also become involved with the 'Let's kick racism out of football' campaign. In recent weeks Nike has run adverts condemning racism in football. Other sportswear manufacturers are also interested in getting involved with the campaign.

This season has seen an increased awareness of the issue of racism in football, partly through the events in Dublin and the Cantona incident. Out of these incidents a renewed vigour to tackle racism in football has grown, and the tide is turning against the racists. This is the real message to take from the 1994/5 season, not the negative one on offer from the media. ■

## Timothy McVeigh to wed Imran Khan

'All in the name of Islam' screeched the headline in *Today* newspaper carrying the early pictures of the death and destruction caused by the Oklahoma bombing. The bombing, believed to be the work of Timothy McVeigh for the far-Right Michigan Militia, unleashed a wave of hysterical speculation that Muslims, either of the 'middle eastern terrorist' variety or the Nation of Islam (the menacing black ones) were responsible. Of course it was unthinkable to the west that such an act of terrorism could be committed by an American individual: only American governments are allowed to do such things. Barbarism begins at home. ■



## Bad meaning bad – Baadasss TV

Channel Four's series of programmes for black audiences which was screened over Christmas included a personal celebration of blaxploitation films by American rapper, Ice-T. This has now been extended into a weekly magazine programme, *Baadasss TV*, which, its producers claim, aims at exploring 'the wilder shores of black popular culture'.

The absence of adequate television coverage of what, for better or for worse, is now labelled 'black popular culture', has been striking. What is also striking is the distorted understanding which the producers of *Baadasss TV* have of 'black popular culture'. For 'wilder shores', read sex. For 'black' read African-American men. The result is a programme that completely bypasses the black British experience, and instead focuses on such things as the launch of a black porn magazine and the development of a black men's condom. The intention behind this strategy is to leave behind an earlier tradition of programming for black audiences at Channel Four. Any defence of this tradition, which at least acknowledged a politics of representation, is dismissed as 'worthy seriousness' by the current generation of producers. While this tradition had its problems, not least of which was its paternalism, we should not be forced to choose between paternalism and those who want to make black programmes 'post-political'.



The questions that have to be asked are: Why was *Baadasss TV* the only programme to be extended into a regular series out of Channel Four's 'Black Xmas' season? Why is the first regular slot that attempts to cover 'black popular culture' only able to adopt an attitude of aloofness and smug irony? The answers have less to do with an attempt to move progressively beyond an earlier style of programme, as the producers claim, and more to do with the need to depoliticise programming in Channel Four. ■

**MAR 18** Anti-racists condemn police decision to impose news blackout on racist arson attacks in Gravesend, Kent

**MAR 19** Asian children in Stoke tell school governors they feared for their lives because of racist attacks

**MAR 21** Police issue warnings after envelopes containing racist material and razor blades are sent to Asians in Leicester...

Nazi printer Tony Hancock arrested in connection with publication of racist literature after police raids

**MAR 23** Government announces plans to tighten controls against 'bogus asylum-seekers and illegal immigrants'...

African-Caribbean man goes to European Commission of Human Rights claiming he was denied a fair trial because the judge failed to investigate an allegation that the jury was racially biased

**MAR 24** Football Association announces clampdown on tickets in bid to stop nazis disrupting England-Norway game in October

**MAR 30** Home Office report revealing that most refugees are highly educated and their skills wasted is published after being suppressed by the government for over a year

**APR 1** Police figures show the number of recorded racist crimes has increased fivefold over the last five years...

Demonstration is held outside Harmondsworth detention centre to demand release of seriously ill asylum-seeker Jasbir Singh Sandhu, detained for over a year

**APR 2** Government study says Britain's black pensioners are poorly served by the National Health Service which does not cater for special dietary or cultural needs...

Wolverhampton taxi driver is stripped of his licence after hurling racist abuse at Rastafarian passenger

**APR 3** Police begin investigations in Derbyshire, Glasgow and Scunthorpe after racist hate mail signed English Patriotic Front, Combat 18 and National Socialist Alliance is distributed

**APR 4** Department of Environment says one in 18 ethnic minority residents on council estates face racial harassment

**APR 5** Leicestershire Chief Constable reveals that there were 55 prosecutions for racist incidents in 1994 compared with 27 in 1993

**APR 6** Southampton student Paul Donovan slashed across his face by skinheads shouting racist abuse

**APR 7** Asylum Aid claims applications for political asylum are routinely rejected by Home Office on trivial or manifestly unreasonable grounds...

Six members of racist gang who attacked Asians in Rotherham with baseball bat and pieces of wood are jailed...

Father jailed for 4 months after racially abusing and attacking Trinidadian teacher at son's school

**APR 8** Scotland Yard anti-terrorist squad takes over responsibility for dealing with Combat 18... Police claim racist thugs terrorising Asian shopkeeper in Sunderland

yards from a police station cannot be caught because incidents take place at night when the station is unmanned

**APR 9** Black worker Freddie Wilson wins discrimination case against supermarket after being taunted by manager wearing Ku Klux Klan-style hood...

Combat 18 leaders Charlie Sargent and Will Browning questioned after police discover bomb-making plans and hitlists

**APR 10** High court judge criticises immigration officials for detention of Peter Honegan, one of 190 Jamaicans detained on a flight in Christmas 1993...

Trainee barrister wins £8,000 from West Midlands police in out-of-court settlement for assault on campus of Wolverhampton Polytechnic

**APR 11** Home Office figures show number of racial incidents reported to the police in 1994 rose 20 per cent to nearly

# 1995

## CALENDAR OF RACE AND RESISTANCE

5,000... Nazi granny Lady Jane Birdwood fails in appeal against conviction for distributing holocaust denial literature

**APR 18** Inquiry into BNP bookshop begins at Crayford town hall, Bexley

**APR 20** BMW sales executive is awarded £34,000 compensation after being sacked because of his race despite having the best performance record at the dealership...

Industrial tribunal rules that Strathclyde social worker was unfairly dismissed and discriminated against on racial grounds...

Chief Inspector of Prisons Judge Stephen Tumim makes serious criticisms of Campsfield immigration detention centre

**APR 22** Home secretary announces that Algerian asylum-seeker Abee Dykes will be deported after serving a prison sentence for assault despite judge's recommendation to the contrary

**APR 23** Crown Prosecution Service criticised for delaying decisions on whether to prosecute distributors

of nazi hate material... Cardiff city council reveals a huge rise in the number of racist attacks reported to it in the last four years

**APR 24** Four men charged with the murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence in the first private prosecution for murder in modern legal history

**APR 26** North London Jewish family is awarded £8,000 compensation after suffering five years of continuous harassment by next door neighbours

**APR 27** Winston Churchill MP tells Greater Manchester Radio that immigrants are flocking to Britain on a 'banana boat'...

Mohammed Aamer Anwar sues Strathclyde police for £15,000 claiming racist attack by police while a student at Glasgow university

**MAY 1** Football fans witness horrific racist attack in which black man stabbed after American football game in Tottenham... Identity cards will be little use in the fight against crime, claim leading criminologists

**MAY 2** South Londoner Robert Totham jailed for six years for racist attack on elderly black woman who still suffers headaches and abdominal pains 18 months later

**MAY 8** Inquiry is demanded after 33-year-old Brian Douglas dies of fractured skull while in police custody in south London...

Government announces new powers for public officials to check on immigration status of those claiming social security, student loans and NHS treatment

**MAY 9** Group 4 announces setting up of private riot squads to deal with disturbances at immigration detention centres

**MAY 11** Reiss Wheatley, 18, sentenced to two years detention for racist attack on Bosnian refugee in Essex

**MAY 12** Football fan Glen Halliday banned from all league football games for chanting racist abuse at York City ground

**MAY 14** Over a thousand people demonstrate outside Kennington police station and spontaneously march to Kennington Park to protest at the death of Brian Douglas

**MAY 17** Commission for Racial Equality says racial discrimination at work is increasing... Hindu temple is torched and religious flag replaced by Union Jack in Slough, Berkshire

**MAY 18** Two teenagers charged with murder of Stephen Lawrence granted bail... Industrial tribunal disagrees that Muslim Azar Hussain who had a pig's head thrown in his face was subject of race discrimination

**MAY 19** British Jews establish charity to recruit and train volunteers to guard synagogues against attacks

**MAY 26** Chief Inspector of Prisons Judge Tumim is told his contract won't be renewed by home secretary Michael Howard after many critical reports on the country's prisons.

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