

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SECOND INQUEST OPENS INTO THE DEATH OF HARRY STANLEY AN
UNARMED MAN SHOT BY POLICE

10am Monday 18th October 2004

Sitting with HM Coroner for Inner North London Dr Andrew Reid

St. Pancras Coroner's Court, Camley Street, King's Cross, London NW1 0PP

The **second** inquest into the death of Harry Stanley opens on Monday 18th October at 10 am at St. Pancras Coroner's Court in front of HM Coroner Dr Andrew Reid. It is expected to last two weeks. INQUEST lawyers group members Daniel Machover and Tim Owen QC are representing the family.

Background

On 22nd September 1999 Mr. Stanley was shot dead by Inspector Sharman and PC Fagan police officers from the Metropolitan Police firearms unit SO 19. A few minutes before the shooting a caller told the police that an Irishman had just left the Alexandra Public House in Hackney carrying a sawn-off shotgun wrapped in a bag. That person was in fact Harry Stanley a 46-year-old Scottish painter and decorator and father of three children who had been carrying a coffee table leg that had been repaired by one of his brothers. On his journey home he visited a public house for a lemonade and while there a member of the public mistook, first Mr Stanley's Scottish accent for an Irish accent, and second, the table leg that he was carrying for a gun. The armed officers responded to the call and killed Mr Stanley in very controversial circumstances.

The original inquest took place in June 2002 in front of the then HM Coroner for Inner North London Dr Stephen Chan. At its conclusion the jury returned a unanimous '*open*' verdict having been denied the opportunity to consider whether his death was a result of an '*unlawful killing*'.

As a result of a number of serious procedural errors by the coroner the family judicially reviewed the coroner on a number of points including the failure to call independent expert evidence, to give reasons for any of his decision making or give the jury the opportunity to decide if this was an unlawful killing. Last year, Mr Justice Silber ordered that a fresh inquest be held.

INQUEST has continued to work with Mr Stanley's family and their lawyers and has raised concerns about the case with MPs, government ministers and international human rights organisations. We have major concerns about the number of fatal shootings by the police (27 since 1993) and procedures for holding the police to account which serve neither the public interest nor the families of the deceased. A disturbing number of these deaths could and should have been avoided.

This inquest is the first one where the recently established Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) will be separately represented through its own legal team.

INQUEST co-director Deborah Coles, who has been working with the family and their lawyers said:

“The Stanley family have already had to endure an inquest where the coroner behaved reprehensibly, denying the inquest jury the opportunity to hear from firearms experts and to consider whether Mr Stanley had been unlawfully killed. We hope that this inquest will reveal the truth about how an unarmed man could be shot dead and hold those responsible properly to account.”

Daniel Machover, solicitor for the family, stated

‘The family has a right to a fair inquest, which explores all the issues thoroughly and allows the jury a wide role. It is in the public interest for this inquest to help to reduce the likelihood of similar killings in future.’

Irene Stanley, Harry’s widow, said ‘I’m looking for justice this time.’

FirstName	LastName	Ethnicity	Date	Area	Force	Inquest Verdict
Nicholas	Palmer	UK White	12/05/04	Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath	Metropolitan	Awaited
Phillip	Prout	UK White	04/05/04	Launceston, Cornwall	Devon & Cornwall	Awaited
Keith	Larkins	UK White	06/06/03	nr Heathrow Airport	Metropolitan	Awaited
Colin	O'Connor	UK White	23/01/03	A6 nr. Clophill	Bedfordshire	Awaited
Fosta Errol	Thompson	Black Caribbean	16/08/02	St Werburgh's, Bristol	Avon & Somerset	Awaited
Jason	Gifford	UK White	24/06/02	Aylesbury, Bucks	Thames Valley	Suicide
Michael	Malsbury	UK White	14/11/01	Harrow	Metropolitan	Suicide
Steven	Dickson	UK White	01/11/01	Cadnor, Derbyshire	Derbyshire	Lawful Killing
Derek	Bennett	UK Black	16/07/01	Brixton	Metropolitan	Inquest Nov 04
Andrew	Kiernan	UK White	12/07/01	Wavertree, Liverpool	Merseyside	Awaited
Patrick (Kieron)	O'Donnell	Irish White	30/10/00	Upper Holloway	Metropolitan	Lawful Killing
Kirk	Davies	UK White	24/09/00	Pinderfields Hosp, Wakefield	West Yorkshire	Lawful Killing
Harry	Stanley	UK White	22/09/99	Hackney	Metropolitan	2 nd inquest Oct 2004
Derek	Bateman	UK White	22/06/99	Dorking, Surrey	Surrey	Lawful Killing
Antony	Kitts	UK White	10/04/99	Falmouth	Devon & Cornwall	Lawful Killing
Michael	Fitzgerald	UK White	26/02/98	Bedford	Bedfordshire	Lawful Killing
James	Ashley	UK White	15/01/98	St. Leonard on Sea	Sussex	Failed prosecution
David	Howell	UK White	20/11/96	Birmingham	West Midlands	Lawful Killing
Diarmud	O'Neill	Irish White	23/09/96	Hammersmith	Metropolitan	Lawful Killing
James	Brady	UK White	24/04/95	Newcastle Upon Tyne	Northumbria	Open
David	Ewin	UK White	16/03/95	Barnes High Street	Metropolitan	Hung jury

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FirstName	LastName	Ethnicity	Date	Area	Force	Inquest Verdict
Robert	Dixon	UK White	27/12/94	Sheffield	South Yorkshire	Lawful Killing
David	Stone	UK White	15/10/93	Islington	Metropolitan	Lawful Killing
Ian	Hay	UK White	13/10/93	Totnes	Devon & Cornwall	Lawful Killing
David	Luckhurst	UK White	17/04/93	Enfield	Metropolitan	Lawful Killing