

# Memories of the 1970s

## Jalal Rajonuddin



*In the 1970s, Jalal emerged as the leading youth activist in East London. He was the founding Secretary of the Altab Ali Foundation and is currently a prominent anti-racist campaigner.*

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### Memories of the 1970s and the present day

Altab Ali , a young Bangladeshi garment worker was murdered by racists on 4th May 1978. His brutal murder marked a turning point for the anti-racist movement in the East End of London. The Bengali youths and their anti-racist allies mobilised the community to defeat the racist thugs of the then National Front, a racist political party with their Head Quarters in Bethnal Green and now moved to Shoreditch.

Although, the overt racist political parties may have been defeated to a certain extent, their ugly face appears in different manifestations in society today. The English Defence League and BNP still exist. More disturbingly, the mainstream political parties nowadays use the racist political language of the past. We need to prepare for a renewed campaign to defeat the covert racists, their ugly propaganda and institutionalised racism. The progressive forces within society need to unite for a campaign to promote justice, equality and freedom for all sections of the population. We hope that the AAF will have a significant role to play in the new struggle facing the community.