

Justice4JeanFamily Campaign

Jean Charles de Menezes 7.1.1978 - 22.7.2005

2nd August 2007

IPCC report is damning indictment against Metropolitan Police Service Menezes Family say

The family of Jean Charles de Menezes, the young Brazilian shot and killed by anti-terrorism officers at Stockwell station on 22 July 2005, today branded a report into their complaint about misinformation from the Metropolitan Police as a 'damning indictment against the police'.

After a distressing two year wait, the family welcomed the fact that the report exonerated Jean of any allegations of suspicious behaviour which had been fuelled by the misinformation circulating in the media from police sources.

A spokesperson for the Justice4Jean campaign today said

'This report exposes the Metropolitan Police Service to a crisis of public confidence in their honesty and integrity.

The report identifies Andy Hayman as having misled the public and the IPCC have said that this is clearly an example of misconduct. The IPCC recommendation to merely issue him with a letter containing 'strong words of advice' is not the appropriate response – this report has made his position untenable.

Regarding Sir Ian Blair, the report's findings make it seem unfeasible that he was not aware that they had killed an innocent man until the next day when so many people including senior officers, government officials and even the Met Cricket team were aware of that fact. If it is true that he did not know, then it raises serious questions about his ability to be in full command of the Metropolitan police. How can he effectively manage the Metropolitan Police if he is not privy to this vital information. His account about not being aware of this information is even challenged by one of his own senior officers. It raises the suspicion that there has been a cover up.

This report has also raised very grave concerns about the Metropolitan Police Authority's role in the aftermath of Jean's shooting. This brings into question their ability to hold act independently and impartially and to hold accountable those officers named in this report. The MPA has already promoted some of those same officers before even this limited investigation was completed. It has also funded legal challenges by those officers to exclude further criticism of them from the final report.

Overall, we are disappointed that despite this report's finding, it has yet again led to no real action by the IPCC against the Metropolitan Police. This follows their recommendations that no officer should face criminal charges for their involvement in the operation that led to Jean's death. These reports, like the IPCC investigation into the shooting by anti-terrorist officers of an innocent man in Forest Gate, have been a litmus test for the way the IPCC fulfils its public responsibilities for an independent investigation. In every instance, the IPCC's timorous approach to cases involving alleged "anti-terrorism" has further undermined public confidence in the rule of law. This must shame the government into now stepping in and taking decisive action in this matter.'

A spokesperson for the Menezes family today said :

'After two years, every institution of justice has failed us and we are left with the impression that the police are above the law. We call on Home Secretary Jacqui Smith to meet with us to explain how she will redress this complete lack of a credible investigation. This only makes us even more determined to keep fighting for justice.'

Notes :

In October 2005 the family of Jean Charles de Menezes wrote a formal letter of complaint to the IPCC alleging that senior officers including Sir Ian Blair deliberately misled them and the general public about the circumstances surrounding Jeans death.

The 'Stockwell 2' report is the IPCC investigation and report into these claims.

The 'Stockwell 2' investigation has been subject to delays of over 11 months because of legal challenges from Metropolitan Police Service officers.

In the immediate aftermath of the shooting it was widely reported that Jean was wearing a bulky jacket; was acting suspiciously; ran from police and jumped over the barrier at Stockwell tube station. Several hours after the shooting Sir Iain Blair stated at a press conference that Jean was 'directly linked' to the terrorist operation and that he "was challenged and refused to obey police instructions".

Leaked reports in August 2005 showed this to be false, yet, in the days and weeks after the killing, the police did nothing to correct this false information.

On 22nd July 2007 the family of Jean Charles de Menezes marked the second anniversary of the Jean's death. His family await the publication of the report and expect disciplinary action to be recommended for those responsible.

The Menezes family continue to seek full public disclosure of all the facts surrounding the brutal death of Jean Charles de Menezes and for those responsible to have to account for their actions in a Court of Law.

The Jean Charles Menezes Family Campaign recently highlighted the continuing lack of bringing anyone to justice for his death by projecting an image of Jean's face onto the Houses of Parliament (image attached).

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For further information please contact 07931337890 / 07709 656 251