

Rebuild the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association

Barnet Alliance for Public Services condemns the attack on Lee Rigby, murdered on the 22nd of May in Woolwich. There can be no justification for such a terrible attack on an individual.

But we must recognise that fascist organisations such as the English Defence League and British National Party are trying to use the murder to whip up racism and direct hatred against all Muslims.

EDL thugs attempted to start a race riot in Woolwich on the night of the murder. Mosques have been attacked by racist thugs, including the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association in Barnet, which was burned to the ground and is actively being investigated as a racist attack. We must not give a quarter to those who would judge an entire religion, race or nationality by the actions of a few.

We do not hold Norwegian Christians responsible for the actions of the fascist Anders Breivik, whose 2011 rampage left 77 dead. We do not hold white people collectively responsible for Timothy McVeigh, the US neo-Nazi whose 1995 Oklahoma City bomb killed 168 people, or for David Copeland, the former BNP member who planted bombs across London in 1999. Nor should anyone suggest that Britain's Muslims are collectively responsible for the 22nd May attack.

The fascist organisations that are trying to stir up trouble and racist violence in the wake of the Woolwich killing do not care about the dead soldier, his family or the interests of any community. They want only to see Muslims attacked and a race war on our streets. We condemn them and oppose their attempts to call "demonstrations" to exploit these issues.

We must reject those who want to divide our communities and set them against each other, and stand fast to the ideals of anti-racism, multiculturalism and respect for all.

In this spirit Barnet Alliance welcomes the pledge made by Council Leader Richard Cornelius on behalf of the Council to rebuild the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association in Barnet.

This AGM instructs Barnet Alliance to write to the Council Leader in positive terms welcoming this decision.

Barnet Alliance for Public Services adds its name to the petition run by Unite Against Fascism and encourage our members and supporters to sign the UAF petition also.

Defend the East Finchley Post Office Service

Under plans to privatise and “rationalise” the post office service, there have already been many cuts to this public service. There is currently an attempt to downgrade many of the remaining Crown Post offices which will see a reduction in the services available and will mean we have further to travel for these services. This will be done by franchising these post offices and East Finchley Post Office has been earmarked to be affected by this policy.

Barnet Alliance for Public Services opposes the franchising of East Finchley Post Office.

We encourage all our members and supporters to sign the petition in this campaign.

We will continue to support the CWU (post workers union) in its aim to stop the privatisation of the Royal Mail.