

# WHO KILLED Ricky Reel? ◀

by GHADA RAZUKI

One evening in October 1997, a young Asian man, Ricky Reel, along with a few other friends, went to a night-club in Kingston. Two white youths started shouting "Pakis Go Home", and then proceeded to pick a fight with the young Asian boys.

Ricky ran in one direction and his friends in another. That was the last time they saw Ricky alive.

## ▶ POLICE DO NOTHING ...

When Ricky did not return home, his mother Sukdhev phoned the local police station to report him missing. They ridiculed her and suggested that - "he may have a girlfriend who's not acceptable to the family".

Morning and night the Reel family and friends searched for Ricky. They begged the police to search the Thames river in Kingston. The police refused. Mrs Reel said that she will never forget those 8 days. "You imagine searching for the body of your son and being reduced to looking in paladins."

Still no Incident Room was set up and no reconstruction was staged. 8 days after he went missing the police agreed to search part of the Thames. Within minutes his body was found in 10 feet of water. Three buttons of his flies were undone. The police classified the case as 'accidental death'. They said that he had gone to urinate in the water and had subsequently fallen in.

Sukdhev Reel insisted that her son had a fear of open water and would therefore not have voluntarily gone anywhere near the river. Then a breakthrough, Mrs Reel asked to see security videos of the stores that Ricky passed that night. On one of them Ricky was spotted being chased by two white youths towards the river.

Furthermore, in February an independent post mortem concluded that Ricky had a full bladder, therefore dismissing the police's conclusions that he had gone to the river to urinate.

## POLICE LEARN NO LESSONS FROM DEATH OF STEPHEN LAWRENCE ...

Doreen and Neville Lawrence share with the Reel family similarities in the loss of their sons. No-one has been convicted of either murder. Both families say the racial motive was not taken seriously, even though the police recorded an increase in racial incidents from 5,044 in 1989 to 13,151 in 1996/7.

In both cases the police suspected the families of being part of the problem.

Neville Lawrence has given Sukdhev support for the campaign. He said, "Ricky's case shows that nothing has been learned since Stephen's murder". Mrs Reel draws on that support. *"With Mr Lawrence I don't need to pretend. When I look at his face I see the pain. Sometimes it gets too much. I told him I don't think I can go on, he tells me that I have to for Ricky's sake."*

Her 3 other children lost their mother when Ricky died. *"Often I'm not at home until midnight. I'm campaigning day and night. They ask me how their brother died and I have to tell them I don't know. It's impossible to grieve for Ricky without knowing how he died."*

## ▶ WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP ...

I would urge people to either phone or write (details below) and get petitions and information on the Ricky Reel campaign. If possible ask your Region to make a donation and invite a speaker to your next FBU School.

As Sukdhev Reel has said to me in the past, on her own she will not get justice for her son. She needs the support of the trade union movement.



Ricky Reel's parents (centre)

## ▶ JUSTICE FOR RICKY REEL CAMPAIGN

### PHONE NO:

0800 374 618.

### ADDRESS:

c/o SMG Unity,  
PO Box 304,  
Southall,  
Middlesex,  
London