

PRESS RELEASE TUESDAY 26th OCTOBER 2004

**Families March to Remind Government
of “Forgotten Scandal” of Deaths in Custody**

United Friends and Families Campaign (UFFC) procession highlights the issues of deaths in custody and asks; Why do the deaths keep happening?

On Saturday 30 October, families of those who have died in custody will hold a silent procession to Downing Street to hand an open letter to the Prime Minister calling for an inquiry into deaths in custody. The families will lay flowers in memory of those who have died at the gates of Downing Street. This is the sixth year that relatives and friends have demanded action from the government but every year, more and more new families have joined those who first marched in 1999.

Brenda Weinberg, chair of UFFC and the sister of Brian Douglas, who died in police custody in London in 1995, said: “The way that custody deaths are now treated almost as routine is nothing short of a scandal. The government would like to forget about our loved ones but we are determined not to be silenced by their inaction. How many have to die and how many relatives have to face a tortuous legal battle for the truth before the government finally acts?”

Deborah Coles Co-Director of INQUEST the campaign group that works with the families of those who have died, said: “Every year new grieving families join the procession, a sad reminder of the numbers of people dying while in the care and custody of the state. This is a fight for justice, truth and accountability. It is not acceptable for the government to ignore these deaths in the hope that they will simply go away.”

Procession Details	Saturday 30th October 2004, assembling 1pm at Trafalgar Square, and then marching to Downing Street .
Dress	In accordance with the wishes of UFFC family members, we ask that you dress in black.
Further Information	www.inquest.org.uk / www.uffc.org.uk

Families supporting the procession include:

Pauline Campbell

(mother of 19 year old Sarah Campbell who died at HMP Styal 18 Jan 2003)

Yvonne Scholes

(Mother of 16 year old Joseph Scholes who died in HMP Stoke Heath 24TH March 2002)

Brenda Weinberg

(Chair of UFFC and sister of Brian Douglas who died 8th March 1995)

Rupert and Sheila Sylvester

in q u e s t

(Parents of Roger Sylvester who died in Metropolitan Police custody on the 11 Jan 1999)

Irene Stanley

(Wife of Harry Stanley, shot dead by Metropolitan police on the 22 September 1999)