

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release 28 JULY 2009

INQUEST WELCOMES PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE CASS REPORT BE PUBLISHED IN FULL

Today the parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights recommended:

...that the Metropolitan Police publish the Cass report into the death of Blair Peach without redaction, to help bring some closure to the family and friends of Mr Peach and to initiate a debate about how the policing of protest has improved and can improve still further.

INQUEST welcomes the committee's recommendation made in its report *Demonstrating Respect for Rights?* published today.

Deborah Coles, Co-Director of INQUEST, said:

That the parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights have added their voice to the campaign for full and unfettered disclosure of the Cass report is highly significant. Given that Blair Peach died 30 years ago there is no justifiable reason for continued secrecy which is undemocratic and continues to undermine family and public confidence in the Metropolitan Police Service.

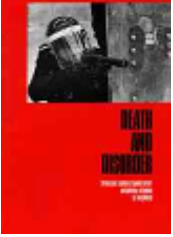
INQUEST is working with Blair Peach's former partner Celia Stubbs and his brother Philip Peach.

Further Information	www.inquest.org.uk
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Deborah Coles, Co-Director, INQUEST	office 020 7263 1111
INQUEST press release 25 June 2009	
Demonstrating Respect for Rights? (Para 60 p26)	
http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200809/jtselect/jtrights/141/141.pdf	

Notes to editors:

INQUEST was set up in 1981 following the death of Blair Peach and is the only organisation in England and Wales that provides a specialist, comprehensive advice service on contentious deaths and their investigation to bereaved people, lawyers, other advice and support agencies, the media, parliamentarians and the wider public. Its casework priorities are deaths in prison and in police custody, in immigration detention and in secure training centres. INQUEST develops policy proposals and undertakes research to campaign for changes to the inquest and investigation process, reduce the number of custodial deaths, and improve the treatment and care of those within the institutions where the deaths occur.

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INQUEST's first book, *Death and Disorder*, published in 1986, examined deaths involving the police during - or which sparked - public disorder - Kevin Gately (who died during a protest in Red Lion Square in 1974), Blair Peach and Cynthia Jarrett, whose death during a police raid prompted the notorious Broadwater Farm disturbances in 1985 during which PC Keith Blakelock was killed. *Death and Disorder* looks at these three deaths in the context of others involving public disorder, from the infamous Peterloo Massacre of 1819 to the sometimes fatal use of troops and police against strikers in the first half of the twentieth century.