

For immediate release 13 OCTOBER 2006

## INQUEST OPENS INTO THE DEATH OF VULNERABLE BLACK PRISONER AT HMP WORMWOOD SCRUBS

HM Deputy Coroner Ms Pygott (Western London District)  
Coroner's Court  
25 Bagleys Lane  
London  
SW6 2QA  
Starting at 10am

The inquest into the death of 27 year old black prisoner Zane Holder is due to commence on Monday 16 October 2006 at 10am. The inquest is scheduled to last for 5 days.

Zane had been recalled to HMP Wormwood Scrubs on 2 June 2005 and was found hanging in the segregation unit on 13 July 2005. He had a history of drug use and mental health problems but despite these concerns he had been housed in the segregation unit rather than the Health Care Centre. The family hope the inquest will explore the following issues:

- Why Zane was placed in the segregation unit rather than in the Health Care Centre?
- What care he received once he was in the segregation unit and whether this care was appropriate for his needs?
- Why Zane did not receive the medication he was being prescribed to treat his mental health problems whilst he was in the segregation unit?
- What action was taken when Zane started to refuse food?
- What if any psychiatric assessments did he receive whilst he was HMP Wormwood Scrubs.

Gilly Mundy, Senior Caseworker at INQUEST, said:

*“This death raises serious concerns about the use of segregation units to house vulnerable and at risk prisoners. It is vital that this death and the issues it raises are fully explored, failings identified and any recommendations implemented.”*

Mr Holder’s family are being represented by INQUEST Lawyers Group members barrister Sadat Sayeed from Garden Court Chambers instructed by solicitor Sarah Ricca of Hickman and Rose Solicitors.

Notes to editors:

INQUEST is the only non-governmental organisation in England and Wales that works directly with the families of those who die in custody. It provides an independent free legal and advice service to bereaved people on inquest procedures and their rights in the coroner's courts.

### Self inflicted deaths at HMP Wormwood Scrubs since 2000

Name	Date Of Death	Age	Status	Cause	Inquest Verdict
Hoang Le	19/02/2006	31	Remanded	Hanging	Awaited
Julio Godfrey	11/11/2005	28	Convicted	Hanging	Awaited
Satnam Singh Bhullar	26/08/2005	26	Convicted	Hanging	Awaited
Zane Holder	13/07/2005	27	Convicted	Hanging	Awaited
Roman Piho	23/11/2004	33	Convicted	Hanging	Awaited
Abdul Omar	28/08/2004	28	Convicted	Hanging	Awaited
Jason Cressey	07/08/2004	29	Convicted	Hanging	Suicide
Robert Cairns	29/07/2003	29	Convicted	Hanging	Misadventure
Belbir Lal	17/09/2002	39	Remanded	Hanging	Misadventure
Clayton Doe	21/11/2001	34	Remanded	Hanging	Suicide
Joseph Melo	28/04/2000	27	Remanded	Hanging	Open

Source: INQUEST Casework and monitoring

Further Information	<a href="http://www.inquest.org.uk">www.inquest.org.uk</a>
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