**“SAVE THE FAMILY HOME” CAMPAIGN**

**Press Release -**

**for immediate release**

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**For more information, please contact 07988572976**

**CPS threaten to make Longsight family with young baby and eight year old child homeless**

* **“Save the Family Home” Campaign launched to stop the collective punishment of the families of people convicted of crimes**
* **Demonstration outside Longsight Police Station, 4.15pm tomorrow, Tuesday, October 18th**

The Crown Prosecution Service is threatening to forfeit the home of a Longsight family which includes a seven month old baby and an eight year old child.

“Save the Family Home” Campaign was set up after the Farooqi family were told they may be made homeless as a result of Munir Farooqi’s recent conviction on terrorism charges.

Mr Farooqi, who is the father of the family, is now serving a prison sentence but he is appealing against his conviction. However, the CPS is threatening to collectively punish the entire family by applying for a forfeiture order under the Terrorism Act. If granted, the order would enable the property to be sold and the proceeds placed into the Magistrates’ Court.

The Campaign has been petitioning people attending mosques in the

Manchester area but the family’s supporters have now been told that the police have called the Imams into Longsight police station to discuss the campaign. No family member or other campaign representatives are being allowed to attend this meeting.

A spokesperson for the Campaign said: “We see this as a direct attempt by the police to put pressure on the Imams to persuade them against supporting the Campaign - in the hope of shutting it down.

“This is an attack on our democratic right to protest against what we feel is an unjust law.  Families of individuals found guilty of a crime tend not to face collective punishment in this way and, although this is part of the terrorism legislation, it has never been applied in practice before now.

“The only other time a situation like this has occurred was when Manchester City Council led the way nationally in threatening to use collective punishment against families of those found to be involved in the riots in our city.

“This Campaign believes we have the right to protest without police harassment, directly or indirectly – as in this situation.”

Mr Farooqi’s son Harris, who lives at the house with his mother and other members of his family, and who was himself acquitted of a charge of preparing for an act of terrorism, said: “I have been through hell for the past two years. I cannot believe what the police are doing to me and my family.

“There are five adults and two children living at the house. My younger sister is eight and my other sister’s baby is only seven months old. We are all innocent of anything and my father is appealing his conviction. This has been our family home for years and I feel so sad that my mother and family have to go through this nightmare. We just want to live in peace and want the CPS to reconsider its application for the forfeiture of our home.”

His sister Zulaikha added: “My daughter is only a few months old. She is innocent as we all are. We never expected this from the police.”

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**See** [**www.rapar.org.uk**](http://www.rapar.org.uk) **(tomorrow morning, 181011)**