NO JUSTICE

The country which is trying to impose its new world order is itself in complete disorder. It's fake democracy. It's hypocrisy and its instability explain for all the world to see.

By Colin De Pinto

A police mob which mercilessly beat a black man, Rodney King, in a way which can only be described as attempted lynching, went uncharged by a jury which did not have a single black person on it.

This verdict, is but one example of the total disregard for black people's rights in the USA. The rage which was unleashed in America's cities is the response of blacks who have been literally kicked too long.

If a jury could sit and watch a police officer beat a black man 58 times, fire four blank guns, and hit him with a stun gun, and then deliver a not guilty verdict, then it is clear that black people have no chance in America's courts.

LA police chief Darryl Gates has the gall to describe the disturbances as a "bunch of hoodlums who have gone out and looted and burned." But it is he and his men who are the real hoodlums.

Last year LA police shot 27 year old Darryl Stephens 26 times. He was unarmed and was not suspected of any crime.

Sheriff's officers in LA shot a mentally disturbed man nine times in the back while he lay on the pavement.

And within months of Gates appointment an unarmed black woman was shot 12 times by officers.
**Editorial statement**

Panther is no longer just a newspaper. Last November we held a national meeting of supporters and decided there was a need for a serious black and Asian organisation to fight racism and raise political awareness. To explain where we are coming from, and what our aims are, we are reprinting part of the document which was presented to our first national meeting.

If you agree with what we are saying, if you want to know more, if you are serious about the black struggle, then contact us.

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**The Facts**

1. 4.4% of the population in Britain is black.
2. The unemployment rate amongst blacks in Britain is twice that of whites, 3 times higher for those under 25.
3. According to the employment institute, racial discrimination in the British job market remains unchanged since the mid 70s.
4. Only 3.7% of the population in London is black. People are 36% more likely to be in low paid training schemes.
5. Black people are 8 times more likely than whites to get a prison sentence when convicted.
6. Black people are 26% of the black population in Britain.
7. There were 20,000 racist attacks in 1988.
8. Afro-Caribbeans are the highest achievers in British schools.
9. Only 0.5% of black people go to university or polytechnic compared to 4% of whites.
10. One in twenty black men and young black men are homeless, for example, 62% of the 'non-ordinary' homeless applicants in Hackney were black.
11. Black people have a life expectancy 7 years lower than that of white men.
12. 25% of the mental health population in Britain is black.
13. 15% of black people who are in mental homes have been admitted by force compared to 26% of whites.

These figures show that we are living in a society which is divided on the basis of race and that the black community is the most disadvantaged group in society.

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**Panther Programme**

We believe that racism is endemic in this society. This discrimination and prejudice results in black and Asian people receiving the toughest sentences, the least opportunities and the lowest living standards of any group of people in this country.

Panther aims to build a powerful and democratically black and Asian organisation.

1. To fight racism and advance the black struggle.
2. To raise the consciousness of black people as to their history and struggles.
3. To organise campaigns on the day to day issues of police harassment, immigration, racist attacks, discrimination in housing and employment.
4. To fight against the particular problems faced by black women. Women should not be tied to the home or bear sole responsibility for housework and child-rearing but should be free to play an equal role in the struggle for our rights and the development of society.
5. To fight on these issues in the workplace, especially at work and in colleges and schools.
6. Support our brothers and sisters all over the world, who are struggling against racial oppression and imperialism.

**Our main demands are**

1. We want proper jobs. End the concentration of black people in low paid manual work. No more racism in hiring, training and promotion.
2. We want decent homes. Full down the slums. For a massive house-building programme in the inner cities.
3. No more substandard education for black children. For an education system which ends the practice ofcrofting and encourages higher achievements for black children.
4. Reopen the schools. Build more schools in the community.
5. Abolish all racist laws. Scrap the Nationality and Immigration Act. No more deportations.
6. End police harassment. No more racist attacks on black youths by the police and courts. Disband the special police units.

For a completely independent, confident police force. The police must be demilitarised and accountable to the communities which they serve.

We believe that the black struggle is part of the wider - race and class - struggle within society and that our liberation is tied up with changing the whole society. Panther stands for the breaking of the structural links of the dish minorities and the working class to a democratic socialist society run by workers and black people. As black people we must realise that the struggle for our liberation is a serious matter. It requires as active a participation in the leadership of the organisation, its campaigns, finances and publication.
LOS ANGELES

IT COULD HAPPEN HERE!

A partially disabled black pensioner is dragged out of his car by police in Moss Side and beaten 'Rodney King style'. Another squad of police arrive and join in the assault on Mr. Bygraves. Police drop charges.

A black woman in her 50s is strip-searched on the street by Merseyside police. Later she is taken home and beaten. No charges.

Shaun Morgan a 32-year-old black man is arrested on a drunk and disorderly charge by Manchester police. He is given a vicious and violent beating by the police which results in a ripped bladder. Police drop charges.

19-year-old Michael McSharry is involved in a row with some white youth. After shouting 'get the nigger' the police beat him. His head is smashed into the van and then kicked all the way to the station. He is forced to sign a confession to carrying a firearm but the police do not press charges.

OSD (Operational support Division) officers cruise round Liverpool 8 shouting from their vans: 'We are out nigger hunting.'

These are a few recent examples of police violence against the black community. Yet we are being told that what happened in LA couldn't happen here.

By Desmond Calvin

The jails are becoming home to more black youths as everyday the police brutality is being supported by gross miscarriages of justice in the courts. Black people are eight times more likely to receive a prison sentence when convicted than whites.

The British establishment has matched the barbaric injustices of the Rodney King verdict in America by refusing to prosecute the officers in the West Midlands serious crime squad.

This despite the fact that the police own inquiry has discovered scores of taped up, persistent and malicious harassment of the defendants and their £4 million was spent on this inquiry and not one of the 220 officers are to be charges.

But they have destroyed the lives of many. Robert Haughton, the latest black man to be hanged from prison because of the banks up said: 'They took away my 20s. These are meant to be the best years of your life and they just took them away. Here too they ignore video evidence. An attack on 60-year-old Padmanathan Sooriyathan was clearly shown on his shop's video yet the police have charged him with assault. And the decision was backed by the Police Compliance Authority. So if the height of hypocrisy for the media and the British authorities to look at the Rodney King verdict as peculiar to the USA. Black people get no justice here either.'

Like the blacks in LA we too are at the bottom of the heap in this society. There is a lot of frustration on the streets which could explode at any moment. What happened in LA could happen here. But Panther says, don't use your energy and talent and get organised.
The full of the eighties is over. Black and Asian people are waking up in a growing mood of black consciousness. All around us we see Malcolm X T-shirts and caps, African badges, political music, reviews and literature.

Only cynics and those who believe this is just a fashion, black people are searching for answers in a way forward in the midst of our many problems. And in a history that is littered with betrayal, black youth in particular are looking back to uncompromising leaders like Malcolm X.

This popular awareness has caught the black community by surprise. It comes at a very critical time. We are living through the longest recession since the Second World War. Over 1.5 million people are being added to the dole queues every month. Record numbers of businesses are going bust.

The problems with the present exchange rate are not just some abnormal happening, but an indication of the fundamental weakness of the British economy and the world's financial markets. This is an element of the crisis for black people. We are going to continue to bear the brunt of the crisis.

A special cabinet committee has been set up to try to get public spending cut, and wages and hours of work reduced. It will not be easy for black people to organise and have their rights as workers respected.

Our communities are very vulnerable to these attacks. A high proportion of our wage earners run businesses in the public sector; in transport, health and education. As their jobs are threatened, the people who work in these sectors may lose their jobs and the community will lose its economic base.

Already the black unemployment rate is twice that of whites. This will get worse. After 35 years of race legislation there has been no significant improvement in the living standards of black people. In fact our problems have actually worsened.

The economic crisis also increases the likelihood that we will once again be scapegoated for the resulting social problems. This makes the continuing brutalisation by the police and the attacks on our families by racist elements easier for society to swallow.

Already year by year, the number of racist attacks is increasing. This year, one London borough reported an increase of 58% in attacks. The racist groups are beginning to get a higher profile as they score a series of electoral successes in Europe.

Moreover there has been a general increase in ethnic conflicts throughout Europe. These are all warning signs of what could face the black population in this country. Therefore we must organise.

This new rising consciousness must not go to waste. It must have a purpose to it. We have to harness this consciousness and give it an organised expression.

Many people are already reading Malcolm X and putting their interpretations on what he did and stood for. Whether he was a Muslim, a black nationalist, a socialist sympathiser or his ideas. But one thing is certain, whether good or bad that he adopted, he did so from a revolutionary standpoint. He and the Black Panthers always tried to turn their words into deeds by trying to organise black people.

Now with Africa facing its biggest ever crisis, Fidel and the Pan-African tradition of unity and self-determination and the downwind spiral in the Caribbean economies, there has never been a time where the need for us to organise was so urgent.

Panther’s aim is to build a powerful and democratic black organisation capable of fighting on behalf of black people in this country, whilst building links in Africa on the Indian subcontinent and in the Caribbean.

We want a new system of a system which ends the exploitation by the rich minority. A system which will use all our resources and talents and put an end to the exploitation of a society, that is a society which is richly diverse.

We must seize our own time and carry forward the legacy of Malcolm X and the Panther to achieve our liberation.