

## NEVILLE LAWRENCE

**'I won't be able to rest until they are all brought to justice'**

**M**y life was torn apart by the senseless murder of my son over 18 years ago. Unfortunately no one was brought before a court at that time as they should have been.

The loss itself, together with the lack of justice, have meant that I have not been able to rest all this time. I'm therefore full of joy and relief that today, finally, two of my son's killers have been convicted for his murder.

They will be sent to prison and forced to face the consequences of their actions - consequences which my family and I have been living with all

these years. I would like to thank the police and prosecutors. I would like to thank the judge. I thank the jury for their careful attention to my son's case day after day and the verdicts they have delivered.

Something has happened over the last seven weeks - I have watched justice being done. As for me, I'm not sure where I will go from here. I will let this good news sink in for some time. However, I'm also conscious of the fact that there were five or six attackers that night. I do not think I'll be able to rest until they are all brought to justice.

## DOREEN LAWRENCE

**'How can I celebrate? This will not bring my son back'**

**I**would like to thank all those people that have expressed kindness and support for me and my family over the last 18 years. I would also like to thank the jury for their verdicts today.

However, despite these verdicts, today is not a cause for celebration. How can I celebrate when my son lies buried? When I cannot see him or speak to him? When will I see him grow up and go to university or get married or have children? These verdicts will not bring my son back. How can I celebrate when I know that this day could have come 18 years ago if the police who were meant to find my

son's killers had not failed so miserably to do so? All I now feel is relief that two of my son's killers have finally been caught and brought to justice; relief that these racist men can no longer think that they can murder a black man and get away with it.

But mixed with relief is anger - anger that me and my family were put through 18 years of grief and uncertainty, not knowing if or when we would ever get justice. Had the police done their job properly, I would have spent the last 18 years grieving for my son rather than fighting to get his killers to court.



Stephen Lawrence was buried in Jamaica to avoid his grave being desecrated in the UK

when she learned that none of the suspects would be prosecuted for the murder while she was in Jamaica to bury her son. "I never

dreamed that this campaign would have to be sustained for so long and that we would have to battle against such grinding official resistance," she wrote in her book *And Still I Rise*. "The campaign now seemed like a lifeline, and I thanked God for it.

"Back in 1993, I would never have dreamed that an ordinary black couple could challenge the police and the government and end up changing the way they conduct themselves," Mrs Lawrence said. "I argue more with officials than I would have done before... I do public things, not because I want to but because I feel I have to, in order to maintain the reforms we achieved after such a long struggle."

Mr and Mrs Lawrence parted in July 1998 and divorced the following year. "My marriage died the same night Stephen died, though I did not know it yet," Mrs Lawrence wrote. "Our marriage had become another casualty of the events set in train by the murder of the son we both loved so much."

## THE EVIDENCE

## Careful re-examination found tiny spot of blood

By Paul Peachey

Gary Dobson's jacket - found by police in his wardrobe 15 days after the murder - was one of 30 items of clothing seized from the homes of suspects or recovered from Stephen Lawrence.

For years, they had yielded few clues. It was only when a new police team was appointed in 2006 that scientists were encouraged to re-examine every piece of evidence. Ed

Jarman, a blood expert at the forensics lab LGC, considered the idea that debris might have fallen from the jacket and become trapped in the folds of an evidence bag.

Using adhesive tape, he checked again in April 2008 and found a tiny bead of blood with fibres running through it. Tests showed that the chance of the blood

not coming from the victim was less than one in a billion. Mr Jarman then examined the jacket under a microscope and found a spot of blood no wider than 0.5mm, dried into the collar. Tests showed it was Stephen's blood, and the scientists believed it could have got there only by direct contact, or if it had flown from the blade of the murder weapon.



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