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12/11
By Hasan Suroor
Police

Blacks, Asians still suspect in U.K.

LONDON, NOV 12. Black may be beautiful elsewhere but not on the streets of London, where if you are black you are eight times more likely to be stopped by the police and searched than your white neighbour.

Browns — Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis — are slightly safer, but still three times more liable to be publicly humiliated by the police than the white saheb, according to a Home Office report which confirms that contrary to official claims and despite a plethora of "initiatives" to promote racial equality, racism is rife in Britain. The report has prompted calls for an end to the practice of stop-and-search altogether as it is seen as a pretext to intimidate people simply because of the colour of their skin. Besides, according to the government's own figures, the tactic has failed to tackle street crime as only one out of 10 searches is successful.

Experts said profiling criminals on the basis of their ethnic origins, according to which blacks and Asians are more likely to be involved in certain kinds of street offences, has not helped and instead led to racial harassment. In fact the Home Office Minister, John Denham said it was ethnic minorities which were "more likely to be victims of crime...and (yet) they are more likely to be stopped and searched".

"If it is the case that certain types of crime are more likely to be committed by certain groups, whether white, black or Asian, we need to acknowledge this and work with those communities to tackle it," he said.

The practice of targeting blacks is so widespread that even those blacks who work for the police are not safe. Wesley-Walters-Stephenson, a black race-relations trainer for the police, said that he had lost count of the number of times he had been stopped and searched since he was a teenager. Several others echoed his experience saying every time they went out they feared a tap on the shoulder for no obvious reason except that they were black.

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THE HINDU

Apartheid suit against US firms

filed 11/3/84
Johannesburg, Nov 12
(Reuters): South African activists said today they had filed suit in a US federal court against 20 European and US firms for allegedly encouraging human rights abuses by trading in formerly White-ruled South Africa.

The suit is expected to seek billions of dollars in damages from defendants which include Swiss banks Credit Suisse and UBS, oil giants Exxon Mobil and BP, computer giant IBM and car makers Ford and General Motors, and DaimlerChrysler.

"The corporations aided and abetted a crime against humanity whose persistent social damage requires urgent repair. They made massive profits while the suffering of the victims of apartheid intensified," the Khulumani victims' rights group and anti-debt campaigners Jubilee South Africa said in a joint statement.

The suit filed in US district court for the eastern district of New York yesterday comes amid growing frustration in South Africa over long-delayed government reparations payments and persistent poverty among black South Africans that have kept apartheid wounds from healing in the country.

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THE TELEGRAPH

Man held for planning 'race war'

By Hasan Suroor

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S/W
LONDON, OCT. 4. A white British man accused of planning a "one-man race war" against Asians and blacks, particularly Muslims, has been arrested and charged prompting fresh fears over the growing xenophobia in the country.

Thirty-seven-year-old David Tovey, described as a "white supremacist", had accumulated enough arms and explosives in his run-down village home in Oxfordshire to 'trigger' a major race riot. Police said he was a "time-bomb" waiting to explode at the slightest provocation. "Anything could have set him off - some imagined slight or perhaps the anniversary of some event significant to him. Had he decided to go on the rampage, he could have caused severe harm to people and damage to property," a senior police officer said.

Tovey, believed to be living alone after several broken relationships, is not a member of any racist party but had apparently shown interest in joining the anti-immigrant British National Party (BNP). He was believed to have been impressed

by the party's campaign against asylum seekers.

Police said Tovey had been stalking Asian and blacks in the area, taking down registration numbers of their vehicles. A raid on his house yielded sketches of a neighbouring mosque, car numbers of local Asians and blacks and a 'staggering' arsenal of explosives, guns, gas sprays and videos of nail-bomb making techniques.

Investigators were horrified at the sheer quantity and range of arsenal which he had managed to acquire and accumulate.

Tovey's activities aroused suspicion after anti-white graffiti started to appear in Oxfordshire and adjacent areas.

Police suspected that it was the work of a white racist who was deliberately trying to provoke racial tension, and their suspicion was confirmed when CCTV camera caught him entering a toilet at a petrol station just before it was daubed with racist slogans. This led to his arrest, and the raid on his house.

Son of a cabinet maker, Tovey is known to have had a troubled domestic life.

Black painted white for shoplifting in SA

DARREN SCHUETTLER

Johannesburg, Sept. 18 (Reuters): South African rights groups expressed outrage today after a young Black man was painted white for allegedly stealing from a supermarket in a conservative rural town.

Police said they found Evans Madonsela covered with paint after he was accused of shoplifting food from the Shoprite supermarket in Secunda, Mpumalanga on Monday.

"He was covered all over, including his face. He has suffered because of the paint on his face," said police spokeswoman Captain Sibongile Nkosi.

The incident, which made headlines in national newspapers today, occurred just days after a teenage girl in Limpopo province was awarded 25,000 rand (\$2,362) in damages after she was humiliated in a similar way two years ago.

The South African Human Rights Commission said the in-



A Black shoplifter holds his shirt after he was covered in white paint in Secunda, South Africa. (Reuters)

cident was a degrading form of punishment "reminiscent of a medieval and archaic era" and had no place in the new South Africa.

Madonsela, who was charged

with shoplifting and released on bail, has accused two Black security staff of dousing him in paint while another white security guard looked on.

He has laid assault charges against the supermarket chain, which has denied any wrongdoing. "Shoprite Checkers strongly denies that any member of its staff was involved in the alleged painting of the alleged shoplifter and it has the assurance of the independent security company that their employees are neither responsible for such actions," the retailer said in a statement.

Nkosi said the security guards told police that Madonsela had painted himself after he was locked in a security room where tins of paint were stored.

"What is puzzling us is that he was handcuffed at the time. We are still investigating," Nkosi said.

Newspaper pictures showed a red-eyed Madonsela with paint covering his face, hair, torso and arms.

Royal Mail admits racial abuse

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, JULY 18. Beyond the buzz over Bombay Dreams and the aroma of chicken tikka masala, allegedly Britain's newest national dish, the old Little England with its deep racial prejudices is still ticking-and, in extreme cases, it can literally bully you to death as happened to Jermaine Lee, a young black postal worker in "multicultural" Birmingham.

Four years after he hanged himself because of persistent bullying by his white colleagues at work, and finally the Royal Mail has admitted that the "shameful" actions of its staff contributed to Jermaine's suicide. In an unprecedented posthumous recognition of racial discrimination, his family is to be awarded a compensation of upwards of £50,000.

The Royal Mail has also acknowledged that the truth behind the death of 26-year-old Lee, a promising employee, would not have come to light but for his father's dogged and often frustrating campaign. "It was with extreme shock, regret and sorrow that we found the actions of some of our employees contributing to Jermaine's decision to take his own life," it said in a statement describing the conduct of some of its staff as "utterly shameful". Two managers have been dismissed for their misconduct.

After the Stephen Lawrence affair, in which the police were accused of "institutional racism" in the way they conducted investigations into the murder of a black teenager, this is said to be the most controversial case of racial prejudice. Jermaine's



Jermaine Lee (26), who the Royal Mail admitted suffered racial abuse.

father, Steve Lee, has recalled his own harassment at the hands of the Royal Mail staff when he started his campaign. Their response to his questions met with abuse.

"You black...you back off if you don't want to end up the same way as your son," said a note he received from a former colleague of his son. Another said: "If your...little son hadn't done it, we would have done it for him."

Mr. Lee said it had been hard discovering

the truth, but worth it. "At least if I can ensure that the Post Office makes proper procedures for stopping this happening again, Jermaine will not have died for nothing. I don't want anyone to have to go through what I've been through," he told one newspaper.

Jermaine Lee, who worked in a sorting office of Royal Mail, was allegedly intimidated, abused and taunted by his white colleagues including his supervisors one of whom apparently told him: "You mean nothing. If I get rid of you today everyone will have forgotten about you by Friday."

His mother, who found him hanging from his martial arts belt at their home, said: "We spoke to many former colleagues and were horrified by what we heard. His colleagues told us of how Jermaine had, for many years, been targeted for harassment, threats and abuse-including racist abuse-by a group of managers."

In a suicide note, addressed to his mother, Jermaine said: "I never wanted to go like this but it's the only way out. These guys at work hate me. Tell them it was nice playing with them and that they have won."

Jermaine's is the latest case of growing incidents of racial harassment at work despite the Government's strict anti-racist guidelines and the existence of a plethora of organisations whose job is to promote racial equality. The problem is so widespread that there is even a hotline called the U.K. National Workplace Bullying Advice Line and according to its founder, Tim Field, he gets at least "five to ten new cases every day."

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Neo-Nazi bullet streaks past Chirac on parade

Paris, July 14 (Reuters): A derailed neo-Nazi fired a rifle shot near President Jacques Chirac in an apparent assassination attempt today during France's Bastille Day parade, but the man was quickly subdued and the march continued uninterrupted.

The man pulled the .22-calibre sporting rifle out of a brown guitar case and fired as Chirac passed by in an open military jeep to begin descending the Champs Elysees avenue at the head of the march commemorating the 1789 French Revolution.

He was rapidly thrown to the ground, handcuffed and led away by police — both uniformed and plainclothed — responding to cries from onlookers standing opposite the Arc de Triomphe. A Paris magistrate said the man appeared highly disoriented in a subsequent interrogation, but had confessed to having targeted the President.

"He admitted he intended to kill the President, but his words were very confused and incoherent," he said. A police statement said the individual was 25 years old and was "known to belong to neo-Nazi and hooligan movements". After the interrogation, police sources said he was sent to a police psychiatric unit for observation. The sources said police investigators were searching the man's home in Courcouronnes, south of Paris.

A French-Canadian tourist, Mohamed Chelali, who witnessed the incident told LCI tele-



French police carry the guitar case (left) and the rifle taken from a man caught in a crowd at the start of the Bastille Day parade on the Champs Elysees in Paris on Sunday. (Reuters)

vision the man had clearly aimed at Chirac.

"Chirac was passing by in his car when I felt the crowd move on my right side," Chelali said. "Then I saw, two or three metres from me, a man aiming in the direction of the President."

But the police did not transfer the case to the anti-terrorist unit and appeared to be treating it as an isolated incident.

"He fired in the direction of the car but the bullet went astray and nobody was injured," said Nicolas Couteau of the Force

Ouvriere police union.

"I don't think there was any plot because the shooter would have used a gun of a larger calibre," he added. "It looks like the act of a demented person."

Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi was quick to express his outrage over the incident. "Hearing of the criminal gesture that shook the July 14 anniversary...I want to pass on to you assurances both of my own personal friendship and the solidarity of the Italian people," Ciampi said in a message to Chirac. The parade went ahead under cloudy skies, and followed calls from Chirac and defence minister Michele Alliot-Marie for higher defence spending to fight terrorism and catch up with Europe's other main military power, Britain.

At the front of the parade were 163 West Point office cadets, sporting the trim grey jackets and white trousers of the US military academy, invited as this year's main guests.

West Point is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year, as is the French military academy Saint-Cyr whose cadets also marched in their blue jackets and red trousers.

In another sign of French-American partnership, 75 New York City firemen and relatives of firefighters who died in the suicide plane attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11 watched the parade as guests of their Paris colleagues.

THE TELEGRAPH

15 JUL 2002

Islamophobia on rise: EU Racism slur on UK media

FROM AMBROSE
EVANS-PRITCHARD

Brussels, May 24: The European Union's race watchdog yesterday accused a wide range of British commentators, politicians and media of helping to foster an upsurge in anti-Islamic feeling after the terrorist attacks of September 11.

In its report, Islamophobia, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia said the biggest rise in violent attacks had taken place in Britain, Holland, Sweden, and most of all Denmark.

Women wearing the hijab, the Muslim headscarf, had been insulted, spat at, beaten and even raped in a wave of attacks across the EU, causing many to stop wearing the garment in public. In Britain, an Afghan taxi driver was paralysed from the neck down after being attacked with a bottle in a dispute over September 11.

The report said mosques had been firebombed in Edinburgh, Manchester and Bolton. The windows of Muslim homes had been smashed and dog excrement had been pushed through letterboxes. The report praised Tony Blair for helping to defuse the crisis last September by deploring insults against British Muslims as "despicable acts" that had "no proper place in our country".

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But Lady Thatcher was castigated for saying that she "had not heard enough condemnation from Muslim priests" against the attacks. The newspaper columnist Melanie Phillips was taken to task for writing in the *Sunday Times* that Muslims had become a "fifth column in our midst", an army of thousands of angry young Muslims "waiting to destroy the society that sustains them".

The report also focused on the *Spectator* for claiming that the *Koran* gives "scriptural cover for judicial brutality", and on William Oddie, for writing in *The Telegraph* that Britain's Muslims were an "alien wedge" and that it was not possible to separate "Islam" and "terrorism" in the British public mind.

Even the BBC was reproached for calling Osama bin Laden an "Islamic fundamentalist" and an "Islamic terrorist".

The issue is highly sensitive because the crimes of xenophobia and racism, which do not exist as such in Britain, are among the offences covered by the EU's new arrest warrant, and Europol has a mandate to launch Union-wide xenophobia inquiries.

The report was compiled before Pim Fortuyn rose to prominence in Holland with warnings that militant Islam was a threat to liberal society.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

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