close ranks

if people close ranks, they join together to protect each other, especially because their group, organization etc is being criticized

***Closing Ranks* :**

**(to Stephen Rushton) In your view, did the police deliberately lie? Did they simply invent a scenario that they knew was untrue?**

**STEPHEN RUSHTON: I believe so. During the inquest I put a submission on behalf of the family that what had occurred following this incident was just a cover-up, a white wash, that the police closed ranks**