

‘Investigation’ or Whitewash? The Evidence UNISON Ignored ...

On January 12th 2009 Yunus Bakhsh wrote a detailed complaint to Dave Prentis which included extensive evidence of what he believed was BNP activity in the Northern Region and in particular involvement in the disciplinary action of both his employer and UNISON.

On 29th January Yunus met Mr B Gilby, (the officer appointed to investigate) and provided him with detailed and substantive evidence. On May 19th 2009 Gilby sent Yunus a copy of his report which failed to uphold any of Yunus's claims. Yunus was given 28 days in which to seek a review of that decision. On June 11th UNISON Northern Region posted an article on its website headed: 'No evidence to support complaint of BNP infiltration of UNISON'.

The posting states:

'In conducting his investigation the investigating officer offered to the complainant an opportunity to meet with the investigating officer to put forward his allegations and offer any substantive proof to support the allegations which had been made.'

Nowhere does it say that Yunus *did* in fact meet with Gilby and provide substantive proof. The article seems to imply that Yunus did not meet with Gilby. We reproduce here the text of the evidence provided to Gilby. These are comments posted on the Stormfront Tyneside message board. (Some of the punctuation has been corrected for clarification.)

On October 6th 2005 'Northern Flame' wrote: 'TWAFa [a local anti-Nazi organisation] and their associates hound any known nationalists employer, one such associate is Unison national exe member, Unison Joint Branch Secretary of Newcastle City Health, leading SWP'er in North East, leading 'Stop the War' and 'Free Palestine' activist and failed respect and socialist alliance candidate Yunus Baksh.'

'Yunus was the man behind the campaign that got Kevin Scott the chop from his job at B&Q after he stood in the 2002 local elections for the BNP. Now Yunus is starting a new campaign against the North East 2004 candidates. Yunus is not very well liked within his own clique. Do you know Yunus can you even the scales by shovelling some real and substantiated dirt on this nasty piece of work of immigrant stock?'

In October 2005 Yunus went on full time release for Trade Union duties. His Trust was merging into a new Northumberland Tyne and Wear Trust. His branch was now in the same Trust as the smaller Northgate and Prudhoe Branch (Peter Cafferty Branch Sec) and a part of the Wearside Health Branch. Kevin Scott was the North East BNP organiser

On January 9th 2006 'Bob Blatchford' wrote 'Yeah but I seem to remember Kevin Scott wasn't bothered? He hated the job. I heard that Kevin got a substantial payout for unfair dismissal too! He was laughing all the way to the Bank. Yunus Backsides stunt backfired badly. Wish he would get me sacked from my job. I've heard Yunus, should look out for his own job.'

On January 9th 'Northern Flame' wrote: 'Which job? His day job as a nurse at Newcastle General Hospital, Hadrian Clinic (Nut House) as he has already lost his place on the Unison National Executive in the recent elections, he blamed that on mistakes in his election address. A few of our unison members received a 'don't vote Yunus Leaflet' that contained quite a bit of banter from the linked article'.

Yunus worked as a psychiatric nurse .He lost his seat on the NEC by 200 votes and UNISON subsequently admitted to making unlawful changes to his election address. At the time he was unaware of any impending action against him, nor was there any complaints lodged against him. However he later learnt the complainants against him including those from Kerry and Peter Cafferty referred to events allegedly going back to January 2006.

In September 2006 a bye-election took place in the Teams ward in Gateshead. Yunus was part of the anti-BNP campaign.

On September 19th 2006 'Bob Blatchford' wrote: 'As for anyone from the BNP wanting to 'attack' any Red leafleters? It's all wishful thinking on your behalf! Yunus! Tony! ...we don't want to harm you?'

On September 19th 2006 'Bob Blatchford' wrote: 'Meanwhile a little dicky bird tells us that UNISON is going to put out a second "TEAM UNITES AGAINST THE BNP" leaflet?'

On September 21st 2006 'Northern Flame' writes

'Word from UNISON is that they are putting out a further smear leaflet' (copies of the leaflet are provided in jpeg at the bottom of this page) 'Now we may need to put out a last minute counter smear leaflet.'

On September 24th 2006 'Bob Blatchford' wrote: 'A little dickie bird told me it "mite be advantagous for our campaingne" if we were to have our survallence (sic) camera at the Teams/Dunston ward today at approx 11am. We were told we mite get some good photo oppotunitys of Red Filth subverting the democratic process. Unfortunetley our source could not be specific to where the Reds would exactly be leafleting ... We drove round until mid day and never spotted any Red Freaks ...Then Bingo we almost ran smack into the Freaks. How on earth they never spotted us?... We got some great photos, So the new faces will soon be identified. Some of the Red Freaks looked a bit nervous?

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Yunus along with many others has had his picture and details posted on the REDWATCH nazi website

In response to this evidence Mr Gilby wrote:

'I do not believe on the balance of probability that there is direct evidence of UNISON passing information to the BNP about anti- BNP campaigning. Other than the reference to the jpeg the postings are largely speculative and relate to one particular by-election.'

*Yunus's complaint was that **someone** in UNISON had provided this information.*

On 27th September 2006 Yunus was suspended by his employer. On October 7th Peter Chapman his Full Time officer (FTO) was quoted in the Newcastle Journal:

'I don't think that there's any substance in these investigations at all. Basically Yunus had become a thorn in the Trust's side. We weren't given any notice that Yunus was about to be suspended when usually we would expect to hold talks to prevent that course of action. Neither UNISON nor Yunus are yet fully aware of the allegations. What we have managed to find out is that it follows an anonymous letter sent to the Trust Chief Executive referring to Yunus's trade union activities. The branch have reacted very strongly to the suspension and we consider ourselves to be in dispute with the Trust'

It is strongly believed that Kerry Cafferty wrote the letter. Yunus discovered in December 2006 that Kerry Cafferty had been seen as an 'anonymous witness' by the Trust on October 3rd 2006.

On October 9th 2006 Northern Flame wrote:

'I wonder if the IP address has been traced to an NHS computer as Yunus Bakhsh has been suspended from work ... Very interesting.'

On October 9th 2006 'Bob Blatchford' wrote:

'Yeah maybe the Police have traced the 'threatening E.Mail back to yunus? 'Wonder if that Marxist ar*ehole Jupp at the Evening Chronic mentions his pal Yunus being sacked? Either that or Yunus Has been suspended for bulying people again? he is hated at work because he likes to throw his weight about. There was an incident a while back where Yunus (a known homophobe) gave a gayboy a bit of a slapping! Tut tut!'

On October 12th 2006 Native Brit wrote:

'Any more news on Yunus Bakhsh the UAF/SWP/Respect political genius?

On October 19th 2006 Northern Flame wrote:

'He is still suspended..I think he has more time on his hands now to plan his revolution. He is getting a lot of coverage in Socialist Worker at the moment with a Defend Yunus Bakhsh Campaign. Perhaps someone should do a Sack Yunus one instead'

On October 29th 2006 Bob Blatchford wrote:

'Just had it on good authority that Yunus Bakhsh was sacked for BULLYING fellow workers ! Phone you later with the details Northern Flame !

It was not until October 16th 2006 that the Trust wrote to Yunus and referred to allegations of 'bullying' Yunus and his officer were told not to disclose any details, they did not.

John Clinch UNISON's Legal adviser wrote to the Trust on 10th November 2006:

'On 16 October ,Mr Patten wrote to my client enclosing a transcription of an anonymous letter of complaint ,addressed to your Director of Personnel Mrs Latham. Mr Patten also purported to set out "specific allegations" pertaining to my clients conduct. It is not accepted that these allegations have sufficient specificity for my client to adequately respond. They cannot be considered to be full details of the precise nature of the allegations.'

According to Gilby the BNP did not have access to the substance of the allegations before Yunus did:

'By mid October it had been established that the complaint related to bullying and harassment and the indications are that this was in the public domain.'

This is, as can be seen, simply untrue.

On January 16th 2007 Yunus was suspended by UNISON based on allegations from seven people all of whom it transpires had given statements to his management. These included Kerry and Peter Cafferty The Rule 1 investigator John Cafferty (no relation) started his investigation in late January 2007. He claimed all details of his investigation were kept in a locked room in a locked filing cabinet.

On January 28th 2007 ‘Bob Blatchford’ said

'The main antagonist of the BNP on Tyneside, the Rediculous Yunus Bakush has his hands full trying to save his carreer! A little dicky bird tells us "He hasn't got a hope in hell" and " that his political carreer is finished" Shame!'

On January 28th 2007 ‘Ingle Ander’ wrote:
‘Why was the branch put into administration? Could it be financial aspects or misuse of branch computers and or printing facilites. Or could it be he has been reported for the bully that he is? Lets put it this way it must have been pretty serious for unison to close a whole branch down.’

On January 28th 2007 ‘Bob Blatchford’ wrote:

'Tee Hee ! God you couldn't make it up could you? I wonder how the ridiculous Yunus Bakush feels to lose his job? Bearing in mind this Marxist, anti Democratic Bully Boy Ba*tard was behind the Campaigne of threats and intimidation against B and Q to sack BNP activist Kevin Scott ... Now Yunus know what it's like to lose his job! It a case of "what comes around goes around".'

It was not until March 2007 that Yunus was to discover he was accused of financial irregularity and political fund rule breaches, and it was not until July 2007 that he was to learn these related to misuse of branch computers and printing facilities. How did the BNP have advance notice of these accusations?

Gilby dismissed this:

'The source of such speculation is more likely to lie in various internet postings which have been highlighted.'

Yet he provides no examples because there were none.

Gilby also states:

'... there is no direct or indirect link between Ms Cafferty and Stormfront.'

Ms Cafferty was a UNISON steward, she is married to Peter Cafferty then Chair of Health and Senior Labour Link Officer. Ms Cafferty knew Yunus and provided some 'dirt' in the form of her anonymous witness statement. She was also a complainant to UNISON. In both cases she made fabricated allegations. In January 2009 she resigned from UNISON after been found to be a member of five far right and racist Facebook groups linked to the BNP. Mark Armstrong one of her Facebook 'friends' congratulated her on joining one of the groups. He gives his politics as BNP. Stormfront is the Tyneside BNP message board.

Many people across the Trade Union and Labour Movement are shocked at the lengths to which UNISON and in particular the Northern Region have gone to deny what is apparent to anyone. At no stage has UNISON ever acknowledged that a well respected UNISON Black activist was the subject of such vile racist attention by the BNP. Never once has UNISON or the Northern Region made any public condemnation of the BNP targeting Yunus. It seems to many that the witchunt waged against Yunus has run out of control. Trade Unionists and anti-racists across Tyneside have launched a petition demanding a TUC and Labour Movement Enquiry into this whole obscene affair. If you want more information and want to sign the petition contact the campaign.

**Defend Yunus Bakhsh Campaign c/o 46c Lawe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE33 2EN
Or email yunusbakhsh@yahoo.co.uk**