

1989 Press Cuttings

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HG - Hackney Gazette
CT - Caribbean Times
V - The Voice
IG - Islington Gazette
TO - Time Out
CL - City Limits
G - The Guardian
JC - Jewish Chronicle
NL - Newsline
MS - Morning Star
HE - Hackney Echo

HC 6.1.89

Top cop in 'cool it' plea on march

"PLEASE stop knocking the police" - that's the plea from Dalston top cop Peter Twist on the eve of a procession taking place in memory of people who have died or been injured in police custody.

The march has been organised by Hackney Community Defence Association, which says the march is necessary to remind people of past and current police injustices.

But Chief Supt Twist says such events damage relations between the police and the community and demoralise his men - while painting an unfair picture of the police.

He told the Gazette: "I very much regret the way that these unhappy incidents are continually being brought before the people of Hackney when the police have done and are doing so much to improve relations with the people of the borough."

He pointed to successful police initiatives, such as the police consultative group, the crime prevention panel, and police area forums, as proof of better relations between the police and the community.

"Marches and meetings harden the hearts of people who are still suspicious of the police and make it very difficult for us to open dialogue with certain organisations."

"As one of the new generation of younger chief superintendents, I am aware that there has been a radical change in the attitude of the police. We are now far more accountable and open than was the case five years ago."

"If mistakes were made in the past, my concern is to make sure that they do not happen again."

He said that young officers were briefed on the history of rows between the police and the community when they arrive in the borough.

"It is demoralising for many of the younger police officers newly arrived in Hackney to be tarred with the brush of colleagues who were serving in the borough many years ago."



● Flashback to last year's demo.

"It diminishes the spirit of co-operation and public support which motivates them to do a very difficult job in what I now consider to be London's toughest area of policing."

"I believe there has been a drop in hostility towards the police. Ever since I arrived in the borough, many people have been contacting me to establish a dialogue."

"If you truly want better policing for the borough of Hackney, give the young men and women who police your streets the support and co-operation they need."

But Graham Smith, of the HCDA said: "We will not forget what has happened in the past. The march is to commemorate four people who have died in police custody."

"The police have been more careful in the recent past because of public outrage. We must ensure that these things do not happen again."

Bamor Hesse was heavily involved in the campaign for an independent public inquiry into the death of Colin Roach, who was found shot at Stoke Newington police station in 1982. He told the Gazette: "It's important to have annual commemorations of long-standing grievances that people want to redress. If they are not raised annually, they will be forgotten."

"People don't campaign against injustice for the hell of it. These cases have not been resolved."

"I can't say that the policing in Hackney has noticeably improved. In the last four years there has been at least one case a year where the behaviour of Hackney police has attracted national attention."

And Unmesh Desai, who works for Hackney Council's police committee support unit, said: "The police urge us to forget about the past. But their behaviour has not changed."

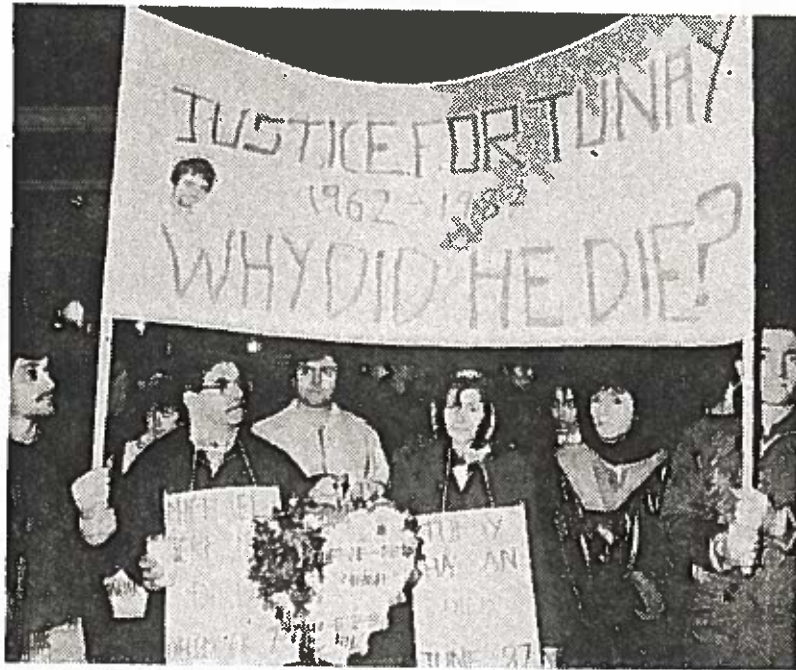
"Senior police have recognised that there are problems with the way policing is carried out, but it hasn't translated itself to strategy on the ground."

"The march won't go away - it's a permanent fixture in the political calendar to remind us of the tragedies of the past, and the problems that are still with us today."

● The torchlight procession begins with a rally outside Hackney police station at 5pm on Sunday (January 8) and continues to Dalston and Stoke Newington stations. Bamor Hesse and Unmesh Desai will speak at a public meeting to mark the sixth anniversary of the death of Colin Roach on Thursday (January 12) at 7.30pm at Hackney Town Hall.

HC 6.1.89

Hackney's dead commemorated



Family & friends of Tunay Hassan laying a wreath at the spot of Tunay's death

VICTIMS of the alleged brutality of police officers based at Hackney and Stoke Newington police stations are commemorated by a torchlight procession which will assemble outside Hackney police station on Sunday, January 8th at 5.00pm.

Following a rally with invited speakers the gathering will

march to Dalston and Stoke Newington police stations.

Among those who have died or suffered serious injury whilst in the custody of officers based at Hackney, Dalston or Stoke Newington include: Aseta Simms - 1971, Colin Roach - 1983 and Tunay Hassan -

1987 who all died. Plus Mrs Nellie Knight and her daughters who received serious injuries at the hands of Stoke Newington police officers 1981 and also Trevor Monerville who was forced to undergo major surgery on January 8th 1987 following one week in the custody of Stoke Newington police.

CT 6 - 1 - 89



Sunday night's march to Stoke Newington Police Station in north London

Hackney march demands 'No police attacks'

BY MARGARET BANKS

THREE HUNDRED people marched through Hackney and Stoke Newington, in east London, last Sunday evening to protest at police attacks on the community.

The torchlight procession was organised to mark the second anniversary of the emergency brain operation on Trevor Monerville, who was arrested and savagely beaten at Stoke Newington Police Station.

Trevor was in a critical condition in an intensive care unit as a result of the injuries he received, yet his father, John, could not discover the whereabouts of his son until he found him in Brixton prison hospital wing.

Since that time Trevor Monerville has been subjected to continuous police harassment: he has been arrested no fewer than five times in the last two years.

Funds have now been raised to send Trevor away from England to the West Indies, so that he can be free from intimidation by the police.

But the march was held, not just to highlight Trevor Monerville's case, but to expose the police attacks on whole sections of the community.

Delegations

In addition to the Trevor Monerville Campaign, there were delegations from the Campaign for Justice for Tunay Hassan, who died in Dalston police station in 1987; the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign; the Newham Monitoring Project, who are particularly taking up the case of the Plaistow Four who are being tried after being arrested during a brutal police raid on a party; striking Dover seafarers; and the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign.

A lively delegation from the Young Socialists and the Workers Revolutionary Party kept up a chant of 'Defend Youth from State Attack! Smash the Tory Police! Organise the General Strike!'

Before the march there was a rally outside Hackney police station, and the march proceeded via Dalston police station to Stoke Newington police station, where a wreath was laid in memory of those who have died there.

At the rally, John Monerville said: 'I am very glad to see so many people here - it is people like you who have enabled us to send Trevor away.'

'But if it wasn't for the police, Trevor would not have to go away at all!



PAULINE ROACH (left) and JOHN MONERVILLE (right) lay a wreath in memory of Colin Roach outside Stoke Newington Police Station

'We are here to demand the right for people to live peacefully in this area.'

The mother of Tunay Hassan was at the rally, and supporters reminded the rally that it has been one year since the inquest on Tunay. A civil action is under way against Hackney police regarding Tunay's treatment at Dalston police station.

The marchers held a minute's silence at Dalston Police Station and laid a wreath in Tunay's memory.

Shaun Waterman, of the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign, reminded the rally that last month the House of Lords turned

down the appeal by the 'Tottenham Three': Winston Silcott, Mark Braithwaite and Engin Raghip.

He said: 'We will not put up with having our young people beaten, framed up and killed in police custody!'

Meeting

Pauline Roach, the sister of Colin Roach who died in Stoke Newington Police Station in 1983, announced that a public meeting would be held on this Thursday at Hackney Town Hall, to promote a new edition of the book 'Policing in Hackney' produced by the Roach

Family Support Committee.

Unmesh Desai, from the Newham Police Monitoring Project, condemned the silence of local councillors on the issue of police attacks on youth.

He said: 'We remember the courage of all those who have stood up to police brutality.'

He called on everyone at the rally to attend a picket at Newham West Magistrates Court on the 25th, 26th and 27th of January when the case of Ron Springer and the 'Newham Four' comes up.

Demo recalls deaths in police custody

REPORT BY

MAX VELODY

A TORCHLIT procession in memory of people who have died or been injured in police custody passed off peacefully on Sunday.

The organisers reckon 500 people took part in the event, which began with a rally at Hackney police station and went on to Dalston and Stoke Newington stations.

At Dalston, a wreath was laid by a weeping Safiye Hassan in memory of her son Tunay, who died at Dalston police station two years ago. The inquest jury found he died from dependence on drugs aggravated by lack of care.

And at Stoke Newington Pauline Roach laid a wreath in memory of her brother Colin, who was found shot dead in the foyer of the station in 1983.

An inquest returned a suicide verdict, although their decision was disputed by an independent inquiry into his death published last year.

Also on the march was John Monerville whose son, Trevor, needed brain surgery following his arrest by Stoke Newington police in 1986.

Graham Smith, of the Trevor Monerville Campaign, said: "The march was a success, and is now firmly established as an annual event in the Hackney calendar." The campaign

is fundraising for cash to send Trevor abroad to convalesce from his injuries.

The police estimate that there were just 250 marchers in the procession.

Chief Supt Peter Twist of Dalston station, said: "The marchers were well-behaved and there was no trouble."

"While the people on the march were clearly very serious, I got the impression that many saw it as an annual event, and no longer bore the same hostility towards the police as in previous years."

He added that 40 police were needed to steward the march, and said: "I am not sure that the people of Hackney are getting the best value from their police in having them steward this annual event."

"I would sooner have employed these officers in combatting the many serious problems that we have on the streets of Hackney."

"I hope that none of the marchers, if indeed they live in Hackney, returned to home to find they had been burgled."

● Hackney Community Defence Organisation, which helped organise the march, is to run regular advice sessions at The Family Centre in Rectory Road, Stoke Newington. For details of the sessions - which will be held on weekday evenings - ring 249 0193



Attackers stamped twice on man's head, court told

Murder victim HC 13.1.89 'had no escape'



● Victim Thomas Lee.

A MAN was beaten to death in Stoke Newington High Street by four attackers who cornered him so there was no escape, a jury heard this week.

An eye-witness to the attack on 52-year-old Thomas Lee saw one of the assailants stamp twice on his head as he lay on the ground, prosecutor Miss Jean Southworth, QC, told Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court.

It was just before midnight on October 4, 1987, when a man on a bicycle confronted Mr Lee and started to ride around him, she said.

"The other three came up, the effect being to make Mr Lee turn back from where he had come and into nearby Belgrade Road. They crowded round him so he could not escape," added Miss Southworth.

Mr Lee, who lived in Belgrade Road, was struck in the face and brought to the ground. He died in Homerton Hospital from internal brain damage after eight days on a life support machine.

Michael Kellerher, a 33-year-old bricklayer of Somerford Estate, Stoke Newington, pleads not guilty to murdering Mr Lee.

Miss Southworth told the court: "The fact that police have not come up with the other three men despite their endeavours may be a reflection on the times in which we live and the unwillingness of people to come forward with information."

She said Kellerher was arrested after a minicab office controller who witnessed some of the incident called police when the defendant came into his premises a fortnight later.

Another witness, who assisted a police artist in

drawing a picture of the person he regarded as "the aggressor" in the attack, picked Kellerher out of an identification parade.

Kellerher, who had strenuously denied involvement in the incident when questioned by police, made a confession of guilt to a fellow prisoner while on remand after his arrest, alleged Miss Southworth.

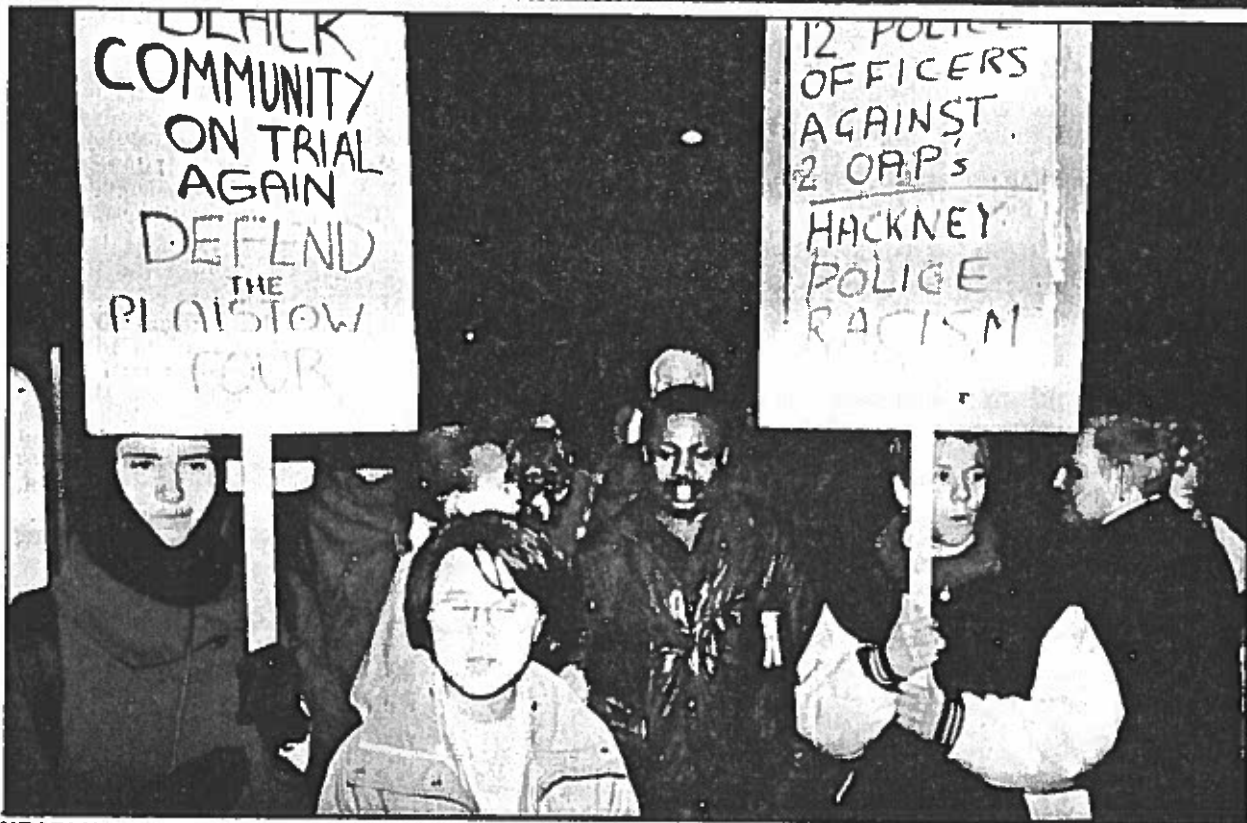
He effectively stated he had struck and kicked Mr Lee.

Kellerher, a heroin user at the time, told an interviewing officer the drug did not affect his senses. But, said the prosecutor, he later confided to a police constable he knew "you know what I am like when I am on a bender, but I'm sure I did not kill the bloke. . . . I am a bit confused, but I cannot remember."

The trial continues.

HC 13.1.89

Hands off the Monerville family!



NEARLY a hundred people picketed Hackney Police Station in east London on Tuesday night, in a spontaneous and angry response to the police attack on the grandparents of police brutality victim Trevor Monerville on Sunday night.

Mr Burke, aged 76, was dragged out of his house by the police in his underpants, and his wife, aged 70, was charged with causing actual bodily harm after being pinned to the floor of a police van by her wrists and ankles.

The picketers demanded the dropping of charges and the suspension of the officers involved.

John Monerville, Trevor's father, said: 'They are not police if they do not believe in law and order themselves — they are a gang of thugs, twelve thugs on the street.'

He said that they were demanding a public apology for this 'appalling and disgusting' treatment of Mr and Mrs Burke.

NL

19.1.89

Monerville granddad arrested in bed

A ROW erupted this week after the 76-year-grandfather of Trevor Monerville was arrested at home and taken to Hackney police station in his underpants.

Mr Edgar Burke was later released without charge - and now his family are planning to sue police for wrongful arrest and assault. An official complaint about his arrest has already been lodged, and his daughters are appealing for witnesses who saw their father arrested.

Mr Burke's grandson, Trevor Monerville, has been a figure of controversy ever since he was found to have brain damage following his arrest by Stoke Newington police two years ago.

Since then he has been arrested and charged with violent offences on several occasions - and released or acquitted every time.

Police came to Edgar Burke's home in Richmond Road, Dalston on Sunday after his wife Marie rang police to report she had been involved in a road accident by Clapton Pond.

According to their daughters, Annette, Carol, and Victoria, Mr Burke was not with his wife but ill at home when the accident happened.

But police suspected he had been involved in the accident. When they arrived at the Burke home and found him in bed, they asked him to take a breathalyser test. When he refused, he was arrested.

Mr Burke, 71, was also arrested, and later charged with assault following an allegation that she had struck a policeman. Her family claim she was strip-searched at Hackney police station. But on Tuesday police dropped charges.

Annette Monerville told the Gazette: "The way my parents was treated was a complete and utter disgrace.

Family appeal for witnesses

"Hackney police think they can come into a black person's home and do what they want." The family has asked anyone who saw the Burkes being put in the police van to contact the Monerville Campaign on 254 9849.

There is a dispute about how many officers were involved in the arrest. The Burkes claim up to 12 officers were involved - but police say just three took part.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, who is in charge of Hackney police, told the Gazette: "The prosecution against Mrs Burke is being discontinued on the grounds that it would not be in the public interest." He added that her age, her previous good character, and the unlikelihood of a repetition of her alleged offence were all factors in dropping the charges.

He also said it would be wrong of him to comment on the circumstances surrounding the arrests because an official complaint against the officers involved was being investigated.

Supt Dave Dugmore, police community liaison chief, denied that the Burkes had been treated badly because they were black. "If anyone is suspected of committing an offence, it is dealt with according to the law - regardless of the colour of their skin," he said.



pictured, (left to right): Sisters Annette Monerville, Carol Burke, and Victoria Burke - appealing for witnesses to their parents' arrest.

Brickle confessed to fellow prisoner

Addict jailed for motiveless street killing

A HEROIN addict who took part in the motiveless killing of Good Samaritan Thomas Lee was jailed for six years at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court on Friday.

A jury took less than 35 minutes to find 33-year-old bricklayer Michael Kellerher guilty of manslaughter. He was cleared of murder due to lack of intent.

As Kellerher was led away to start his sentence Det Sgt Paul Reed said the reasons why four men should launch an unprovoked attack on 52-year-old Mr Lee still baffled police.

Mr Lee had just visited a recently bereaved widow when he was set upon yards from his home in Belgrade Road, Stoke Newington at around midnight.

He died in hospital from head injuries after spending eight days on a life support machine.

Passing sentence, Judge Suzanne Norwood told Kellerher: "I am quite satisfied that this was not a premeditated act upon anybody but happened largely on the spur of the moment."

The judge added: "Nonetheless this is a serious matter and what you have here is group violence against a defenceless man going about his lawful business in the street at night. We are entitled to think we can walk alone in the street at night."

The judge said that although "random kicking" of a perfectly innocent victim had taken

place it appeared that Kellerher, of Somerford Grove, Stoke Newington, was not the person who struck out in the first place.

Miss Jean Southwood, QC, told the court that a man on a bike started to ride around Mr Lee as he walked along the road.

She said they crowded around West Indian Mr Lee so he could not escape.

Mr Lee, a former fork lift driver left disabled after an accident, was thrown to the ground whereupon one of the men stamped on his head twice.

In an alleged confession to a fellow prisoner while on remand Kellerher said he had hit Mr Lee with a stick before kicking him.

Kellerher later denied making the statement but Miss Southwood said the witness's account was so clear that he could only have learned about it from someone who was there.

A minicab controller who witnessed the attack on Mr Lee called police when Kellerher entered his office.

Another witness helped police prepare photographs and pictures of a man with "great similarities" to Kellerher.

Mr John Griffiths Williams, QC, defending, said Kellerher's involvement may be explained in some way to his heroin addiction.

He said: "There can be no doubt that the three others were much younger than Kellerher and that he was out that night and happened upon these other persons."

Shock at no charges over police assault probe

ALL charges have been dropped against seven policemen who have been suspended for 14 months accused of beating up Hoxton man Gary Stretch in a pub.

But Mr Stretch is continuing with a civil action against them and disciplinary action is still a possibility.

The decision, made by the

Crown Prosecution Service on Wednesday, shocked 25-year-old Gary when the Gazette broke the news to him.

Mr Stretch, of the Cranston Estate, said: "I'm choked and stunned. I just don't believe it."

His father Eddie Stretch confirmed they were proceeding with a civil action against the officers.

When Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill was asked if any disciplinary action might be considered he said: "That will be one of the considerations when the case is looked at. I'm naturally very pleased that police officers are not facing criminal charges."

The officers, all constables and based at City Road, were

suspended after they allegedly attacked Mr Stretch while off-duty in the Limes pub, Hackney Road, on November 5, 1987.

Now the Police Complaints Authority will look into the case again to decide whether the officers should be disciplined. Until the decision is taken, they will still be suspended from duty.

HC 20-1-89

Hackney police in arrest row

THE elderly grandparents of a young man who left Britain recently to escape alleged police persecution are now themselves at the centre of a row over harassment.

by LUCIE HYNDLEY

Marie Burke, 70, and her husband Edgar, aged 76, are the grandparents of Trevor Monerville who suffered severe brain damage after his arrest by Stoke Newington police in 1987.

After this incident, Trevor Monerville was arrested another five times by local police. Still trying to recuperate from his injuries, Mr Monerville finally left Britain last December.

His solicitor is continuing to bring legal charges over his treatment.

Reported

On Sunday evening Marie Burke went out in the family car with a friend, leaving her husband in bed ill.

Ms Burke's car was involved in a minor accident. She locked the car where it was and returned home where she reported the incident to Hackney police station.

Shortly after this four police officers arrived at the Burkes' home and allegedly demanded to breathalyse Edgar Burke, who refused, saying that he had not been in the car and was ill. Mr Burke was then arrested.

When Ms Burke remonstrated with the officers reinforcements were called. Eventually 12 police were involved. Subsequently Ms Burke was arrested.

Dropped

Edgar Burke was released without charge. His wife was taken to Hackney police station where she says that she was strip-searched. She was charged with actual bodily harm.

The Metropolitan Police has now confirmed that all charges against Marie Burke have been dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service on the grounds that further action was "not in the public interest."

Neither the Burkes nor the local community are satisfied with this gesture. The couple themselves are considering legal action.

A spokesman from the Hackney Community Defence Campaign said yesterday: "The dropping of the charges does not absolve the police."

MS 20.1.89

Police's assault case rejected

Peter Murtagh

THE Crown Prosecution Service has refused to support police officers who charged a 70-year-old woman with assaulting a woman police constable.

However, an internal police investigation will continue into claims by Mrs Marie Burke of Richmond Road, Hackney, that she was herself assaulted, and her 76-year-old husband, Edgar, was dragged from bed by police during a fracas at their home.

According to the service, after reviewing the evidence and talks with the police, the police charge has been dropped. A prosecution would not be in the public interest because of Mrs Burke's age, previous good character, and the non-likelihood of a repetition.

Mr and Mrs Burke are taking legal advice on a civil action.

Mrs Burke was detained last Sunday after her husband's car, in which she was a passenger, crashed. The family says that he was not the driver. Back

at home, Mrs Burke says she reported the accident to the police by telephone.

When they arrived, Mr Burke refused a request for a breath test. Reinforcements were called, and 14 officers are understood to have arrived. Although Mr Burke was taken to Hackney police station, he was not charged. According to the Burkes he was "taken from his bed in his underclothes and dragged" into a police van. When Mrs Burke objected, she was thrown into the van with four officers "pinning her to the floor". She says that in the station she was strip searched.

Because of the investigation, Scotland Yard declined to comment on the Burkes' claims.

Their grandson, Mr Trevor Monerville, aged 20, is suing the police over brain damage suffered two years ago. After examination in custody by a police surgeon, he was later operated on. Charges against him were dropped.

He has now left Britain to avoid what his family calls police harassment.

G 21.1-89



● Brian Sedgmore – officers should be suspended

POLICE LIED SAYS MI

Call for probe into elderly couple's arrest

Labour man names arrest officers in Parliament motion

Report by MAX VELODY

HACKNEY MP Brian Sedgmore this week sensationally named two officers involved in the arrest of an elderly black couple – and called for them to be suspended.

He said that PC 263 Hargreaves and WPC 210 Tina Martin should be suspended pending an investigation into allegations of assault, false arrest, and false imprisonment of the Dalston couple. He also:

● CALLED on the Director Of Public Prosecutions to investigate an inquiry with a view to bringing criminal charges.

● CLAIMED that the 70-year-old woman had endured a humiliating strip-search at Hackney police station.

● ACCUSED police of lying about the number of officers involved in the arrest last week of 76-year-old Edgar Burke and his wife Marie at their home in Richmond Road.

Mr Sedgmore, MP for Hackney South, said in a written House of Commons Early Day Motion: "This incident would never have occurred if Mr and Mrs Burke had been white and middle-class."

Mr Burke was taken to the police station in his underpants and his wife charged with assault following an incident at their home last week.

The charges against Mrs Burke were later dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service.

The independent police watchdog, the Police Complaints Authority, is investigating the way the arrest was handled – although the Burkes say they have not officially complained.

Instead, they are planning to sue the police for civil damages.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, who is in charge of Hackney police, said this week that it would be improper of him to comment on a case while it was under investigation.

But when asked whether any officers had been suspended, he said: "There is no question whatever of suspensions." He also refuted Mr Sedgmore's suggestion that black people received worse treatment at the hands of the police.

The Burkes are the grandparents of Trevor Monerville, the youth who was found to have brain damage following his arrest two years ago by Stoke Newington police. Mr Sedgmore visited the Burke family last Friday to hear their story.

I'm quitting Hoxton says terrified Gary

TERRIFIED Gary Stretch is to quit Hoxton after no charges were brought against the seven policemen he alleges beat him up.

Mr Stretch, who was left with horrific injuries following a night out at the Limes Pub in Hackney Road, says he is now too nervous to go out at night.

"I'm so frightened now," he said, "I've been afraid to go out in the dark since that night. But now nobody is going to be charged I'm going to have to move."

"I don't want to go but I don't see there is any other option. I can't be in at 4 pm for the rest of my life."

Mr Stretch is continuing with a civil action against the seven PCs who he says beat him up.

He named the men as PCs Peter Clissold, Paul Wells, Carl Simon, Paul Caddy, Alan Barr, Simon Haw and Dave Thompson.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill confirmed that they are the seven City Road officers who have been suspended since the incident.

Yard probe to decide on discipline outcome for PCs

FOURTEEN months ago Gary Stretch was beaten up and left with horrific injuries in a Hackney pub. Last week the Director of Public Prosecution decided no charges would be brought against seven officers accused of the assault. What happens next? Gazette reporter Martin Talbot spoke to the people involved.

HOW did Gary Stretch receive the injuries which have kept him off work for the last 14 months?

That's the controversial question left unanswered since that night in the Limes pub on November 5 1987.

Mr Stretch was left with half his ear hanging off, a blood-red eye and bruising and gashes on his back.

The 25-year-old window cleaner hasn't worked since then. He still has scar tissue on his spine and can't lift heavy objects.

But he and the police officers are at loggerheads over what happened that night.

Mr Stretch claims that he was dragged out of the Limes pub by the off-duty officers and beaten up in the street – but the officers put forward a different story.

The Gazette has obtained one of the PCs' statements considered by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

In it he admits there was a scuffle in the pub after a confrontation with a group of men. But he does not admit they caused any criminal injuries to Mr Stretch.

David Fitzpatrick, a Green Party member of Hackney's Police Consultative Group, called for an inquiry into how Mr Stretch got his injuries.

He said: "It is unbelievable, with my limited knowledge of what apparently happened, that there has not been a more in-depth criminal investigation."

"The whole thing has come to a clearly unsatisfactory conclusion. Any injuries or damage to Stretch must be investigated otherwise there can be no public confidence in police investigations."

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, of Hackney police, said that the Police Complaints Authority is considering whether or not to discipline the officers.

He said: "I am as anxious as anybody for the matter to be finalised at an early date. I have had officers suspended now for 14 months, which is a massive strain on police resources, the officers and their families."

Det Supt John McArdle, of Scotland Yard's Complaints Investigation Bureau, said that a disciplinary investigation was being carried out by the Yard's Internal Discipline Branch.



● Gary with his dad Eddie Stretch.

HC 27.1.89

RACIAL harassment, rookie cops and Travellers were all discussed at last Thursday's meeting of Hackney Council's police consultative committee. Gazette reporter Martin Talbot was there.

Campaign aims to combat race hate problem

HACKNEY has been singled out for special attention in a campaign to tackle racial harassment.

It is one of seven boroughs which will be focused on as part of the London-wide month-long campaign next month.

Thousands of homes in the borough will be leafleted with information about the problem and how it can be tackled.

Supt David Dugmore, of Hackney police, said: "It's an informative campaign. The public will be told what can be done to

eradicate this nasty problem.

"Some people might not perceive the problem as a major one in the borough. But that wouldn't be supported by people who have suffered racial harassment."

The campaign will be launched in conjunction with Hackney Council at the Town Hall on February 6.

Supt Dugmore said that a steering committee had been set up with representatives from ethnic groups in the borough.

Police getting too complacent say watchdogs

POLICE are becoming complacent about Hackney's crime problem, borough watchdogs have claimed.

They slammed police statements that the latest figures - which show more crimes solved - were encouraging.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill of Hackney police said the figures showed less offences but more arrests and a higher clear-up rate. He said: "That is most definitely encouraging."

But consultative group member Maurice Owen said: "There are 30 reported robberies a week and 140 burglaries in Hackney. That's nothing to be complacent about."

"The figures also only show about one out of 10 reported robberies solved and less than one out of 10 burglaries. These figures are far, far too high."

Cllr Joe Lobenstein agreed: "I don't think we can be encouraged by the fact that crime against the person has gone up by 25 per cent."

"In this day and age that is quite unacceptable. People want to know that the situation is not as bad as it seems."



Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill - "officers not complacent."

"Unless everyone can walk in the street without fear of being assaulted we have a major problem on our hands."

Chief Supt Mulvihill hit back: "I don't

think these figures are indicative of complacency - our officers are not complacent."

"There have been less offences overall, but arrests are up 13 per cent. Also 18.7 per cent of crimes are being solved which is up on last year."

The figures revealed on Thursday compare the statistics between January and November 1988 with the corresponding period in 1987.

Assaults are 24 per cent up on last year - from 800 in 1987, to 992 in 1988. This is in line with the national trend, he said, but police are also solving more of them.

There were thankfully less sexual attacks than last year, he added, as offences dropped from 186 to 173.

Several campaigns to crack-down on robberies had seen offences drop by 20 per cent, from 2,816 to 2,241. There was also an improvement on the number solved - from 172 to 224.

Burglaries are down for the third consecutive year, he said, although police are solving less - 574 in 1987 compared to 512 in 1988.

Top cop gives run down on Travellers

HACKNEY'S top cop outlined the police's powers in moving Travellers on.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill said that there are three legal means of moving them. They are:

● Section 39 of the Public Order Act, which can be used to move people from private, public or council land. But the Act gives no power to move caravans;

● Section 137 of the Willful Obstruction of The Highways Act, which can be used to move Travellers parked by the roadside;

● A court order, which can be obtained from the county court. Hackney Council preferred this as they didn't like using the Public Order Act.

Supt Mulvihill recommended the use of the court order and added

that police were happy to be present when it was being issued to make sure there was no breach of the peace.

But he added: "We have to adopt a compassionate stance. It's not as simple as to simply move people at any time of day."

"Sometimes it is inappropriate to move people at different times of night."

Ethnic mix call over police training

ROOKIE cops should spend more of their training mixing with Hackney's ethnic minorities.

That was the resounding message to City Road's head of police training, Insp Howard Back, on Thursday.

Tory Cllr Bernard Landsman, who is a member of the consultative group, said: "What strikes young policemen when they come to Hackney is the tremendous ethnic mix we have."



Cllr Bernard Landsman.

David Fitzpatrick, of the Millfields Urban Community Centre, said:

"We need even more sense for each officer to work within groups such as these as part of a project."

Insp Back asked members of the group for ideas to help raw recruits get used to the specific problems of policing in the borough.

In 20 weeks' basic training at Hendon police training centre the rookies learn everything from the basic law to powers of arrest and search, he said.

But when they step from the classroom onto the streets of crime-ridden Hackney it's the hardest part of their career.

Insp Back asked: "What should we expose them to in order for them to get the specialist understanding of the extraordinary problems of policing in the borough?"

Each recruit's 10 weeks' on-the-job training is split up into six weeks on the beat with a hardened, experienced cop and four weeks in the station.

Insp Back said: "It's a vital 10 weeks - a make or break period at the end of which we hope are produced police officers who understand Hack-

Commissioner to get manning demand

LONDON'S top cop is set for a showdown with Hackney's police watchdog.

Metropolitan Police commissioner Sir Peter Imbert has agreed to attend a meeting of Hackney's Police Community Consultative Group.

He was approached by Group chairman Betty Blomfield at a Business-Watch meeting in Dalston last month.

Priorities

Mrs Blomfield told the Gazette: "I'm sure he is fully aware of our feelings about the under-manning of Hackney - there just aren't enough officers walking the streets."

"One of our first priorities when we were first established was to make very strong representations to him and Home Secretary Douglas Hurd about the problem."

Discussing

She said she hoped Mr Imbert would address the consultative group, before discussing the borough's policing with his members.

Last week Mrs Blomfield has suggested that Mr Imbert be one of the next three group meetings during the next five months.

Frail pensioners beaten up by police

HACKNEY police officers were once again involved in an unnecessary fracas last week when an elderly couple were attacked in their home.

Officers investigating a road accident involving a car belonging to 76-year-old Edgar Burke were reported to have dragged him from his sick-bed to the police station dressed only in his underwear.

Mr Burke's 70-year-old wife, Marie Burke, suffered injuries as the officers pushed past her to enter the couple's bedroom at their home in Dalston, east London.

Mrs Burke was allegedly dragged from her home and thrown on the floor of the police van, where she further suffered police officers standing on her wrists and ankles.

At the station Mrs

Burke was reportedly forced to undergo a strip search before being charged with actual bodily harm.

Mr Burke, whose diabetic condition has led to his being registered disabled, was released without charge after the police found out he was not travelling in the car at

the time of the accident.

The Crown Prosecution Services dropped the charges against Mrs Burke two days after the incident.

The Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA) is set to demand the Director of Public Prosecutions carry out an in-

vestigation in the public interest.

An HCDA spokesperson said that the twelve officers directly involved in the attack on Mr and Mrs Burke should be charged with indecent assault and kidnapping.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, in charge of Hackney police, refused to comment on the incident as an official complaint against the arresting officers was presently being investigated.

He did, nevertheless, deny the involvement of twelve officers, claiming there were only three officers present.

However, an independent witness, who prefers not to be identified, says he passed the Burke home at the time of the incident and counted no less than 27 officers.

Arresting officers

were unavailable for comment.

Mr John Monerville, the Burke's son, told *Caribbean Times* that he expected little better from Hackney police.

"I still find myself feeling a little shocked that anyone could behave this way towards two elderly people," he said.

"The police's conduct was disgraceful and it provided another example of how lawless they are becoming," he added.

The HCDA is recommending that all officers involved in the incident be immediately suspended with a view to eventual dismissal.

Hackney East MP Brian Sedgemore has arranged for an early day motion in the House of Commons this week.



ASSAULT AND BATTERY.

CT 27-1.89

Action group in arrest probe call

HACKNEY Community Defence Association has called on the Director of Public Prosecutions to investigate the circumstances surrounding the arrest of pensioners Edgar and Marie Burke.

The association, which is an umbrella organisation for campaigning groups in the borough, spoke out following last week's House of Commons motion from Hackney South MP Brian Sedgemore, in which he named officers involved in their arrest and called for them to be suspended pending an investigation into allegations of assault, false arrest, and false imprisonment.

Mr Burke, 76, and Mrs Burke, 70, were arrested at their home in Richmond Road, Dalston, three weeks ago after Mrs Burke had phoned the police to report an accident.

The couple are proceeding with a civil action against the police.

...but he is also to be congratulated

BRIAN Sedgemore MP is to be congratulated for the firm stand he has taken on the actions of the Hackney police officers involved in the arrest of Mr and Mrs Burke, the two pensioners taken from their home on January 15.

We hope all police officers share in the community's abhorrence of crimes against the old and disabled. However, it appears that Chief Supt Mulvihill is not so damning when police officers are accused of such crimes. In effect, he has condoned the actions of police officers - dragging a disabled man of 76 from his sick bed and strip-searching a woman of 70 - by stating: "There is no question whatever of suspensions."

It does not take a statement by an MP in the House of Commons for people to recognise grave in-

justice and abuse of human rights. Any senior police officer with regard for community concern would have suspended the police officers responsible immediately. Hackney police's failure to do so raises serious doubts as to their declared concern for community policing. - GRAHAM SMITH, HACKNEY COMMUNITY DEFENCE ASSOCIATION, RECTORY ROAD, STOKE NEWINGTON.

HC

3-2-89

Burkes plight ignored

THE mistreatment of two old age pensioners was thought unworthy of news coverage by the national press.

Mr and Mrs Edgar and Marié Burke suffered a terrifying ordeal when police officers came to their home to investigate a traffic incident which involved their car.

Mr Burke, aged 76 and a registered diabetic, was dragged from his sick bed to the police station to make a statement. Seventy-one year old Mrs Burke received similar

treatment and a charge of actual bodily harm which was later dropped.

Injuries

The Burkes are the grandparents of Trevor Monerville, the man who has taken out a civil action against nearby Stoke Newington police concerning injuries requiring major brain surgery, which he claims he originally received whilst in police custody during January 1987.

The Hackney Community Defence Asso-

ciation (HCDA) alerted all the relevant press almost immediately.

However, despite this, being briefed and given access to all the relevant parties the only nationally distributed papers which deemed the story important enough for their news pages were the *Caribbean Times* and the *Morning Star*.

"Thames TV news came and flapped around a lot but later told us that they were unable to use the piece because they couldn't

get an MP to comment on it," said a spokesperson for the HCDA.

Peter Murthur of the *Guardian* told *Caribbean Times* that he had written the story and presented it to his news editor but it had not been used.

Action

"The selection of news for each day's edition is left to the jurisprudence of the news editor," he said.

Mr and Mrs Burke are considering taking legal action against the police.

CT 3.2.89

Council and police join forces to combat race hate

HACKNEY Council and the police buried the hatchet this week and agreed to work together to crack-down on racial attacks.

It's the first time in many years that the Town Hall and the police have co-operated publicly on any initiative.

Mayor Medlin Lewis is to chair a steering group monitoring racial attacks. And in the next few weeks, every home in the borough will get an action guide on how to help race attack victims - and how to catch offenders.

The campaign was launched on Monday at Hackney Town Hall. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Wyn Jones, who is spearheading the Hackney crackdown, said: "I hope this campaign heralds a fresh relationship between the police and the borough of Hackney."

Cllr Adrienne Morgan, who chairs the council's own police committee, claimed some credit for the launch of the crackdown. "The fact that this campaign has been launched shows the police have taken on board a lot of what we have been saying over the years about racial attacks. I think the police have learned a lot."

Both police chiefs and council bosses had to face criticism at the launch. Unmesh Dassi, of

New initiative brings joint crackdown on attacks

the Newham Monitoring Group, said that race attack victims had been wary of the police because of the way they had been treated in the past - and added that the council's own appalling housing conditions had proved fertile breeding ground for racial attacks.

DAC Jones said there were no plans to set up a special race attacks police unit in Hackney - because, with less than one attack reported each week, the manpower could not be justified.

But he added that, if the need arose, he would consider setting up a special unit in the borough to tackle racial violence.

● This week's launch is part of a £400,000 campaign across 19 London boroughs aimed at fighting racial harassment.



● Mayor Medlin Lewis launches the campaign with DAC Wyn Jones (left) and Supt Dave Dugmore, of Hackney's youth and community unit.

Armed police in estate raid

A POSSEE of crack police marksmen swooped to smash a Downs Estate drugs den on Saturday afternoon.

Fifty police officers, including a dozen "Blue Berets" of Scotland Yard's tactical firearms unit, swarmed on the estate at about teatime.

Police launched the raid after staking out an address in Glendown House for several weeks after a tip-off.

They forced open the front door and arrested five people in the raid. A police spokesperson said that two guns and some drugs were found.

The spokesperson added: "We were acting on a tip-off that the address was being used to deal drugs."

"We were warned that the people could have guns, so we used armed police as a precaution."

Five men appeared at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court on Monday charged with various drugs offences.

Stabbed Pc says: 'I'm no hero'



BRAVE rookie cop Colin Watson, who chased a burglary suspect despite being stabbed three times, said this week: "Don't call me a hero. He got away."

The modest policeman who joined the force 10 months ago and has spent just four months on the beat was left for dead with knife wounds in his chest and back.

The 31-year-old Dalston Pc was called in his van patrol unit to a suspected burglary at a terraced house in Lordship Road, Stoke Newington, on Sunday evening.

When he arrived a Panda patrol was already there holding a suspect they had arrested after he had been seen emerging from a side alley.

Pc Watson stayed in the car with the man while his colleagues checked the house for more evidence, but the man suddenly produced a knife and held it to his throat.

"I grabbed it and the blade sliced into my fingers," he said. "I pulled him into the front of the car and the door came open. He tried to get away and I rugby tackled him. That was when he stabbed me twice in the back."

But the brave bobby gave chase and caught up with the man about 100 yards away as he headed for Green Lanes.

"I hit him twice with my truncheon, but he stabbed me again in the chest and as I fell to the ground he shouted 'Now you're dead,' and ran off."

"Pc Watson called out 'stop him' to a young man who bravely had a go, but he backed off when he saw the suspect wielding the knife," said Det Sgt Tony Fuller. "We are keen to find the couple because they could have vital clues."

"We also want anyone else who was in the area at about 8.30pm and noticed anyone matching the suspect's description running away."

The suspect is described as a light-skinned black man, 6ft 2ins tall, aged 20-25, and weighing 17-18 stone with a large belly. He was wearing a crew neck woollen green or blue jumper with flecks in it and cord trousers.

Anyone with information should contact Dalston police, tel: 488 7271

HG 10.2.89

Clues in hunt for police knife attacker

DETECTIVES have been given vital clues to the identity of the knifeman who stabbed rookie cop, Colin Watson, three times and left him for dead.

The brave 31-year-old Dalston policeman chased the burglary suspect along Lordship Road, Stoke Newington, with blood pouring from two stab wounds in his back.

He managed to catch up with him but the vicious knifeman plunged the weapon into his chest.

Police have traced a young couple who the suspect bumped into as he was pursued by the brave bobby.

"We have taken statements from the couple and they have proved very helpful," said Det Sgt Tony Fuller.

"The knifeman ran off towards Green Lanes and it's there we want witnesses. He made off in the direction of Tottenham, probably on foot and still holding the knife."

The incident happened on Sunday, February 5, between 8pm and 8.30pm. The suspect is described as a light-skinned black man, 6ft 2ins tall, aged 20-25, and weighing 17-18 stone with a large belly. He was wearing a crew neck green or blue woollen jumper with flecks in it and cord trousers. Anyone with information should telephone 488 7271.

Kidnap and poisoning charges are dropped

THE Crown Prosecution Service has dropped kidnapping and poisoning charges against 10 people.

The announcement was made at Old Street Court where committal proceedings in the case were to take place.

The five men and five women, all of whom were on bail, did not attend court as they had been previously notified that the case against them was to be formally discontinued.

They had been charged with forcibly abducting and carrying away Mark Berry from his home at Graham Road, Dalston on October 18 last year, and unlawfully and maliciously administering poison or a noxious thing to him.

Those charged were: Helen Steel, 23, of Linden Road, South Tottenham; David Thomas, 21, unemployed, of West Bank, Stoke Newington; Alan Hiron, 21, unemployed, of Oxted Court, Homeleigh Road Estate, Stoke Newington; Elizabeth Henton, 40, a teacher, of Mayola Road, Lower Clapton; Gregory Toubkin, 35, unemployed, of Oxted Court, Homeleigh Road Estate; Jonathan Blair, 25, student, of Oxted Court; Judith Sayer, 24, courier, of Graham Road, Dalston; Katherine Lorrimer, 25, and Justin Tidbury, 27, both of Godston Court, Homeleigh Road, Stoke Newington and Ann Hickling, 22, unemployed, of the Homeleigh Road Estate, Stoke Newington.

HG 17-2-89

"Assaulted" woman to sue Dalston police

OFFICERS from the notorious Dalston police station have been accused of assaulting a mother-of-four and holding her unlawfully.

The woman, who can not be identified, suffered an ordeal which is becoming increasingly typical of those experienced by black people who come into contact with officers based at east London stations, particularly Hackney, Dalston and Stoke Newington.

The woman says she was singled out from a

queue of motorists who were all obstructed by an oncoming refuse truck.

The officers made a thorough check of the woman's vehicle before discovering an irregularity on her tax disc.

Consistent

The registration number on her disc was consistent with that of her car, except there was a letter which more closely resembled an E than the G which was printed on her licence plate.

Despite the woman's assurances

that the tax disc had simply been written badly, the officers insisted she accompany them to Dalston station.

The woman's protests that she be allowed to make arrangements for someone to pick up her children from school and nursery were ignored while the police checked her immigration status with the Home Office.

Despite obtaining complete verification of the woman's driving documents and immigration status, the officers insisted on locking her in a cell.

She said her protests at her treatment were answered with a vicious beating at the hands of four officers. She saved herself serious injury by claiming she was pregnant.

Injuries

Her examination by a police doctor on finally being released revealed injuries to the face and head. She was later forced to call for an ambulance when she began bleeding at home.

On returning to the police station, as instructed, the woman was told that no

charges would be brought against her.

However, two senior officers requested she sign a document which stated she accepted their apology for the mishandling she had received and her agreement not to take the matter any further.

To her credit the woman resisted the pressure placed upon her and, on the advice of her solicitor, is now pursuing a civil action against the Dalston police.

A spokesman for Dalston police refused to comment on the incident.

CT 24 - 2 - 89

Police offer apology after gun-point arrest blunder

A MAN wrongly suspected of being an armed robber is demanding an official apology from police after armed officers from Scotland Yard's crack blue berets firearms unit stormed his Hackney home and arrested him.

Police marksmen ringed the ground-floor maisonette in Orwell Court on Haggerston's Suffolk Estate last Friday morning following a nationwide hunt for a gang who fired shots at pursuing police after a £20,000 raid in Nottingham the previous evening.

Police from City Road had been keeping the Hackney home of 31-year-old Kevin White under observation since the early hours after a police patrol noticed his Jaguar car parked in garages at the rear of his home matched the description of the one used by the robbers in their getaway.

Police immediately surrounded the block and sealed off the area and warned neighbours to stay indoors.

Then as his unsuspecting 50-year-old mother left the maisonette to go to work, she was held by police.

As residents of flatblocks overlooking his home watched from the safety of their balconies, police trained their guns on a bewildered Kevin and ordered him to come out with his arms held high.

"I was absolutely terrified and didn't know what was happening," he said. "It was like a scene from one of those cops and robbers shows on television, but this time it

was real.

"I knew I hadn't done anything wrong, but the sudden realisation of what was happening got to me in the police van and I fainted with shock.

"Apparently they suspected me because when they examined the car just after 4am the engine was still warm, but that was because I had been out at my girlfriend's and had returned home at that time.

"They also told me they had checked the police computer and found I had previous convictions for stealing cars, but that was when I was a juvenile."

After being placed in a police cell and questioned by detectives from Nottinghamshire, he was later eliminated from enquiries and released.

"I feel very bitter about what happened, not just because of the way I was treated but because my mother was forced to suffer such a harrowing experience as well," he said.

This week the top cop at Hackney and City Road offered Mr White a public apology.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill said: "Mr White has clearly been eliminated from connection with this investigation. He is not a suspect for any offence.

"I regret any inconvenience caused to him or his family and the neighbourhood, but I hope they will understand the need for the police to have acted as they did, and at all times I can assure them that it is in good faith."

Harassment advice

A NEW advice centre in Stoke Newington for victims of racial harassment or police malpractice opens next week.

The sessions will take place on Monday and Wednesday evenings between 6pm and 8pm and have been organised by Hackney Community Defence Association. They will include basic legal advice, advice on rights, and personal support.

HCDA is based at 50 Rectory Road, and there is a 24-hour answerphone service on 249 0193.

HC 3-3-89

up the chance to tell Hackney's top cops what they think of the way the borough is policed. Few attended last Thursday's police consultative group meeting at which many important issues were discussed. But Gazette reporter Russ Lawrence was there.

Street crime fear if local police station closes

Call for pub bosses to join

A CALL for the pubicans' trade association to be represented on the police consultative group was made by Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill.

He recommended that the East London branch of the Licensed Victuallers Association be asked to join.

Violence

He said: "With the increase in violence in society - much of it alcohol-related - it would be an opportunity to influence those who managed licensed premises and off-licences."

But the group decided to defer the matter for discussion by its sub-committee over whether its constitution allowed it to canvass groups itself instead of them making the first approach.

PLANS for Dalston police station to cease functioning as a fully operational station when the new £1.2 million Stoke Newington "super nick" opens, came under attack at the meeting.

Rumours that all CID, uniformed and back-up civilian staff will be based at the new station were confirmed by Dalston's top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist.

All that would remain at Dalston when the new nick opens in September would be a public counter manned 24 hours a day by a police officer to deal with such things as production of driving licences and lost property.

Dalston has been the makeshift home for hundreds of police officers while the old Stoke Newington police station was knocked down and rebuilt and the cramped conditions have led to complaints of severe overcrowding.

The open accommodation made available at Dalston by the

But top cop says it won't make any difference

proposed move will be occupied by the traffic warden office and the youth and community section.

But consultative group chairman Henry Blomfield said the had been approached by the Riddle Road market traders and local residents who were concerned because street crime was rising in the area.

She said they feared local home threat officers and those patrolling the market would not be able to respond as quickly because Dalston police station was almost on the market's doorstep and the journey from Stoke Newington would take longer.

David Fitzpatrick of the Millfields Users Group said it was im-

portant local officers and police directly attached to the market should remain at Dalston, not just because of the wishes of traders and residents, but because Hackney Council was trying to rejuvenate Dalston with the Dalston Cross shopping development.

Chief Supt Twist said the market would still be patrolled as before, although he acknowledged officers would have a slightly greater distance to walk down, but said it wouldn't affect response time.

"The issue is whether or not a better service is provided by them being at Stoke Newington," he said.

"It's worth bearing in mind that they would have to attend there quite regularly anyway because all administrative work, back-up services and communications will be there."

"No final decision has yet been made," he added. "Notice has been taken of the views expressed, but it may be far more efficient if everything comes from the new station."



● Dalston nick - uncertain future.

Nicked drug dealers get replaced quickly

POLICE face a deadly dilemma in their war against heroin dealers who have turned the streets of Haggerston into a drugs supermarket.

The cash rewards for the suppliers of death are so great that those arrested in police drug busts are soon replaced by others attracted by the huge sums of money to be made.

That was the chilling scenario described to the group by City Road's top cop, Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill.

"We are not losing the battle against the drug dealers in Haggerston," he said. "But one of the attractions is the phenomenal rewards and when we have a successful drugs operation it creates a vacuum which is filled by others."

Drugs squad officers arrested 31 people in connection with heroin on Haggerston's streets last month in a three week operation.

It was the second large scale crackdown mounted by police in recent months.

Over 52 people - a dozen of them heroin

dealers - were arrested in an earlier drugs bust last September.

The problem has become so bad the meeting heard that the local fish and chip shop even displays a sign in its window telling junkies it does not sell drugs.

In the latest drugs raid heroin with a street value of over £2,000 was seized.

"One dealer had a one and a half pounds of heroin in his possession," said Superintendent Mulvihill.

"Another was arrested with 67 folded packets of heroin on him."

He said the problem would not go away and what police needed was information so that premises could be targeted and the sources and suppliers of the drugs be traced.

Chief Supt Mulvihill said the police in Hackney were committed to tackling the drugs problem and said it was one of the division's top priorities.

"But it is a social problem and not just a police problem," he added.

MP vows to go to Home Secretary

Road closures fail to stamp out vice problem

FURIOUS residents have hit out at the failure of road closures tactics in clearing Standard Hill of its prostitute plague.

And local MP Diane Abbott has vowed to take the issue to Home Secretary Douglas Hurd in a bid to clear up the area once and for all.

Angry residents have met the Hackney North and Stoke Newington MP on Monday in a last ditch bid to clear the area of its vice problem.

They said that council road closures designed to stop kerb-crawlers just push the problem from one quiet side-street to the next.

New MP Abbott has called on Stoke Newington police chief Peter Twist for a "swamp" operation to clear the area.

But she added: "I will wait to hear from Chief Supt Twist, but in the end it's about more resources for Stoke Newington. I am prepared to go to the Home Secretary on this."

"It's an intolerable problem for what is quite a residential area. I am told there are sometimes up to six girls on a street corner."

Chief Supt Twist said that Stoke Newington did not have the man-power to launch a "swamp" operation that cleared King's Cross.

He called for changes in the law, outlawing kerb-crawlers on foot and disqualifying drivers found kerb crawling. In the meantime he said he would be increasing the number of patrols in the area.

Quiet residential side-streets off Ambhurst Road have been turned into streets of shame as the prostitutes ply their sex-for-sale trade.

Residents are woken up in the middle of the night by prostitutes arguing with their customers. And local women say they have been propositioned by kerb crawlers.

Ruth Moorfield, from Ambhurst Park, said: "We are even afraid for our children. We don't want them coming home and seeing things like this."

"As the council close roads the problem goes onto somebody else's doorstep. We don't want any more roads closed, we would just like police to crack down on prostitutes."

Complaints procedure drags on too long

SEVERAL members expressed concern at the time taken for the independent Police Complaints Authority to complete their investigations into complaints made against Hackney officers.

Consultative group vice-chairman, Charles Cabbie, said there had been a lack of confidence among some members in investigating complaints against police.

"The length of time it took to resolve complaints took far too long," he said. "This is unfair to the complainants and those

under suspicion and the sub-committee has called for interim reports to be given."

David Fitzpatrick of the Millfields Users Group said a "sense of disquiet" had been created by investigations being allowed to drag on.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill said that disquiet was also felt by the police officers who were subject to serious allegations which resulted in their suspension from duty.

"It is most disturbing to be placed in a situation where your everyday occu-

pation is taken away and you have no framework on which to hang your life. Many officers, I can assure you, are in quite a state and very worried."

Eddie McGinty of Hackney and Tower Hamlets Chamber of Commerce said the long delays seemed to be inevitable because of the procedures of the Police Complaints Authority.

"We have to make recommendations to our Members of Parliament who are the only ones who can make changes in the procedure through the statutes," he added.

Race attack reports spiral

THIS launch last month of the joint police and council initiative to combat and monitor racial attacks has resulted in an increase in the reporting of such incidents, the group heard.

A total of 43 racial incidents were reported to Hackney's police in 1988 according to figures produced at the meeting.

Superintendent Dave Dugmore, head of the borough's police youth and community section, said it was sheer speculation as to the number of incidents which were not reported, but added that the local housing authority had received a considerably higher number of reported incidents - many of them being disputes between neighbours.

The 43 incidents reported to police last year involved 64 victims and 90 suspects.

Nine of the suspects were arrested, but details of the offences and prosecutions were not available.

Of the 90 suspects, 36 were white, 18 Afro-Caribbean and the others unknown.

Of the victims, the greatest number of race attacks were directed at the Jewish community, followed by the Afro-Caribbean and then the Asian community.

The figures, the meeting heard, reflect a slight decrease on those for 1987.

Police storm club after three month stake-out

Drugs raid swoop on nightclub

NINETY police swooped on a nightclub in the early hours of Sunday morning and arrested 26 people in Hackney's biggest drug raid.

Large quantities of cocaine and cannabis were seized in the raid on Flares nightclub in Rosina Street, Hoxton.

Police had been watching the club for three months following a tip-off that the club had been used for drug-dealing, as well as several complaints about noise.

Between 150 and 200 people were in the club at the time.

According to Chief Insp Norman Mackenzie of Hackney police, the officers flooded into the club from three directions, and were inside within 30 seconds.

Excellent

"The operation was conducted with a minimum of fuss. The officers involved did a really excellent job."

"This is the biggest operation of any

sort conducted here for a very long time."

Police dogs, including sniffer dogs, were involved in the operation, which included 20 plain-clothes officers as well as officers based at Hackney, City Road, Bow and Caledonian Road.

A "substantial" quantity of drugs, as well as a machete and a CS gas canister, were recovered from the club.

Police say that, of the 25 people arrested, two were women.

HC 10.3.89

Amnesty call for sweatshop workers

Mass protest over immigration swoop

THE children of illegal immigrants arrested in a surprise raid on a Dalston clothing factory led a march of 3,000 banner-waving demonstrators through the streets of Hackney on Sunday.

The massive march - one of the largest ever seen in the borough - was in protest at the threatened deportations of 14 Turkish workers and their families.

Seven of the 38 "sweatshop" workers arrested as suspected illegal immigrants by police and Home Office officials at the factory in Springfield House, Tyssen Street, last week have already been kicked out of the country.

Six are still being held in custody at Home Office detention centres and Rotherhithe police station.

Before the march, Hackney North and Stoke Newington MP, Diane Abbott, and Islington North MP, Jeremy Corbyn, addressed a meeting against the deportations and immigration controls at the Halkevi Turkish Community Centre in Stoke Newington Road.

Eleven of the 14 workers facing expulsion have applied to the Home Office for political asylum and four are waiting the outcome of ap-

peals against the notices to deport them.

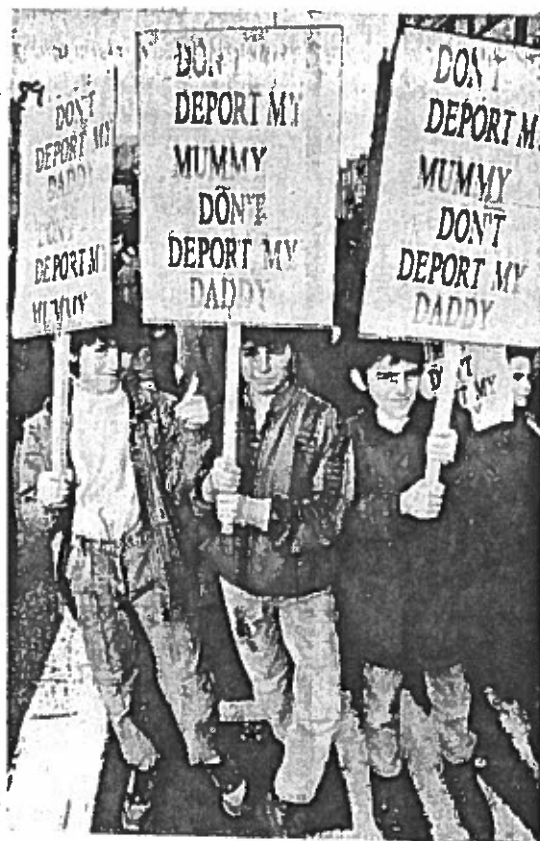
Leaders of Hackney's 7,000 strong Turkish community called this week for the unauthorised workers to be granted an amnesty and allowed to stay.

Nafiz Bostancui, president of the Halkevi Turkish Community Centre said: "It is not possible to solve the immigration problem with police raids.

"Those facing deportation have families with children who will be uprooted from their homes and schools if the Home Office expell them."

Dalston's top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist, who took charge of the police side of the operation, stressed at Thursday night's police community consultative group meeting that the Turkish community had not been singled out. "The community has not been targetted and this large scale operation was not a fishing expedition," he said.

"Lots of work went into this by the Home Office who had strong evidence provided to them by an anonymous tip-off. The police were simply there as the statutory law enforcement body because we were asked to be."



● Young protesters on Sunday's march.

HC 10-3-89

Wanted – justice for the Knights

THE contribution of an east London housewife brought home the reality of discrimination to last week's public forum to discuss the next course of action open to the campaign on behalf of an imprisoned black woman in the United States.

The Knight family feels a particular empathy with the LOVE supporters campaign for justice as their own eight year long quest continues to prove fruitless.

When Mrs Knight and her daughters Jennifer and Janice became involved in the test, and loudest, of a series of arguments with their neighbours, the Deightons, in November 1981 the neighbours called the police.

On arrival the police first consulted the Deighton family before launching into the

three females.

Mrs Knight suffered a split lip while Janice, then only 13, was struck on the nose.

After more than 12 hours in Stoke Newington police station Mrs Knight and Jennifer were charged with a breach of the peace. Two days later they were told that the Deightons had decided they now wished to press charges.

Trial

The ensuing trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court in September 1982 found Mrs Knight and Jennifer facing five charges each, including assault, actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm on the Deightons.

Both were acquitted on three charges each and the jury was hung on two. The subsequent retrial also failed to secure a verdict, despite the tenacious efforts of the prosecution, and the Knights were eventually found

not guilty.

Mrs Knight decided that she and her daughters had suffered sufficient physical discomfort, mental anguish and humiliation to commence an action against the police.

On the confident

advice of their solicitor, who believed she had a very strong case, Mrs Knight was prepared to serve a writ on the police claiming substantial damages for assault, false arrest and the malicious prosecution of herself and her daughters.

However, the case was thwarted by the withdrawal of legal aid by the Law Society.

"I don't believe I should give up," said Mrs Knight.

"The case of Ramona Africa humbles me somewhat because I feel that the loss she

and her family experienced is far more traumatic, but it serves to show us that we are not alone in our sorrow and it gives us strength to continue seeking an avenue after all roads seem closed," she added.

MP calls for police to be prosecuted

HACKNEY MP Brian Sedgmore has called for criminal charges to be brought against two police officers, WPC 210 Martin and PC 263 Hargreaves, for their part in a craven attack on two old age pensioners recently.

A civil action is being sought against Hackney Police over an incident which took place last January involving a squad of no less than 12 against a 76 year-old diabetic and his 70 year-old

wife.

A routine traffic offence inquiry became a horror story as the two pensioners were thrown into a police van where the man was forced to undergo a breathalyser test while his wife was forcibly strip-searched and charged with actual bodily harm before being released.

Two days later, faced with adverse publicity from a public outcry, the charges against the 70 year-old

woman were dropped.

Nevertheless, charges of assault, unlawful arrest and unlawful imprisonment are being sought against the police.

Comment

Chief Superintendent Mulvihill, of Hackney, claims he is unable to comment on the situation because it is under investigation. He did, however, assert that "there is no question of any suspensions."

Advice to combat racial attacks

A RECENT spate of attacks on the black community of Hackney has prompted a local organisation to set up bi-weekly advice sessions.

The Hackney Community Defence Association will run the sessions with the help of locals with experience of racial harassment or police malpractice.

Basic legal and

rights advice will be given and if necessary people will be put in touch with sympathetic solicitors who have handled racial harassment cases in the past.

Sessions will be private and held in the offices of the Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, London N16 7QY. Telephone 01-429 0193.

CT 10-3-89

Police race bias watchdog call

RACE watchdogs have called for a people's forum to be set up to monitor policing in Hackney.

The call, from Hackney Council For Racial Equality, followed a meeting held earlier this month at Hackney Town Hall.

Among the speakers at the conference was David Hennings, of Greater London Action For Racial Equality. Speaking of the Metropolitan Police, he said: "People at the top have learnt

the language of equal opportunities, but on the ground there is little real evidence of changing attitudes.

"Racial abuse of suspects, passport raids, wrongful arrests, and detention under the Mental Health Act continues."

Unmesh Desai, of Hackney Council's Police Committee Support Unit, said: "We are not anti-police, we are simply saying that policing is a local service which should be accountable to

local residents like any other local service.

"A People's Forum on policing would be a means whereby the police could be more accountable to the community."

Hackney already has one police forum - the Police Consultative Group, a statutory body set up two years ago by the police, and regularly attended by around 25 community representatives.

HC 24.3.89

Vicious stabbing outside gay bar

POLICE say a stabbing victim is lucky to be alive after a vicious attack outside a gay pub.

The thug struck outside the London Apprentice pub in Old Street where Aidan Reidy, 31, of Cudworth Street, Bethnal Green was drinking last Wednesday night.

Mr Reidy was approached by two men who asked him the time. As he glanced at his watch, one stabbed him in the stomach while the other man just looked on.

Det Sgt Jeff Lancaster of City Road police said: "The attack was so brutal that we're lucky not to have a murder inquiry on our hands. The only motive appears to have been that Mr Reidy is gay."

Mr Reidy was rushed to the intensive care unit at London Hospital, Whitechapel. As the Gazette went to press his condition was "stable."

Police have issued a description of the stabber and want to hear from any witnesses to the attack which happened

just after 2am.

He is of Mediterranean/Greek appearance, in his early 20s, 5ft 8ins tall, of slight build, clean-shaven, with short dark bushy hair and a cockney accent.

Contact DS Lancaster at City Road CID on 488 5271 with information.

● Hoxton shopkeeper, 25-year-old Glen Stuart, was stabbed in the stomach in Purcell Street, Hoxton, last Friday night after a punch-up earlier that evening with his attacker at a pub. He went to London Hospital.

Racist attack

RACISTS shoved burning papers through the letterbox of a Bangladeshi man's home and scrawled offensive messages on the front door.

Abdul Hai heard knocking on the door of his first-floor flat at Fellowes Court, Haggerston.

A City Road police spokesperson said Mr Hai had already suffered several racist attacks, but had no idea who was responsible.

HC 7-4-89

IN THE FIRING LINE

ROOKIE cops are being thrown onto the violent streets of Hackney because street-wise crime-fighters are afraid to work here, a police chief said this week.

The claim came after three constables were rushed to hospital following separate vicious attacks in just five days this week. One Pc needed 16 stitches in his head and face after an attack, and another was rushed to Homerton's intensive care unit after he was stabbed in the chest.

Two of the officers are probationers with less than two years' experience on the streets, said Dalston's concerned top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist. Paying tribute to the rookies' bravery, he said: "Many of these officers are young, and working in Hackney is their first experience of the dangers of inner-city areas."

"Unfortunately, many officers with experience in London now recognise the dangers in areas such as this and are reluctant to serve here. Few police officers wish to work in areas where the likelihood of them being assaulted

by **MARTIN TALBOT**

is so high.

"If it wasn't for young officers such as these, I would have grave difficulty policing the streets of Hackney."

Mike Bennett, Chair of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said attacks on officers rocketed to 4,500 in 1987 from 3,400 the previous year. That means one in every four officers has been the victim of assault.



● The violent face of Hackney - Pc Paul Evans, still in his blood-stained shirt, displays his injuries.

He said: "The problem is that we lose officers so quickly and often the replacements are being thrown in at the deep end and not being given the opportunity to learn their job."

Pc Paul Evans, 24, was attacked by a man who was being arrested at a flat in Manor Road, Stamford Hill, on Wednesday morning.

Pc Evans was rushed in a patrol car to Homerton Hospital where surgeons put 16 stitches in four deep wounds to his head and face. They feared that one wound was so deep it may have

cracked his skull.

And Pc David McIver, 23, of the vice squad, who has three years' experience, was stabbed in the chest by a man suspected of peddling drugs, also in Manor Road, Stamford Hill, in the early hours of yesterday (Thursday). He was stable in Homerton Hospital as the Gazette went to press.

Just days earlier, Pc Colin MacLennan, 21, broke his arm arresting three men in Stoke Newington Church Street on Saturday. The officers will all be on sick leave for some weeks.

Injured demonstrator wins High Court damages against police

A DEMONSTRATOR who ended up with a broken leg after being attacked by police officers at a march in support of the miners' strike has been awarded £8,700 damages in the High Court.

Dermot McWard, 27, a handicapped care worker of Northfield Road, Stamford Hill, sued the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police for false imprisonment and assault after the attack, which happened in February 1985.

The police had claimed that he was among a "large and aggressive crowd" on the march in Whitehall who had surrounded three officers, kicking one and hitting another with a crash-helmet.

Twenty colleagues came to their rescue, chasing the demonstrators down the road. One officer claimed he had been solely responsible for catching Mr McWard and bringing him down, with only one other constable helping to remove him.

Rejected

But the judge rejected much of the police evidence, deciding that he had been jumped on by as many as five officers, "using excessive force to detain him." He preferred to believe the "broad account" of events given by Mr McWard and eyewitnesses to the incident.

Commenting on two sets of police notes allegedly made independently, Mr Justice Potts said: "The similarities are overwhelming."

The judge added he was "quite satisfied" that the two officers had collaborated in making the reports, "for reasons best known to themselves." He also rejected claims by the police that Mr McWard had been "weaving his way in between officers" in a vain attempt to evade arrest.

Screaming

Witnesses said he had been screaming: "My leg, my leg - it's broken," but that police had dragged him away in "a cruel and peremptory manner," ignoring the severity of his injuries.

The judge decided Mr McWard was not responsible for the original attack on the three police officers, and was not involved in any subsequent violence against the police.

However, claims for exemplary damages were rejected by Mr Justice Potts, who said: "The task of police officers engaged in crowd control is notoriously difficult. This incident in which he was involved was akin to the sort of scrum in American football."

He also rejected suggestions that Mr McWard was deliberately punched while on the ground, and that police had dragged him away knowing his leg to be broken.

HC 14-4-89

Call for inquiry into arrest injuries

A SOLICITOR has called for an inquiry into how her client came to receive injuries during the course of his arrest.

Clifford Nash, 69, suffered extensive injuries and bruising when he was arrested in his garden in Eldersfield Road, Homerton, on Wednesday of last week.

When he appeared in court his clothes were filthy and his head, chest, and back were covered in cuts and bruises.

Mr Nash (pictured right), a retired chef with two children, appeared before Old Street magistrates last week facing three charges connected with the incident. The case was adjourned until May 4.

He is a familiar figure around the streets of Homerton as he is a "revival woe man" - a devout Christian fundamentalist given to chanting loudly.

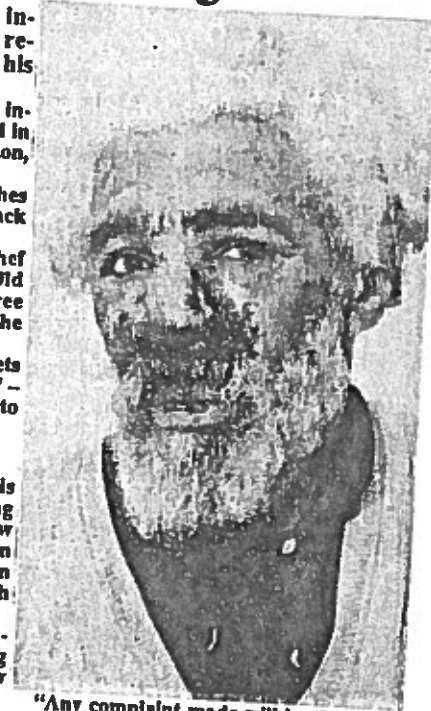
Complaint

His solicitor, Barbara Hopkin, said: "His religious chanting has led to him appearing in court on many occasions in the past few years, and he has received many visits from the police in that time. I previously made an official complaint about the frequency with which the police have been to his home.

"However, this latest incident is of a completely different order, and I shall be asking the police for a full explanation as to how these injuries were received."

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, of Hackney police, said: "The matter is currently sub judice as Mr Nash is to face proceedings at court. No complaint has been received.

"Any complaint made will be thoroughly and independently investigated. I am aware of all the circumstances surrounding the case and have full confidence in my officers."



H C 14.4.89

Top cop's fears for rookies

ROOKIE cops are having to confront violence in Hackney because more experienced policemen are afraid to work in the borough.

That's the claim from Dalston's top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist, who spoke out after three constables were rushed to hospital following separate, vicious attacks in just five days.

One Pc needed 16 stitches in his head and face after an attack, and another was taken to Homerton Hospital's intensive care unit after he was stabbed in the chest.

Two of the officers are probationers with less than two years' experience on the streets.

Paying tribute to the rookies' courage, Chief Supt Twist said: "Many of these officers are young and working in Hackney is their

Three young Pcs injured in separate attacks

first experience of the dangers of inner-city areas.

"Unfortunately, many officers with experience in London now recognise the dangers in areas such as this and are reluctant to serve here. Few police officers wish to work in areas where the likelihood of them being assaulted is so high.

"If it wasn't for young officers such as these, I would have grave difficulty policing the streets of Hackney."

Mike Bennett, chair of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said attacks on officers rocketed to 4,500 in 1987 from 3,400 the previous year. These grim figures mean one in every four officers have been victims of assault.

He said: "The problem is that we lose officers so quickly and often the replacements are being thrown in at the deep end and not being given the opportunity to learn their job."

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And the vice squad's Pc David McIver, 23, who has three years' experience, was stabbed in the chest by a man suspected of peddling drugs - also in Manor Road - in the early hours of last Thursday morning.

Just days before, Pc Colin MacLennan, 21, broke his arm arresting three men in Stoke Newington Church Street. The officers will all be on sick leave for weeks.



● Chief Supt Peter Twist.

Police asked to explain pensioner's injuries

AN inquiry has been called for after a pensioner suffered extensive bruising and injuries while being arrested.

Clifford Nash appeared in court with filthy clothes and his head, chest and back covered in cuts in bruises.

Mr Nash, 69, suffered the injuries when he was arrested in his garden in Elderfield Road, Homerton, two weeks ago.

A retired chef with two children, he appeared at Old Street magistrates last week on three charges connected with the incident. The case was adjourned until May 4.

He is familiar in Homerton as a "revival woe man" - a devout Christian fundamentalist who chants loudly.

His solicitor Barbara Hopkin has called on police to give a full explanation of the incident.

She said: "His religious chanting has led to him appearing in court on many occasions in the past few years and he has received many visits from the police in that time.

"I previously made an official complaint about the frequency with which the police have been to his home.

"However, this latest incident is of a completely different order and I shall be asking the police for a full explanation as to how these injuries were received."

Hackney police's Chief Superintendent Niall Mulvihill said because Mr Nash faces court proceedings the case was sub judice.

"Any complaint made will be thoroughly and independently investigated. I am aware of all the circumstances surrounding the case and have full confidence in my officers," he added.

Rally will remember Blair Peach

COACHES leave Hackney for Southall on Sunday for a rally in memory of Blair Peach, the Hackney teacher killed by the Special Patrol Group in the Southall anti-racist demonstration of 1979.

Hackney Community Defence Association and Hackney NUT are among organisations attending the rally.

The speakers will include Arthur Scargill and Islington MP Jeremy Corbyn.

The death of Mr Peach provoked a nationwide outcry and his common-law wife, Celia Stubbs, was among those who campaigned unsuccessfully for the prosecution of the officers involved.

Coaches will leave the Family Centre in Rectory Road, Stoke Newington, at 11.30am on Sunday. Tickets for the coach can be obtained from Hackney Community Defence Association on 240 0193.

HE 19.4.89

Unions back Blair Peach

anniversary rally

Report by

Mark Gould



MINERS' leader Arthur Scargill will address a mass rally on Sunday to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the death of Hackney teacher Blair Peach who was killed after police broke up an anti-racist demo.

Six coaches from Hackney carrying representatives of the National Union of Teachers and members of Hackney Community Defence Association will take part in the march and rally in Southall.

It was there on April 23 1979 that the 32-year-old teacher from Lavender Grove Haggerston, died.

Controversy surrounds the circumstances of his death and the involvement of the police Special Patrol Group.

Although eleven eyewitnesses saw him being struck by uniformed officers no criminal or disciplinary measures were taken against any police officer, although the Peach family were recently awarded £75,000 compensation.

The death of Blair Peach, who taught at the Phoenix Junior School in Bow, sparked nationwide publicity led by his common-law wife

Celia Stubbs who has campaigned for justice and the prosecution of the officers concerned.

She addressed a meeting in Hackney at the Family Centre in Rectory Road on Tuesday night.

"It was a legal milestone that we got the police to release statements about the killing," said Celia, who still lives in Lavender Grove, Haggerston.

"I think the experience and knowledge we gained was good for other campaigns but I would still like to see the officers involved prosecuted."

"For many people who were involved with Blair it was a horrendous happening. All experiences are positive but I wouldn't wish it on anyone."

"There is nothing more that can be done through the courts but the meeting this Sunday in Southall is seen as a celebration of ten years of struggle against racism."

Joining NUM leader, Arthur Scargill, on the speakers' platform this weekend will be Islington MP, Jeremy Corbyn.

Coaches leave for the Southall meeting from the Family Centre at 11.30 am. Tickets £2/£1.

Policeman on assault charge

A **POLICE** officer accused of perverting the course of justice following an alleged incident where he is said to have assaulted a man in the back of a police vehicle, has been committed on unconditional bail to the Old Bailey by Highbury magistrates.

Pc Daniel Acquah, who gave his address as Dalston police station, faces two summonses alleging that on August 27 last year in Norcott Road, Stoke Newington, he assaulted Mr Matthew Xavier, causing him actual bodily harm and, at the same time with intent to pervert the course of justice, he manufactured false evidence alleging that he was assaulted by Mr Xavier.

HC 21.4.89

The victims of scum



THE true face of Hackney was shown in all its goriest details last week.

In this gruesome picture on the front page of last week's Gazette, Pc Paul Evans displayed 16 stitches on wounds to his head and face sustained when he was attacked by a suspect.

It was accompanied by stories of two other young Pcs, one of whom was stabbed and another who broke his arm in similar circumstances.

There are probably people who will rub their hands in glee at these tales of brutalised Pcs. The local police have been sur-

rounded by controversy in recent years over attacks on Gary Stretch, Trevor Monerville and Tunay Hassan. But a defenceless copper is just another victim to the mindless scum who walk, armed to the teeth, on the streets of this borough.

Another picture in last week's gruesome paper showed Belinda Yeend, a teenager who had her face slashed by a man who tried to rape her.

If they are mindless enough to slash a cop, they are mindless enough to disfigure any of us.

— Martin Talbot



● Marion Gaima — victorious.

Victory for Gaima in deport battle

MARION Gaima has won her eight-year battle against deportation.

The nightmare of uncertainty was finally ended for the 37-year-old Hackney Council worker by a Home Office announcement that she could stay in Britain.

Ms Gaima, who has lived in Britain since 1973, always claimed she would face persecution from her father's political enemies if she was forced to return to her native Sierra Leone. Last year a High Court judge agreed with her.

Announcing the decision to allow Ms Gaima to stay, Junior Home Office minister Tim Renton said: "I am reviewing the case, I have obviously been influenced by the length of Ms Gaima's residence here, her active role in the church, and her contribution to her local community."

Campaign

Her victory follows a huge campaign mounted by NALGO and supported by all political parties in Hackney Council, and many community groups.

Ms Gaima, who works for the environmental health department, said: "I am very relieved and happy to have this threat lifted and I can now carry on with my life."

"I was moved by all the support I received from the many people who worked on my behalf. I would like to thank them all."

A celebration party to mark her victory will take place at Hackney Town Hall at 7.30pm on May 5, with local band The Homertones providing the music. Tickets are £3 (£1.50 unwaged).

HG 21. 4. 89

5,000 remember Blair Peach

TEN YEARS after the death of anti-racist teacher Blair Peach, over 5,000 people yesterday took to the streets of Southall, Middlesex, to mark the anniversary.

by LUCIEHYNDLEY

April 23 1979 saw a huge community demonstration in Southall against a National Front meeting held at the Town Hall.

A massive police "swamping" operation meant the town centre was cordoned-off by thousands of riot police. During the day's unrest Blair Peach died following a blow from a police truncheon.

A nine-year battle to find his killer was halted last year when the Metropolitan Police paid "compensation" to Mr Peach's brothers.

Rally

Yesterday, flanked by the flutes and drums of the Rising Phoenix Republican Band, marchers carried wreaths in remembrance.

The procession moved from Southall Park to a rally at the Fenner Brockway Centre.

Banners bore witness to support from teachers' unions and schools remembering their colleague.

Trades councils, unions and stu-



● Thousands marched through Southall, Middlesex, yesterday to mark the 10th anniversary of the death of anti-racist teacher Blair Peach.

dents came from all over the country to lend support. They were joined by the Indian and Pakistani workers' associations and other community groups.

As the procession passed the corner of Orchard Avenue where Blair Peach died, marchers fell silent and raised their clenched fists in mute tribute.

At the rally, Suresh Grover from the Southall Monitoring Group

welcomed the marchers.

"Ten years on, we are still here, we are still alive and still strong. We must keep the anti racist fight alive for the next 10 years," he said.

Brutal

Clarence Baker, who himself spent two weeks in intensive care after being hit by a police truncheon during the events of 1979, said: "What took place then was

just the beginning of things to come.

"We have seen the brutal way the police have been used against the trade unions and ordinary people."

Blair Peach's common-law wife Celia Stubbs said: "Many of us here today were here 10 years ago."

"Now let us re-dedicate ourselves and unite together to fight racism, oppression and fascism from whichever source it comes," she added.

MS 24 - 4 - 89

IN BRIEF

Gary Stretch decision

HACKNEY's Police Consultative Group will on Thursday consider whether to hold a special public meeting on Gary Stretch, the 25-year-old left with half an ear hanging off after he was allegedly attacked 18 months ago by seven off-duty constables in The Limes pub in Hackney Road.

Mr Stretch lodged an official complaint against the officers, but was told they would not face criminal charges. Now the PCG - which earlier this year accused the complaints system of being slow, secretive, and unfair - want to hear his views on it.

Police chase

A HIGH-SPEED police chase through the streets of Shoreditch ended with a motorcyclist under arrest in hospital with a broken neck.

The biker collided with a parked car and smashed into an advertising hoarding in Hackney Road. The injured man was rushed to the London Hospital, Whitechapel.

A police spokesman said: "We recovered two substantial pieces of what we believe to be cannabis, and are waiting for the results of forensic analysis."

HC 28.4.89



Special meeting on Stretch case

A SPECIAL meeting of Hackney's Police Consultative group is to be held next month to discuss the case of a Hoxton man who alleges he was beaten up outside a pub by seven off-duty policemen based at City Road.

Members voted 14 to 3 in favour of having a special meeting to discuss the case of 25 year-old Gary Stretch, pictured left at the time of the alleged incident, who claims he was left with half his ear hanging off after being attacked by the officers outside the Limes pub in Hackney Road two years ago.

The Crown Prosecution Service decided in January that the seven suspended constables would not face criminal charges after an investigation by the independent Police Complaints Authority.

But the officers still remain suspended and face an internal police inquiry and possible disciplinary action.

Mr Stretch's father, Eddie, who lives with his son on the Cranston Estate, was at the consultative group meeting. He is still going ahead with a civil action against the officers.

But Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, in charge of City Road police, stressed that as the seven policemen were still the subject of an on-going investigation he would not be able to comment on the details of the Stretch case.

The Consultative group has been critical of the slowness and secrecy of the complaints procedure and he said he was willing to comment on police policy towards the complaints investigation system.

"But on individual details regarding the Stretch case, I could not respond as I am precluded from doing so by the rules of sub-judice," he said.

David Fitzpatrick of the Green Party said a special meeting would point out to the public that the consultative group was "addressing the serious issues that matter to people."

Chair Betty Blomfield told the Gazette this week: "The purpose will be to listen to both sides of the case."

"It will be similar to the meeting held about the Trevor Monerville case. But I hope it will be discussed rationally and sensibly and not turn into a slanging match like that did."

The meeting will be held at Dalston Roots Hall community hall on Thursday, June 29 at 7.30pm.

Police see red over defence group leaflets

LEAFLETS containing "anti-police propaganda" which have been distributed in Hackney were described as "scurrilous" by a top cop at the meeting.

The leaflets produced by the police monitoring group, Hackney Community Defence Association, catalogued cases like that of Trevor Monerville, the 19-year-old Stoke Newington man who suffered a suspected blood clot on the brain after being arrested and spending two days in Stoke Newington

police station.

It strongly criticised the police and described the police consultative group as "unrepresentative" and "nothing more than a talking shop."

But Supt Dave Dugmore of Hackney's Youth and Community section was scathing about its content.

"With my knowledge of some of the individual incidents referred to, it is clearly apparent that this organisation is trying to pursue its own extremist interests at the expense of the police ser-

vice," he said.

"This document represents an extremely poor reflection of the truth as it distorts many of the facts, contains numerous inaccuracies, and more importantly, omits some very important elements, which would clearly change the readers' impression of what actually occurred."

"I regard it as scurrilous as it provides neither a balanced nor constructive view."

Local bias hope for recruitment drive

MAJOR police recruitment drive backed by the consultative group is being launched in Hackney next month.

But Hackney's top cops could not give the consultative group any assurance that people recruited by the campaign would be in the borough.

"It is not in our power to say where they will be placed," said Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill from Hackney police.

"There are other commitments and requirements elsewhere in the force, but the fact is to get Londoners policing their own area."

The campaign will be the first of its kind in the borough because not only will it attempt to recruit for the regular police force, it will also be recruiting for the police cadet corps, the Met's civilian staff and the Special Constabulary.

It is keen to attract members of the ethnic minorities and black and Asian officers will be present at various locations in the borough to give advice and guidance to ap-

plicants from those communities.

The week-long campaign starts on Monday, June 26.

A police mobile display vehicle where people can chat with officers, watch videos, and get information, will be in Mare Street near Woolworth's from Monday to Thursday and then moves to Dalston's Ridley Road market on Friday and Saturday.

The police also hope to have shop premises in Dalston Cross and another mobile vehicle in Hoxton during the Friday and Saturday.

"We also plan to use police horses and dogs in the campaign," said Supt Dave Dugmore of Hackney Youth and Community Section.

"We want people from all sections of the community and it is not just jobs with the regular police force that we are offering."

"There are clerical vacancies within our civilian staff and we want recruits for the Special Constabulary and the Police Cadet Corp."

Freeway fights crime on all fours

MAN'S best friend is also his ally in the fight against crime.

The role of the police dog was explained to consultative group members with the help of "Freeway" the four-legged crimefighter.

The German Shepherd was brought to the meeting for a talk given about the work of the Metropolitan Police Dog Handling Section.

Freeway is one of the Met's 300 dogs which are used to perform a wide variety of police work.

But pursuit and detection of criminals plays only a small part of their functions.

"They also play a major part in tracking and searching for missing children as well as in the recovery of property discarded by criminals attempting to escape and evade police," said Insp Eric Hampson from the Met's Dog Handling Section.

He explained that Freeway and his handler Pc Bill Warren, were typical of the 35 dog handling teams which cover an area from Hackney's City Road to the borders of Essex.

They are split into two units based at Bow

and Harold Hill and are on attachment 24 hours a day to police stations throughout the different divisions.

The Met breeds 80 per cent of the dogs it uses. At 10-13 weeks old they are placed with an officer and brought up in the family environment with the officer's wife and children.

The puppy is carefully monitored for control and correct attitude and at 12 months old it goes on a three-month basic training course.

Once it has completed that it is operational, but training continues on the streets and every four months the dog receives a week's training at a local centre.

Dogs don't stay in kennels, they live with their handler and his family. After eight years service they are retired and given to the handler as a family pet. "It is easy to train dogs to be aggressive and bite," added Insp Eric Hampson. "But we train dogs which can be aggressive and passive and can switch off in a nice passive way without being a liability to its handler, the public or the officer's children."

Life sentence for killer Yardie

AN evil member of the Yardies - the sinister black mafia - was jailed for life at the Old Bailey on Monday for the cold-blooded 'execution' of a rival. His teenage accomplice, from Stoke Newington, got six years.

Trevor "Sammy Dread" Miller, 24, a Jamaican, smiled as he blasted half his victim's head away with a shotgun.

He was told by Judge Robert Lyndbery, QC: "This was an act of utmost barbarity alien to anything which we are accustomed to here. People in this country of whatever colour have a right to protection from those such as you."

Police believe the motive for murder was a bloody feud between drugs gangs.

The shooting came at the end of a day of shocking violence at the Priory Community Centre, Acton Lane, Acton, which was supposed to be celebrating its re-opening after a

fire.

Later Miller and 16-year-old Barron "Danger Mouse" Campbell from Stoke Newington walked into the centre carrying a double-barrelled shotgun. The teenager handed the gun to Miller who took careful aim and fired.

His victim was Alwyn Alfred, 24, a mechanic, of Chiswick. He died nine days later.

Miller later bragged about the callous killing. But when arrested and during his trial he denied being the gunman.

Miller, of no fixed address, was found guilty of murder.

He pleaded not guilty.

Campbell, of Filley Avenue, was cleared of murder. He was sentenced to six years in a young offenders institution after being found guilty of manslaughter.

He also pleaded not guilty.

HC 12-5-89

REFUGEES DUMPED

Four
hundred
Kurds flee
Turkish
oppression

Stories
by Max
Velody

FOUR hundred hungry and homeless Kurds were dumped in the borough this week.

They are refugees who have fled from Turkey, where they

say they face persecution, torture and death

Community groups, churches, and the council have launched a crisis appeal to provide the refugees with shelter, blankets, and food.

And Hackney Council has begged the government for emergency cash to cope with the crisis.

Council leader Andrew Puddephatt warned that the borough could go bankrupt if it were forced to house all the homeless families.

He said: "We are on the brink of one of the major refugee problems to have hit Britain since the Second World War.

"The government response has been uncoordinated, when what is required is a European-wide solution."

The Kurdistan Workers' Association in Balls Pond Road and the Halkevi Turkish Community Centre in Stoke Newington Road are working flat out to help the refugees.

Ishan Qadir, of the KWA, said: "We have had a tremendous response to our appeal for help - but more refugees are turning up at Gatwick every day."

All have applied for political asylum. A spokesperson for the Home Office told the



● Penniless, homeless, and hungry... exhausted refugees ready to bed down on the floor of Hackney Downs Baptist Church Hall.

Gazette: "We are seeking to establish whether these people have a well-founded fear of persecution."

He added that Hackney's plea for emergency cash was under consideration.

Hackney Baptist Church is sleeping several refugees in its church hall. Minister Steve Latham told the Gazette: "We believe Christ loves refugees. We will have them here for as long as it takes."

● A support group has been set up to help the refugees. If you can contribute food, money, blankets, clothes or accommodation, please contact 249 6930. Cheques payable to HACD No 3 account.

"We are on the brink of one of the major refugee problems to have hit Britain since the Second World War" - council leader Andrew Puddephatt



● Hassan Cimen... his grandmother was shot dead, his brother is waiting to be hanged.

Farmer had to bribe officials to get to safety

FARMER Hassan Cimen saw his 85-year-old grandmother shot dead by Turkish troops in 1978.

A death sentence hangs over the head of his brother Mehmet, who has spent 10 years rotting in a brutal jail waiting for his appeal to be heard.

Both are victims of the persecution faced by Kurds living in Turkey.

Hassan, 23, pictured above, finished his military service in February. Returning to his native village of Akdemir, he realised he would have to flee.

Speaking through an interpreter, he told the Gazette: "The army were running riot through my village."

"Soldiers were ordering old people to strip naked and run through the streets. Three of my friends were arrested, locked in solitary confinement and tortured."

"Kurds are forbidden to speak Kurdish, listen to Kurdish music, or identify themselves in any way as being Kurdish. My brother was sentenced to hang because he was strip-searched one day while walking down the street - and was found to be a member of the banned Kurdistan Workers Party. He was just 19 at the time."

Hassan left home on Wednesday last week, leaving behind his parents, two brothers, and a sister. "I had to pay officials a £120 bribe to get a passport. When I got to Istanbul, I had to bribe the police before I could get a flight."

Tired, penniless, and disorientated, Hassan is now living in the offices of the Kurdish Workers' Association in Kingsland Road. "I am thankful that there is a Kurdish community in London, and grateful for all that has been done for me since I came."

"Now I pray the authorities will let me stay."

Roach father wins damages

THE father of Colin Roach, the young black man who died of gunshot wounds in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station, has won £12,500 damages from the police.

On Wednesday a High Court jury decided that police had unlawfully arrested 60-year-old James Roach during a protest march over his son's death in 1983 - and then maliciously prosecuted him.

But the jury rejected an allegation by Mr Roach, of Exmoor House, Lanfranc Road, Bow, that police had assaulted him.

Mr Roach's counsel, Mr Terence Munyard, told the court the damages action arose out of the "tragic" death of 21-year-old Colin Roach.

At the time there were allegations he had been murdered by police. An inquest subsequently found he had committed suicide.

HC 12-5-89

Police slammed over handling of fire tragedy

POLICE have been attacked for the "insensitive" way they treated the grieving parents of the brother and sister who died in a caravan fire on a Travellers' site in Lower Clapton.

Parents Joseph and Mary Lawrence were held in custody for more than 36 hours before being released without charge after rescuing six of their children from the blazing caravan in Powell Road.

In a letter to the Gazette the support group, Teachers For Travellers, said Joseph and Mary were held separately and couldn't comfort each other after the death of children Martina, aged four, and Gerard, five.

Other Travellers told the group: "They should be in a hospital, not a cell."

"Those of us who worked with the family know them to be close and caring. We know the parents would have done nothing to hurt the children."

"Joseph rescued six of children from the burning caravan and was prevented from reaching the other two by smoke and flames."

"The shock and pain suffered by the

Grieving parents locked in prison cell

surviving children was made infinitely worse by their separation from their parents," they said.

Teachers For Travellers also criticised the way police took other Travellers away for questioning when they came to play their respects.

"Where grief might have been shared, it was intensified by insensitive policing," they said.

Despite the outburst the police have defended their actions. One of the men leading the investigation, Det Insp Roger Williams, said "It's always easy to say we were lacking in sensitivity after the

event. At the time our main concern was to investigate the death of two young children and the only way we could do that was the way it was done."

Det Insp Williams confirmed that the parents were detained in separate cells but given full rights including visitors and access to a solicitor. He said that other Travellers were taken away for questioning following problems on the site.

"It was a difficult situation for the police to deal with. We didn't have the greatest amount of co-operation or truth and it took us a long time to get to the bottom of what happened on the site that evening," he said.

Police investigations have ruled out any suspicious circumstances. The more likely cause of the accident was children playing with matches.

A full report will be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service as the question of why young children were playing with matches late at night may lead to a prosecution, say police.

The bodies of the dead children will be flown back to County Mayo in Ireland for burial.

Slanging match jibe sparks row

A ROW erupted this week after the chair of Hackney's police consultative group described the special meeting it held to discuss the Trevor Monerville case as "a slanging match."

The remarks made by Betty Blomfield came after the consultative group agreed last week to hold a similar meeting next month to discuss the case of Hoxton man Gary Stretch, who alleges he was beaten up outside a pub by seven off-duty policemen.

She said she hoped it wouldn't develop into a "slanging match" like the one held 18 months ago to discuss the case of 19-year-old Trevor Monerville who suffered a suspected bloodclot on the brain after being arrested and spending two days in Stoke Newington police station.

The comments provoked an angry response this week from the Trevor Monerville Campaign, which denied the meeting had been a slanging match because senior police officers had refused to answer when quizzed by members of the Monerville family and the police consultative group.

Parroted

"The police did not bother to speak they merely parroted the interim statement of the Police Complaints' Authority which inferred that the Monerville family was 'obstructing the path to the truth' and that the PCA was seeking legal advice against them," said Graham Smith of the campaign.

"Later Sir Cecil Clothier, chair of the PCA, acknowledged that the family was acting strictly within its rights in refusing to co-operate with the PCA."

"It has effectively shelved the case and 18 months later the PCA has not produced a full report."

"Ms Blomfield may dismiss such an event as a slanging match, but for the community, such occasions amount to hard learnt lessons of the police's refusal to accept any form of public accountability."

Colin Roach dad hears damages verdict in sick bed

THE father of Colin Roach, the young black man who died of gunshot wounds in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station, was in a hospital sick bed this week after winning a six year battle to clear his name.

Sixty-year-old James Roach was awarded £12,500 damages against the police after a High Court jury decided that police had unlawfully arrested him during a protest march over his son's death in 1983 and then maliciously prosecuted him.

But he was unable to be in court for the verdict because, he was in the London Hospital with a hip problem.

The jury decided that police had not satisfied them that Mr Roach was lawfully detained for allegedly interfering with the arrest of a man during the demonstration in Stoke Newington two months after his 21-year-old son died in the local police station.

They rejected Mr Roach's allegation that he was assaulted, but found that he was maliciously prosecuted.

Mr Roach, then 54, had claimed that police fabricated evidence against him on a charge of obstructing an officer in the execution of his duty. He was later cleared of the obstruction charge by Highbury Corner magistrates.

He was not in court for the verdict. His wife Pamela said he was ill in the Mile End Hospital.

She added: "I am very pleased about the decision. You learn to live with something like this, but the memories never go away. I



● Colin Roach

thank the jury for their true verdict."

The police contested Mr Roach's claim, arguing that he was lawfully arrested after attempting to obstruct an officer who was trying to arrest a man who was in possession of an offensive weapon.

They said Mr Roach struggled violently and any force used against him was reasonable and necessary. They denied fabricating evidence.

Mr Roach's case was that he was arrested during the march after telling police to leave a woman friend alone because she had a five-year-old child. He claimed he was then jumped on by officers.

At the start of the High Court trial, Mr Roach's counsel, Mr Terence Munyard, told Mr Justice Drake and the jury that the damages action arose out of the "tragic" death of Colin Roach in January 1983.

His death and the circumstances of it, said counsel, gave rise to enormous public concern.

A call for an independent public inquiry was resisted by the authorities and a demonstration march was arranged for March 12, the day before Colin Roach would have celebrated his 22nd birthday.

The jury heard that at this time there were allegations he had been murdered by police. An inquest subsequently found he committed suicide.

Mr Munyard said the young man's father, who was of good character, had reluctantly become a public figure and the focus of attention.

Mr Roach's arrest during the demo was for no good reason - possibly because officers knew he was the man at the centre of the allegation that Colin was murdered by police.

Even if they did not know this at the time of his arrest in the street, it must have been obvious who he was once they arrived at City Road police station, said counsel. Mr Roach was awarded costs against the police.

Sweatshop workers face immigration quiz

EIGHT Turkish clothing workers were arrested at a Dalston factory last week on suspicion of being illegal immigrants.

Their arrests sparked a peaceful demo outside Dalston police station by protesters angered at the arrests.

Police insist there were not looking for illegal immigrants when they went in to the factory.

Supt Dave Dugmore, of Dalston police, said: "Income Tax inspectors

asked us to accompany them on a visit to the factory in Shacklewell Lane. We were there to make sure there was no breach of the peace."

"When we arrived there some workers took fright at the sight of our uniforms and tried to run away. Our officers became suspicious at their behaviour, and arrested them." All eight men were released shortly afterwards, but must return to Dalston police station next week for more questioning.

HC 19.5.89

We're not extremists says police watch group

A POLICE monitoring group has defended itself against a scathing attack by a top cop who accused them of being extremists.

Hackney Community Defence Association has hit back following remarks made by Supt Dave Dugmore of Hackney police at the borough's police consultative group meeting.

And they have accused him of using a "supposedly non-political

forum" to air his own "prejudiced" political views.

The war of words comes after Supt Dugmore described as "scurrilous" a leaflet produced by HCDA giving details about an incident where a dozen police raided the home of two Hackney pensioners and arrested them.

The circumstances surrounding the arrest of Mr and Mrs Burke aged 76 and 70 led to Hackney South and Shoreditch MP Brian Sedgemore using his Parliamentary privilege to

call for the suspension of two police officers involved who he named in the House of Commons.

But the HCDA claims that instead of giving their observations on the case, police used it as an opportunity to attack the group with Supt Dugmore stating that the organisation was "pursuing its own extremist interests at the expense of the police service."

This week the group strongly refused that it was an extremist organisation saying it existed to cam-

paign against police malpractice and racist attacks.

"Four people have doied in police custody in recent years," said HCDA spokesperson, Graham Smith.

"We stand by all we have said on police malpractice. Instead of dismissing charges made against them and organisations which have publicly exposed police malpractice, the police should refer to substantive facts instead of resorting to propaganda."

Dad faces deportation appeal anguish

A DEDICATED father threatened with deportation is on tenterhooks waiting for the decision of his second appeal which could separate him from his family.

Julius Alexander of Sandringham Road, Dalston "celebrated" his 32nd birthday at the Immigration Appeals Tribunal trying to convince judges he shouldn't be kicked out of the country.

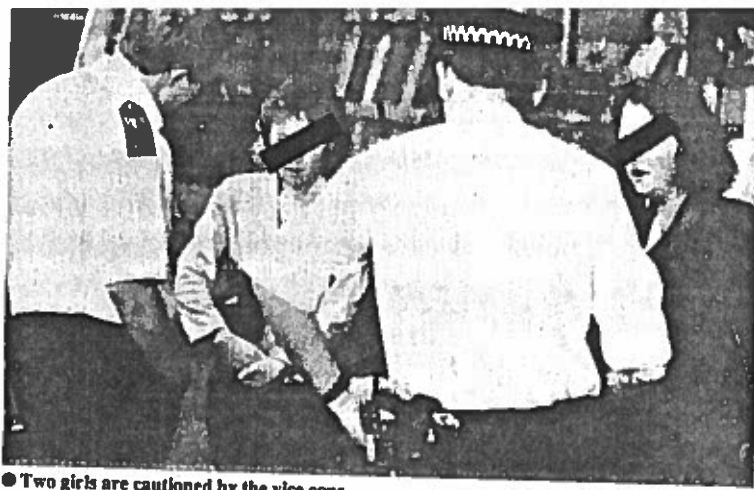
A deportation order was slapped on Julius last October. He came to Britain from the Caribbean island of St Vincent in October 1984 on a six-month visitor's visa - and has therefore been classed as an illegal immigrant since April 1985.

He lives with his 22-year-old fiancée Maureen Sams and his namesake baby son who was born just before Christmas after Julius won a reprieve. He is also regarded as father to Maureen's two little daughters, Beverley, five and Joanna, three.

It is the first local case since immigration laws were changed last August withdrawing compassionate grounds as a reason for being allowed to stay - unless you have lived in Britain for seven years.

A vigorous campaign was launched against the deportation and a huge picket comprising about 200 people was staged outside the court at last Thursday's hearing including students from North London Polytechnic where Julius used to work as a chef.

HC 26.5.89



● Two girls are cautioned by the vice cops.

ON THE STREETS

"I WOULDN'T like prostitutes working on my doorstep - especially if I had kids," admitted one pretty blonde teenager as she was hauled in by the vice squad.

"But why don't they just legalise it? In some European countries they pay tax and everything. I don't mind paying tax. We pay tax on our flats as it is."

Britain's vice laws are virtually medieval compared with systems used in European countries like West Germany. Designated streets in Hamburg are handed over to the prostitutes, who sit scantily-clad in doorways and on window sills looking for trade.

These legalised brothels allow them to stay within the law. A strict system of medicals and health checks is meant to keep the industry clean.

Each girl is issued with a pass book which police can demand to see. But even that system isn't favoured by the English Collective of Prostitutes - an illegal union for prostitutes.

A spokeswoman for the ECP, formed in 1975, said: "Most prostitutes still don't work in the legalised areas."

"The competition is very high with so many women working in such a small area. There also tends to be more pimps behind them."

The ECP actively campaigns for the abolition of the prostitution laws, but is against the restrictive systems used in Hamburg.

"Women should be in charge of their own working conditions and money. If prostitution wasn't illegal they wouldn't work in the same areas anyway," said the spokeswoman.

Legalised brothels are the answer, say girls on the game

person.

"There's absolutely no evidence that there's less AIDS or VD among prostitutes in Hamburg - even the BMA agrees with us on that."

"Prostitutes have practised safe sex for longer than AIDS has been in existence - good health is vitally important to them."

The ECP is probably the only union which battles for its own industry to be snuffed out - they want to wipe out the poverty that pushes so many women into prostitution.

"Women go on the game because of poverty," the spokeswoman said. "Benefits and wages for women should be higher so no other woman is forced into selling sex to live."



● One prostitute is arrested - after two earlier cautions.

Women in the front line

KERB CRAWLERS pestering housewives and mothers are the biggest menace to those living on the front line in the vice war.

The prostitutes are now virtually tolerated by residents of Ambhurst Park. But they once resorted to guerrilla tactics to beat the male punters.

In 1982, local women became so incensed they formed a vigilante patrol to venture on the streets and harass the kerb-crawlers. Heather Bailey, vice-chair of East Bank-West Bank Action Group, says: "We are not upset at the prostitutes because they don't affect us directly."

"We just want to walk the streets without men harassing us, although I suppose if

the prostitutes weren't there the kerb-crawlers wouldn't be either."

"But women feel very uncomfortable walking out at night. Men even walk up to you in the day time and proposition you. I know one woman who was stopped pushing a child in a pushchair."

East Bank and West Bank have won their fight now, after 10 years' campaigning, for a road closure scheme.

A "no entry" system stops cars entering West Bank to roar through the quiet side streets and get back to the main Ambhurst Park road to look for trade.

The only problem is that such measures simply push the problem from one street to the next.

STILLETTO-heeled, mini-skirted prostitutes have been a familiar sight since American GIs based in Stamford Hill provided a ready market in the 1940s. The vice menace has littered the streets of Stamford Hill and Finsbury Park ever since, angering and frustrating residents. Eight years

ago, Stoke Newington's permanent vice squad was set up to fight the menace - but still the tide shows no signs of turning. Road closure schemes have wiped out the problem in some areas of Finsbury Park, but simply moved the girls and their eager customers into neighbouring

streets. The arrests of prostitutes and kerb-crawlers in the first five months of this year are 10 per cent up compared with the same period in 1988. Reporter Martin Talbot and photographer Chris Wood went out with the squad on the night shift and probed the vice jungle.

OF AMHURST PARK SHAME

IN the dim light of the early evening, there's not a red light to be seen in Stamford Hill. But it's Friday evening, and to the trained eyes of Stoke Newington's vice squad it's promising to be a busy night on duty in one of London's most notorious districts.

It's 9.20pm and some of the prostitutes have already been working for hours. Sgt Paul Carroll says: "Sometimes they go straight from court in the afternoon and on to the streets to earn enough to pay their fine."

The police van cruises at a creeping pace. Only the small-paced kerb crawlers - looking for trade in their dozens - are slower.

Paul suddenly points to three prostitutes sitting at a bus stop. "There's a new one in the middle. Do you recognise her?" he enquires of his two colleagues.

The squad recognise every face on the street. An unfamiliar girl sticks out like a sore thumb. The two other girls are from Walsall, Insp Colin Day says. They come down to London because the rates are higher - usually about £30 a time. Some even commute, returning at the end of the week to their Midlands homes.

Last warning

We stop and the three are cautioned. It's an easy way to find out who the girl is and where she comes from. She's from Walsall too, we discover.

Now it's 9.45pm, and the streets are filling up with prostitutes - and dozens of punters on foot. We stop regularly to give the girls their first cautions and warn the punters to move on. "I think it's going to be a busy night tonight," Paul says.

A group of five prostitutes are holding an "unofficial union meeting" on a street corner. The van screeches to a halt, the three officers jump out and move them on. "That sort of gathering is just what the locals hate," Colin explains. "Any more of that and they'll be in the back of the van."

One girl well-known to the vice squad is called over to the side of the van. "This is your last warn-

ing Jean," says Pc Brian Stoker. "I've already been done twice this week, man," she implores. Brian replies: "If you're not careful it'll be three times tonight."

As we move away again Brian says: "You have to feel a little sympathy for girls like that. She's been sent out by her pimp to earn a certain amount of money. She's being forced on to the street and if she doesn't earn it she'll be beaten up."

Brian points to another well known girl who has to work the streets to feed her drug habit. It's a problem among many of the girls, with their pimps also working at drug dealers too.

'You have to feel a little sympathy...she's been sent out by her pimp to earn a certain amount of money. If she doesn't she'll be beaten up'

It's 10.25pm, and the evening's first arrests are made. Five girls who have already been cautioned twice are spotted again. The girls, aged between 20 and 27, cram into the back of the van, chatting merrily among themselves and with the three officers.

One reveals she earned enough in the previous two weeks to pay for her £2,000 leather lounge suite. "I wasn't out much either," she says.

Another says: "I wasn't even out last night. I haven't been out all week. And yet I'm being nicked tonight - it ain't fair! How long are we going to be? I've got to pay my rent tomorrow."

Brian jokingly asks if she's going to buy us fish and chips on the way to the station. "No way," she replies, "you'll be living off immoral earnings if I do that!"

We reach Dalston police station to charge all the girls at 11pm, and it's midnight before the paperwork is done and we're on our way again.

As we come out the girls are released too. Only if there's any risk of them not turning up at court can they be held in custody. Otherwise they're released on bail.

"Give us a lift back," one of the girls asks. They

know the answer's "no", and jump into a minicab. As we move off they're heading for Stamford Hill again - they'll be back there before we are!

Back at Amhurst Park it's as busy as before. We're quicker to arrest this time round because most of the girls have already had their first cautions.

"Oh no, not you again! I was in court this morning," exclaims one. "I was fined £10." The girl, aged 21, says she used to be a nurse in an old people's home. "I hope you don't want to search me. I think I might be pregnant," she adds.

Her partner is carrying a radio pager - "the oldest profession" is now a modern business. Her regular customers can contact her to leave a message and phone number to call back on, she says.

Colin says later that it was tonight by her pimp to they can keep in touch during the night. It also means that she can ply her trade without fear of being arrested, as she doesn't actually solicit for punters.

We're back at Dalston again by 12.30am. The girls are charged, the paperwork is started and we're off to Amhurst Park by just after 1am.

We quickly pick up four girls before heading back to the station for a third time. This time the girls are less friendly. It's getting late, and they're angry that the officers are still out looking for them.

Information

It's untypical of the strange camaraderie between the three cops and the girls. At one point in the evening we pull up at the kerb and Paul calls over to a pair of "old-style" prostitutes. They're about 40 years old.

One comes over. "Hello Paul," she says. "Alright Brian?" Five minutes of casual chat follows, as if between a gang of old friends.

As she leaves, the prostitute adds: "It's terrible out here tonight. There must be at least 20 new girls."

"We'll just have to take a few of them out for you then," Paul jokes.

As we pull away, Colin explains: "If you talk to them and treat them well they can come up with information. We see them every day of the week anyway. There's no point in getting nasty with them."

But now - it's 2am - the squad's street beat is over. There's an immense pile of paperwork back at the station which will keep them working until 4am.



● Night falls in Stamford Hill's red light district as two officers issue a caution.

The people they're after

THREE main offenders are sought by police.

THE GIRLS - It is only against the law for a girl to be offering or soliciting for the purpose of selling sex. Fines can be no more than £50 for a first offence, and £200 after that. But rarely are fines more than £50 to £100.

The girls have to be cautioned twice before it gets this far.

It's a fail-safe system which ensures no-one heading for a party or waiting for a bus ends up in court, says Insp Colin Day.

He adds: "Soliciting in the street is illegal. But a call girl with an agency doesn't commit an offence."

KERB CRAWLERS - Before new laws were introduced in 1985, police had to stretch the law to prosecute them for insulting behaviour. There is still no power to arrest, though.

The motorist can be stopped but his offence is legally no worse than any traffic offence, like driving through a red light.

A man can only be charged if inside or close to his car. Most punters have wised up to this

and leave their cars well away, walking in for trade.

PIMPS - These are the men who look after a prostitute - often through a form of protection racket - and live off her earnings. They are also often involved in more serious crimes.

They can be jailed for up to seven years. Nailing pimps is both time-consuming and costly, says Insp Day. Several days' surveillance would still not guarantee a conviction.

Insp Day claims about 75 per cent of the girls have pimps.



● Another girl is moved on.

HC 12.6.89

Top cop says police have learned public relations lesson

POLICE in Hackney have learned from past mistakes, a top cop said as he launched a week-long recruitment drive in the borough.

Supt Dave Dugmore put thousands of police jobs on offer as part of the campaign, sponsored by Hackney Police and the Community Consultative Group.

Lessons have been learned since the days when hostility towards the police reached a bitter peak a few years ago, he claimed.

He spoke near the site of the old Stoke Newington police station where public rows were sparked off by the death of Colin Roach in 1983.

Supt Dugmore said: "We have come a long way since those days. There are still improvements to be made but we have made important strides in the right direction.

"The public are now much more aware of what the police force has to offer," he added. "As a service we may have been a little introspective, but that's changed."

At a press conference launching the campaign, Clem Derick, divisional boss of all ILEA's social workers, said: "The police have got to recognise the problems they

have had in the past.

"Taking a positive attitude to the problems of the past is very important. I don't think we should take the serious concerns about the nature of the force lightly.

"This campaign is part of that process. As a young black person I wouldn't be here if I didn't think that was so."

Supt Dugmore said there are between 1,800 and 2,000 police jobs on offer this year as Met police cadets, special constables and regular cops.

There are also hundreds of civilian jobs within the force for everything from musicians, architects, surveyors and catering staff.

There will be a particular effort on attracting ethnic minorities into the force, added Supt Dugmore.

The campaign starts on Monday with a mobile careers unit parked outside Woolworth's in Mare Street until Thursday. It will then move to Ridley Road for Friday and Saturday. There will also be a careers stall in unit 13 at Dalton Cross Shopping Centre from Monday until Saturday. Both offices open from 10am to 4pm.

Police sued for damages

THE grandparents of Trevor Monerville are suing the Commissioner Of Police for damages for trespass to land, assault, false imprisonment, and malicious prosecution.

Edgar Burke, 76, and Marie Burke, 71, made their claims and allegations in a writ served in the High Court this week. It refers to incidents alleged to have taken place on January 15 at the Burkes' home in Richmond Road, Dalston, and at Hackney police station.

Their grandson, Trevor, has been a figure of controversy ever since he was found to have brain damage following his arrest by Stoke Newington police two years ago.

HG 23.6.89

Rookie cops in award chance over Yardie arrest



● Pc Michael Boyle

A PAIR of rookie cops are in line for a bravery award for capturing Yardie gun-runner Robert Johnson.

With a total of nine months on the beat between them, Dalston Pcs Michael Boyle and Richard Jackson arrested the killer after a chase through the streets of Hackney.

The gunman, from Islington, was last week jailed for 15 years at the Old Bailey after he was found guilty of the manslaughter of his three-year-old son Liam.

Pc Jackson and Pc Boyle were commended during Johnson's trial by Judge Thomas Pigot and are now being put up for a commendation from London's top cop, Commissioner Sir Peter Imbert.

But the two policemen shrugged off the acclaim saying: "That's what we are in this uniform for. Although it's not every day you get to chase a gunman."

"We didn't realise who Johnson was - just that he was acting suspiciously. But we had to stop him, we couldn't let some bloke run around the streets with a gun."

The two cops, both 20, who only left Hendon training college last autumn, tackled Johnson after spotting him in Amhurst Road, Dalston, at 4am on March 20.

When they approached him, Johnson pulled out a semi-automatic pistol and pushed it within inches of Pc Jackson's face.

He threatened the courageous cops and fled, but they gave chase taking cover behind the rows of cars parked at the kerb.

They followed him into Fernhill Road where Johnson disappeared into some bushes.

After searching for him, Johnson finally came running out claiming he had been threatened by a gunman, but the cops were not fooled and Pc Boyle arrested him.

Superintendent Roy Clark praised the two cops: "For two such young and inexperienced officers they showed extreme bravery."

Reports were being submitted to Sir Peter Imbert's office at Scotland Yard.



● Pc Richard Jackson

Woman in blaze rescue

FIREMEN wearing breathing apparatus rescued a 74-year-old woman from a burning house in Haggerston, in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Antonia Lavagna was overcome by smoke as she lay asleep in an upstairs bedroom of her terraced house in Pownall Road.

Charity blow

CHARITY groups who want to set up stalls in street markets may have to fork out cash for a licence. Councilors are expected to approve a scheme whereby charity groups will have to pay if they have goods for sale.

'Give us more bobbies on the beat' top cops told

PEOPLE don't feel safe on Hackney's crime-ridden streets because they never see a policeman patrolling their neighbourhood for months at a time.

That was the law and order message delivered to Hackney's top cops by Tory councillor, Joe Lobenstein, at the borough's police consultative group meeting held in Dalston's Roots Pool Hall.

The Tory opposition leader said he had not seen a uniformed home beat bobby for several months in Stoke Newington's Springfield ward, which he represents and where he works and lives.

And he asked that work sheets of Home

Beat officers be made available for the period so he could see, on average, how many hours are spent by neighbourhood bobbies on the streets.

He said the system was not working and that many people felt it was a waste of time phoning the police when they saw the law being broken because they took so long to respond.

"When I attend tenants' meetings and other meetings in my ward, the same complaint crops up time and again that the public never see a policeman patrolling on foot round their way," he said.

"Old folk need to feel protected as the rate of crime increases. The public which pays for the police has the right to see home beat

officers doing their duty patrolling the streets."

Superintendent Maurice Gunter from Stoke Newington explained that home beat bobbies were only on duty for eight hours a day and had to cover a large area and do a great deal in the community.

"In addition to them there are many more in uniform, including response units which work a 24-hour system," he said.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill of Hackney police said it was his belief that the home beat system was not only workable, but works, and that officers' commitment to their beat and the borough was total. "If it isn't they are removed," he said. "There needs to be a realisation by the public of what's expected of home

beat officers - they have to be all things to all people."

"When his rest days and leave are taken into account you can expect him to be available for duty for something like 220 days in any year. "The public expects him to deal with a variety of circumstances and that involves training. Ordinary relief officers also do training, so home beat officers have to stand in for them," he added.

"And reluctantly we are obliged to supply officers on occasions outside the borough. "Realism dictates that police officers are not always available, but on most days they are. Perhaps the public has had its expectations of beat bobbies raised and they are not as high profile as many want them to be."

Figures show violent crime still spirals

VIOLENCE is still on the increase according to the latest crime statistics provided to the police consultative group.

Figures for the first four months of the year show that recorded offences of violence against the person is up in Hackney from 353 to 382 compared to last year.

"The increase is not peculiar to Hackney and is a nationwide problem," said Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill.

Recorded cases of sex offences, street robbery and auto-crime are all down and there was success in improved clear-up rates and the number of arrests.

Auto-crime and robbery are still a problem though, with fewer arrests and clear-up rates both down.

"There is room for cautious optimism," added Mr Mulvihill. "There is a downward trend and it shows the police are providing at least a reasonable service."

The launch earlier this year of the joint police and council initiative to combat and monitor racial incidents, is also having success the group heard.

There have been 42 report incidents this year which is one less than the total for the whole of last year.

"This reflects within the community the greater knowledge of the campaign and improvements in the way these incidents are reported by officers," said Supt Dave Dugmore.

Hackney turns the crime corner claims top cop's report

CRIME figures are peaking in Hackney - that's the claim of Hackney's top cop.

The only blot on the copybook is a "disturbing" rise in violent attacks to twice the London average in 1988, added Chief Superintendent Niall Mulvihill in the divisional report.

Hackney is turning the corner on the crime front as the number of reported incidents dropped slightly last year, he said.

The report outlines police achievements last year and plans for 1989 in the Hackney Division, which covers Hackney and City Road police stations in the south of the borough.

Chief Supt Mulvihill said in the report that the latest figures confirmed the "depressing description" of Hackney as London's busiest division.

He added that people must take comfort from the fact that for the first time in many years the hitherto increasing crime levels appear to be peaking.

"In Hackney we recorded a marginal

drop of 0.9 per cent in the total of reported crime.

"The position would be a great deal healthier but for one particularly disturbing area of increase."

Violent crime rocketed from 465 in 1987 to 657 in 1988 - twice the London average - he said.

But the rise was because people were reporting crimes they weren't reporting in previous years, he claimed. The detection rate, clear-up rate and arrest rate were also up, he said.

In the report he added that crime-fighting in Hackney is hampered by major investigations into murder, rape and serious assaults which take officers away from their general duties.

There were six full-scale murder investigations in 1988, he said, two of which occupied 12 officers for four weeks and one which kept 16 men busy.

And in 10 more cases similar sized investigation units were set up to look into attempted murders.

HC 30.6.89

Yard investigates death of man arrested in violent struggle

THE death of a 22-year-old man who was forcibly restrained by police after his arrest on a suspected driving document offence is to be investigated under Police Complaints Authority supervision, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

Mr Jamie Stewart was found unconscious early yesterday after being locked in a cell at Holloway police station, north London. He was dead on arrival at hospital.

Mr Stewart, of Clapton, north London, was arrested in Finsbury Park, north London. He was in a car with three juveniles, one of whom was arrested at the same time and later made a complaint about the way Mr Stewart was treated, a spokeswoman said.

When Mr Stewart arrived at the police station, officers tried to search him after he was unable to prove his identity.

"He struggled violently and it was necessary to forcibly restrain and handcuff him. He was placed in a cell. Other than a cut tongue there was no visible sign of injury," the police spokeswoman said.

But about 38 minutes later his cell was checked and he was found to have no pulse.

A post-mortem examination failed to discover the cause of death. Further forensic tests will be carried out.

The inquiry, supervised by the Police Complaints Authority, would be carried out by the Metropolitan Police Complaints Investigation Bureau.

The spokeswoman said Mr Stewart had been questioned about possible unlawful possession of a vehicle and was taken to the station because he could not verify his identity.

G 3. 8. 89

Storm as man dies in police cell

A YOUNG black man died in a cell at Holloway police station in the early hours of Saturday after being arrested for a driving offence.

Police said Jamie Stewart, 22, struggled violently when he was taken to the station and "it was necessary to forcibly restrain him."

Half an hour later officers found Mr Stewart lifeless in a cell — and attempts to resuscitate him failed.

His death sparked a flood of protests from Labour politicians and community leaders.

Holloway police responded by appealing for calm and asking the Police Complaints

Authority of Investigate. A 16-year-old boy arrested with Mr Stewart has also lodged an official complaint.

Police also took the unusual step on Tuesday of releasing information not usually available until an inquest "in the interests of calming rumours among the community."

They said that only "minor injuries" were found on Mr Stewart's body and that a "concentration of cocaine" was found in his stomach.

Islington North Labour MP

Jeremy Corbyn has written to Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Peter Imbert saying: "I need hardly stress to you the deep concern in the community about this tragedy and the need for a rapid resolution of it by means of an open inquiry."

Chief Superintendent Doug Hopkins of Holloway police said: "We are very concerned about the death of this 22-year-old man in our care and also concerned that it could act as a catalyst for racial disorder."

Mr Hopkins invited repre-

sentatives of black community groups and Islington councillors to two emergency meetings this week.

He said: "If we are found to be wrong it is better to get it out in the open as soon as possible and do something about it."

Mr Stewart, who lived with his brother in Wicklow House, Stamford Hill Estate, Stoke Newington, was stopped by police in Hanley Road, Finsbury Park, shortly before 1am on Saturday.

■ Turn to page 3

CELL DEATH

■ From page 1

Police say he was driving erratically and had overtaken on a pedestrian crossing.

He was arrested because police were not convinced he owned the car and he could not provide positive identification.

One of his four passengers, a 16-year-old black youth, was also arrested for disorderly conduct.

When Mr Stewart was handcuffed and put in a cell police say the only visible injury was a cut tongue. He was found dead at 1.40am.

Mr Stewart's mother and father were informed of his death by police. The family's solicitor is having an independent post mortem carried out.

Police Commander David

Stevens expressed police sympathies to the relatives and said: "We deeply regret the death of this youngman."

Desmond Riley of black community group, Chi Centre, Seven Sisters Road, said: "I can't understand how a man stopped to produce driving documents ended up dead in a police station. This puts us back ten years in trying to find a solution to helping the community."

Councillor Derek Sawyer, Labour chairman of Islington Council's police and community safety committee said: "My worry is that unless there is a speedy and open inquiry it will lead to a lot of suspicion and a breakdown of trust between the community and the police, which will be very sad."

15 6 - 7 - 89

Stretch case meeting told how pub boss vanished

SEVEN off-duty policemen alleged to have beaten-up a Hoxton man in a crowded pub were assumed to be a "firm" of East End villains by the landlord, who vanished without trace shortly afterwards.

The ex-landlord of the Limes pub in Hackney Road is said to have thought they were a "firm" - underworld slang for a group of villains - because of their greased back hair and appearance.

He was a witness to the alleged incident two years ago in which 26-year Gary Stretch claims his car was sliced off and he was repeatedly kicked and punched.

Details of a verbal statement he is said to have made to Gary's father at the time were given to Hackney's Police Consultative Group at a special meeting held last week to discuss the case.

But the group were also told that the publican disappeared before providing a written statement to the investigation held by the Police Complaints Authority, and has never been tracked down.

Gary's postman father, Eddie Stretch, who lives on the Cranston Estate, explained to the meeting that the pub gov'nor told him he had no idea of the identity of the seven officers when violence broke out in his pub and assumed they were a "firm" because of their appearance.

The Crown Prosecution Service decided in January there was insufficient evidence for the seven constables from City Road to stand trial on criminal charges.

But they remain suspended from duty and face an internal police inquiry and possible disciplinary action ranging from reprimand to dismissal.

The family, who are now pursuing a civil action, complained to the meeting that there was overwhelming evidence for a prosecution, including 30 independent witnesses' statements.

"I was told that justice does not distinguish between civilians and police officers, but now I disagree," said Eddie Stretch. "I have seen some of the statements, and they are damning."



● Gary Stretch

● Dad Eddie Stretch

by RUSS LAWRENCE

Members of the Police Consultative Group, who have been critical of the slowness and secrecy of the complaints procedure, said they believed the investigation had been properly conducted.

But lack of information about how the investigation was proceeding, and the role of police in investigating complaints against themselves were questioned.

Demonstrates

"The Stretch case demonstrates the sort of problems experienced and the wider issues can be used as an example in our on-going fight with the PCA about the time it takes for investigations to be carried out," said Green Party representative, David Fitzpatrick.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, in charge of City Road police, refused to discuss details of the Stretch case at the meeting, but was willing to comment on police policy towards the complaints procedure.

"This is not the forum for it to be discussed when it could jeopardise pending proceedings against the suspended officers who face a disciplinary tribunal," he said. "You have only been given one version of the events."

Man 'beaten in police van' claim

Tenants are outraged after seeing arrest

OUTRAGED tenants on a Stamford Hill estate claim police officers dropped a handcuffed man from an 8ft wall, then beat him up in a van.

Their allegations follow a police chase early on Saturday morning around the Holmleigh Road estate.

An official police probe into their claims is already under way - and senior officers have twice visited the estate to calm angry residents.

Kay Bates, chair of the tenants' association, was among many people who say they were woken up at 5.40am by the screech of tyres turning into the estate.

She told the Gazette: "I saw a black youth leap over a wall. Three officers went after him, handcuffed him behind his back, and hoisted him onto the wall."

"Then they dropped him like a sack of potatoes."

Ms Bates saw the man taken to a van - and was horrified by what she saw next.

"An officer ran towards the police vehicles shouting 'which one is he in, which one is he in - let me at him.'"

"Then he got into the van and began punching and kicking the youth, who was hand-

cuffed and held on the floor by at least three officers."

Ms Bates' allegations have been corroborated by several tenants who have spoken to the Gazette. All claim to have witnessed the alleged beating, which they say they saw because a rear door of the police vehicle was open.

Ms Bates is among many residents who have called for the officers involved to be suspended.

Supt Roy Clark, of Dalston police, visited the estate on Tuesday to talk to tenants about the incident.

Police were anxious to quash rumours that the man arrested was Jamie Stewart, the 22-year-old Stamford Hill mechanic who died at Holloway police station in the early hours of Saturday morning and whose death is the subject of a top-level investigation by the independent police watchdog, the Police Complaints Authority.

Supt Clark told the Gazette: "The Holmleigh estate incident has been referred to the complaints branch."

"No police officer has been suspended, and I do not anticipate any being suspended in the near future."

Autopsy prompts cocaine link to man who died in police cells

A YOUNG black man was found dead in a police cell at the weekend - less than an hour after being involved in a violent struggle with police.

An investigation is underway into the death of Jamie Stewart, a 22-year-old mechanic who lived in Wicklow House on the Stamford Hill estate.

The inquest has not yet been held, but pathology tests revealed he had swallowed a large quantity of cocaine shortly before he died - and that, in the opinion of the pathologist, the injuries received during his struggle with police did not cause his death.

However the dead man's family is insisting on an independent pathology examination of the body - and the independent police watchdog, the Police

Complaints Authority, is investigating the circumstances of his death.

According to the police, they stopped Mr Stewart in Hanley Road, Finsbury Park at 12.40am on Saturday morning because officers believed the BMW he was driving was stolen.

When he couldn't provide any ownership documents, they arrested him and a 16-year-old youth and took them to Holloway station - where, according to a police spokesperson: "he put up a violent struggle, making it necessary for the officers to forcibly restrain him."

He was taken to a cell where, police say, he appeared uninjured apart from a cut tongue. But when he was checked 30 minutes later, he had no

pulse.

Attempts to revive him failed, and he was pronounced dead on arrival at Whittington Hospital.

The 16-year-old arrested with Mr Stewart has lodged an official complaint about the way the dead man was treated in the police station. And a number of groups have voiced concern about the circumstances of the death.

Hackney Community Defence Association has called for a public inquiry into the death, and for the officers involved to be suspended. Police, worried that the death could spark unrest, have already had meetings with community leaders and politicians to put their side of the story.

HC 7.7.89

TWO DEAD

'We want answers'

**Call for public
inquiry into
deaths in
police hands**

Outraged community groups have demanded a public inquiry into the tragic deaths of two black men after being arrested by the police.

The deaths of Jamie Stewart, 22, from Stamford Hill, north London and Edwin Carr, 39, from Camberwell, south London, have led to angry calls for the full facts to be revealed immediately.

Mr Stewart was taken to Holloway police station for suspected driving document offences. The police say he struggled violently, and they restrained him and put him in a cell. One hour later he was dead. All Mr Stewart's documents were in order as was his vehicle.

And police claim that Mr Carr, who was arrested for possessing cannabis "fell ill" as he spoke to a police surgeon. He was rushed to hospital and put on a life support machine, which was switched off a week later when he was declared brain dead.

Confidence

"We have already had a lot of tension in the community because of the deaths, and there have been heated confrontations between black people and police. A public inquiry could help to calm the community," said Lee Jasper of the National Black Caucus, who is a leading campaigner for greater police accountability.

**By
Claire
Hynes**

Although the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) are already investigating the deaths, few people seem to have confidence it will uncover the facts.

Custody

The Society of Black Lawyers are among those giving the thumbs down to a PCA inquiry. A spokesman said: "The society has no real faith in the PCA to fully investigate the circumstances surrounding these incidents."

"The Authority has failed in the past to reveal the full facts behind similar mysterious deaths and injuries of black people in police cells."

William Trent, director of the West Indian Standing Conference has written a strongly worded letter to the chair of the PCA, asking him to make sure the inquiry is not a whitewash.

He has also called for the suspension of the officers involved in the two incidents.



DEATH: Carter Road police station where Edwin Carr was taken ill.

"There must be an end to the killings of black suspects taken into police custody," Mr Trent demanded.

He wants black people up and down the country to organise and take actions against the deaths.

He urged: "Small campaign groups which support individual families are not good enough. Black people nationwide must get involved. We need col-

lective action and collective responsibility."

And Barnor Hesse, former member of the Roach Family Support Group, which campaigned over the death of Colin Roach in a police station in 1983, hit out: "The Government has to realise that there is a severe democratic and human rights problem at stake when people need to be protected against the

police."

But a Metropolitan police spokeswoman said that force would not be willing to co-operate with a public inquiry. "The Police Complaints Authority is a totally independent body, and that is who we usually turn to about complaints," she insisted.

See our special feature on page 5.



TENSION: Lee Jasper.

V 11.7.89

HOW DID THESE MEN DIE?

Jamie Stewart and Edwin Carr have just joined the long list of black people who have died in police custody. As the two families mourn their dead, a number of questions are being asked. **Claire Hynes** investigates

Jamie Stewart, 22, of Stamford Hill, north London, was arrested on Sunday July 2 by police officers who wrongly suspected him of driving a stolen car.

A witness claims Mr Stewart was given a thorough search by officers which involved him being forced to drop his trousers in the street. The police then took the distressed young man to Holloway police station to check his identity.

Police say Mr Stewart struggled violently at the station during another search and they had to forcibly restrain him. They handcuffed and locked him in a cell and it is claimed he had no visible signs of injury except a cut tongue.

But by 1.30am, Mr Stewart's pulse had stopped. An ambulance was called but he was dead on arrival at Whittington hospital, north London.

The next day police staged a press conference to say that large amounts of cocaine were found in Mr Stewart's stomach and that "minor injuries did not contribute to the death."

But the Stewart family solicitor, Makbool Javid, says: "It was far too early for police to draw this conclusion before the results of the post-mortem. They deliberately released this information to try and prevent allegations that he was beaten to death."

The family have reacted to the police allegations with horror. They do not believe an officer who claimed he saw Mr Stewart swallow cocaine in the station to avoid it being discovered. The police had already carried out an extensive body search on Mr Stewart, they point out.

They also do not believe Mr Stewart had only minor injuries because a witness says he saw him being at-



DONALD HANSEL: Stunned.

tacked by officers at the station.

Director of the West Indian Standing Conference William Trant, who visited the Holloway station shortly after Mr Stewart's death said angrily: "There is a tendency for police to attempt to discredit and tarnish the names of people who have fallen victim to officers."

Injuries

"Their claims about cocaine are an unsatisfactory ploy designed to sway public opinion and the opinion of any jury or investigating body. This ought not to take place in a democracy."

"I feel the death arose from violence inflicted on Jamie and that he was killed during the process of being arrested and held in custody."

"If there was slight bleeding from the mouth, as police say, then I would think that this would result if someone was kicked in the lower part of the ab-

domen."

It is also reported that an independent pathologist concluded that Mr Stewart died from internal injuries.

Mr Trant and the Hackney Community Defence Association, who are working closely with the Stewart family, are calling for the immediate suspension of the officers involved in the incident.

And they want the unanswered questions cleared up.

Why did police refuse to believe Mr Stewart, and insist upon taking him to the station for a minor offence?

What was Mr Stewart's physical condition when he was locked end handcuffed in the police cell?

What ultimately caused the young man to die?

Edwin Carr, 39, an insurance salesman from Camberwell, south London, was arrested on June 28 at 9pm, for possession of cannabis.

Police from Carter Street station had raided his home on suspicion that he was a drug dealer.

According to his girlfriend, Sharon Wease, Mr Carr had explained to three plain-clothed officers that he had some cannabis on him for personal use but was not involved in selling drugs.

And as the father of two left the house for the police station, Ms Wease told police to take care of him because he was unable to walk unassisted.

A popular character in the area, Mr Carr had been on crutches for around six months following knee injuries.

But an hour after the arrest, Ms Wease was told Mr Carr was seriously ill and had been taken to

King's College Hospital, south London. He was put on a life support machine but found to be brain dead. One week later it was switched off.

Ms Wease said tearfully: "We want to know exactly what happened between Edwin leaving home and getting to the police station."

A police spokesman said Mr Carr "fell ill" during a conversation with a police surgeon. The results of the post-mortem were inconclusive but the initial cause of death was said to be "pneumonia due to respiratory failure."

But the police surgeon's report shown to Knox Daniel of Southwark Black Workers Unit showed that Mr Carr was believed to have suffered an epileptic fit followed by a heart attack.

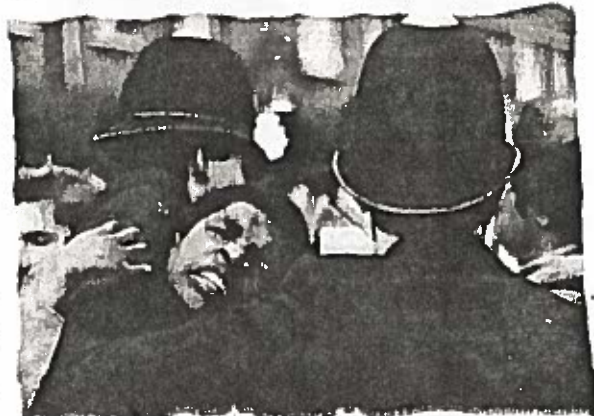
"The police surgeon's report said absolutely nothing about pneumonia — how could there be two such conflicting findings? There needs to be a public inquiry," said Mr Daniel.

Ms Wease's sister, Beverley, told *The Voice*: "It's not good enough to say a healthy man falls ill and ends up on life support machine just like that."

"Everybody in the community is devastated — he had a lot of friends. I was so shocked. Edwin was mild natured and happy-go-lucky and he just died so suddenly. Explaining it to his kids is the hardest part."

Mr Carr's close friend Donald Hansel said: "I was stunned when I found out. I think it's all very strange — the police must have done something to him to cause his death. We need to know the facts."

An inquest into Mr Carr's death was opened and adjourned on Monday at Southwark Coroner's Court.



EXCESSIVE FORCE: Police arrest 1980s style.

THE GRIM STATISTICS

The latest deaths at the hands of the police will heighten claims that officers use indiscriminate force when dealing with black people.

Unanswered questions remain about Clinton McCurbin's death in Wolverhampton two years ago after a struggle with officers over an alleged stolen credit card.

Similarly, there are still calls for a probe into the circumstances of the death of Colin Roach, the 21-year-old who died of shotgun wounds in Stoke Newington police station in 1983.

Tony Ward of Inquest, an organisation which investigates cases of deaths in police custody, believed that nothing less than an independent public inquiry will dispel suspicions of malpractice.

"Inquests have not always revealed the full facts of the case," he asserts. "Only an inquiry will answer the central questions. Why was the person stopped? Why was he arrested in the first place? If he later suffered serious injuries, why was he left alone in the cell?"

Whenever other city policing is put in the

Eighteen years of Black Deaths in the hands of police

1971: ASHITA SIMHA died in police custody. The police doctor noted that she was bruised and her brain swollen but could not determine the cause of death. Police alleged she was drunk and had brought about her own death.

1971: ANDRE SAWVAS died in police custody. He was arrested and taken to Hornsey police station, north London. He was later found to have a fractured skull.

1972: DAVID BLUWALE body was dragged from a river in Leeds. Two Leeds policemen were charged with his manslaughter.

1972: STEPHEN BERNARD was taken to a local police station after his relatives phoned for an ambulance. He was held at the police station and later charged with damaging it. In court he was discharged and recommended for admittance to hospital. The following morning he died.

1972: JOHN LAMARTE died days after his wife had seen him being forcibly held by police and punched on both sides of his neck. Afterwards he complained of headaches but was advised not to make a complaint against the police.

1977: NIGERIAN MAN found dead at West End police station.

1979: JOHN ESHIET died in police custody after being arrested and charged with the murder of his common law wife.

1981: WINSTON ROSE died handcuffed in a police van as he was being taken un-
tended out to a hospital.

1982: SEVENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD JOHN SUBUE died in British police station, south London. The post-mortem gave the cause of death as broncho pneumonia due to bruising to the head.

1982: THOMAS CONNOR died in British police station.

1982: THOMAS COLLINS died as a result of injuries to his liver and spleen after being arrested for being drunk and incapable.

1983: COLIN ROACH died from a shotgun blast in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station, north London.

1983: MATTHEW PAUL died in police custody at Leman Street police station after being kept incommunicado for two days.

1983: JOHN MCKLESON, 1 Hells Angel, died after he was beaten up while being taken into police custody.

1983: CYNTHIA JARRETT collapsed and died after police forcibly entered her home in Tottenham, north London, searching for her son who no longer lived there. The raid was carried out without a search warrant.

1983: ANTHONY LEMARD collapsed and died after being arrested by police in Notting Hill, west London. During the journey, the two officers allegedly restraining Lemard noticed that he had lost consciousness. He was dead on arrival at St Stephen's hospital.

1987: CLINTON MCCURBIN died after he was arrested by police in a Wolverhampton shopping centre. In the struggle to arrest him, the police fell on top of McCurbin who was face down.

1987: NENNEH JALLOH fell to her death from a fourth floor window at Marylebone police station. An investigation is being carried out by the Police Complaints Authority.

1987: MARK VENTOUR, 31, was found in the River Nene in Northampton. He had been arrested and taken to Campbell Square police station as part of a police operation. An independent post-mortem found evidence of strangulation, slapping round the face, and bruising consistent with being tied. The police post-mortem claimed that he fell into the river under the influence of blue

1988: SAMUEL CAREW, 25, died at Carter Street police station, south London, after being arrested at his home. The inquest verdict was suicide.

1988: ORACLE RAMSEY, 35, died while being arrested for allegedly assaulting an acquaintance, in Walsall, West Midlands.

(Source: Institute of Race Relations)

Blumide Alimohu



UNANSWERED QUESTIONS: The parents of Colin Roach lead a vigil on the anniversary of his mysterious death.

Concern over police cell death response

BLACK community leaders have criticised the police response to the death of a young man who died following a violent struggle with officers.

Jamie Stewart, who lived on the Stamford Hill Estate, died in Holloway police station last week following his arrest for traffic offences. Pathology tests revealed he had swallowed a large amount of cocaine before he died.

But a series of meetings between police and Afro-Caribbean community leaders has failed to

calm the tension caused by the death of the 22-year-old mechanic.

"I don't think anyone from the community groups was satisfied," said Desmond Riley, head of the Chi Centre in Seven Sisters Road.

"The whole thing is very fishy - I want to know how a young man gets taken to the police station for a standard traffic document offence and ends up dying."

Chief Supt Doug Hopkins, of Holloway Police, admitted that Mr Stewart's death could lead to

tension on the streets. "That is why we took the rare step of releasing information about the body before a full inquest," he said.

An Independent Inquiry into the death is being carried out by the Police Complaints Authority. It is being supervised by Rosemary Vickers, a former personnel boss with oil giants Shell, who was at Holloway police station on Monday of last week to talk to police chiefs and see where Mr Stewart died.

Cops hurt in bloody Sunday

ONE policeman was stabbed and another had his ear almost torn off on a bloody Sunday this week.

Pc Craig Wallace was left with part of his ear hanging off after 10 people were arrested after complaints about a noisy party in Upper Clapton in the early hours of Sunday.

Wpc Christine Edwards was off sick this week with injuries sustained during the same fracas. She had stitches to an arm injury and her knee in plaster.

Offences

Five other officers were injured and 10 people were subsequently charged with public order offences.

Later that day, Pc Marcus Lee was stabbed in the arm during a scuffle at Dalston police station charge room on Sunday night after a suspect pulled out a knife.

Pc Lee was taken to hospital with Pc Paul McAlister who suffered a small cut in the fracas. Two other officers were also slightly injured.

A man was charged with threatening to kill, causing criminal damage and assault.

Police comments disgusted us

WE were shocked and disgusted to read Supt Roy Clark's comments about the arrest of a man on the Homeleigh Road Estate on Saturday, July 1, which were reported in last week's Gazette. Supt Clark is quoted as saying: "No police officer has been suspended, and I do not anticipate any being suspended in the near future."

We live on Homeleigh Road Estate and saw what happened that Saturday morning. Several of us contacted the police after the incident to complain about the behaviour of the arresting officers. At no time did police attempt to take statements from anyone. Their sole concern seemed to be to ignore the whole incident.

After what we saw that morning and the subsequent comments of Supt Clark, any talk of police upholding the law is a bit of a sick joke. We all believe that the officers responsible for this assault should be suspended and charged, that there should be a full public inquiry and that Supt Clark should immediately resign for the part he has played in what we see as a police cover-up. - SIGNED BY 12 RESIDENTS OF HOMELEIGH ROAD ESTATE, STAMFORD HILL.

Complaints are being taken very seriously

I REALLY must seek the right to reply to the letter signed by 12 residents of Homeleigh Road Estate, Stamford Hill (Gazette, July 14).

The statement attributed to me is accurate and factual - no police officer has been suspended in connection with the alleged incident on the estate and I do not anticipate any being suspended in the near future. How that can be interpreted as a "cover-up" I do not know.

Neither my chief superintendent nor I can make the decision to suspend an officer under such circumstances, nor are we allowed to take any part in the investigation that is being undertaken by a detective superintendent at the Complaints Department at New Scotland Yard and all such matters are overseen by the Police Complaints Authority, a statutory body independent of the police.

The investigation is under way, witnesses have been seen and statements taken. When all the evidence is gathered, decisions about prosecutions or disciplinary action will be made. If at any time during the inquiry it is deemed necessary to suspend an officer, I am sure those responsible will not hesitate to do so.

The public can be assured that there is no cover-up. I feel that by now those who wrote the letter will realise the matter is being taken very seriously. - SUPERINTENDENT ROY CLARK, DALSTON POLICE STATION.

Police car somersaults in high-speed chase

A POLICE driver had a miracle escape when his panda car somersaulted onto its roof in a high-speed chase through the streets of Stoke Newington in the early hours of yesterday (Thursday).

A motorcyclist, who police had been pursuing, suffered serious head injuries after he skidded off his bike when another patrol car swerved in front of him at the junction of Stamford Hill and Craven Park Road.

The driver of the police panda overturned his vehicle trying to avoid colliding with the bike. He was shaken, but not badly injured.

The incident, at 5.40 am, followed a high-speed pursuit by police when the motorcyclist failed to stop after driving the wrong way up a one-way street in Maury Road, Stoke Newington.

Despite being thrown from the bike, the injured rider still managed to run off, but he was captured shortly afterwards in Craven Park Road.

After developing breathing difficulties, he was rushed to the London Hospital, Whitechapel, where police were waiting to quiz him.

Early morning rush-hour traffic was brought to a standstill as police closed off the road between Stamford Hill junction and St Ann's Road for three hours to remove the wrecked vehicles and take measurements.

Police cell death lawyer fears biased inquest

THE solicitor representing the family of Jamie Stewart, the 22-year-old mechanic from Stamford Hill who died following a violent struggle in police custody, believes police may have prejudiced his inquest.

Following Mr Stewart's death at Holloway police station on July 1, police took the unusual step of issuing a statement revealing that he had swallowed a large quantity of cocaine before his death - and that, in the opinion of the pathologist, the injuries received during his struggle with police did not cause his death. The police said they issued the statement to ease tensions in the community.

But the family solicitor, Makbool Javaid, said: "The police should have exercised some self-restraint and not released that information at such an early stage. The proper forum to establish the cause of death is the inquest."

"It is possible that potential members of the jury will have read the report in the newspapers and made up their own mind about what happened, before the inquest gets underway."

"Mr Stewart's family are very upset. They have not got involved in making accusations and counter accusations about this affair."

The Police Complaints Authority is also investigating the circumstances surrounding his death. But their investigations may take more than a year to complete.

● Inquest opens - page 3.

Jamie Stewart inquest opened

AN inquest on Jamie Lloyd Stewart, who died after being arrested and taken to Holloway police station, was opened at adjourned at St Pancras Coroner's Court on Wednesday.

Mr Stewart, an electrician, of Wicklow House on Stoke Newington's Stamford Hill estate, was identified by his sister Claudia, a student, of Durlston Road, Upper Clapton.

Mr Stewart was arrested early on July 1 in a car in Hanley Road, Finsbury Park, and taken to the police station in connection with an alleged car document offence.

The inquest will be heard before a jury on October 24.

HC 21.7.89

Police death riddle

A SECOND man has died after he was taken in for questioning by local police.

Edwin Carr, a 39 year old salesman from Camberwell, mysteriously collapsed while being questioned on alleged possession of drugs by Carter Street Police two weeks ago.

He was on a life support machine in the intensive care unit at Kings College hospital until he died last Wednesday morning.

Doctors are puzzled why he became unconscious and collapsed at the police station in south London.

Mr Carr was disturbed when three plain clothes policemen burst into his home looking for drugs two weeks ago.

His shocked family were thrown into disarray by the intrusion.

Police say they found a small quantity of cannabis and told his wife they would caution him.

Surgeon

Instead he was taken to the Carter Street station and a police surgeon was called later that night.

Chief Superintendent Humber of Carter Street told *Caribbean Times*: "He was being attended to by a doctor and became unwell and later became unconscious."

His grief-stricken wife Sharon, 29, was at his hospital bedside since the night of his collapse.

And a stream of re-

by Nisa Ali

lations and friends visited him.

Edwin, who had been on crutches since March because of a weak knee, was said to be 'perfectly healthy' otherwise.

Sharon, exhausted from her constant bedside vigil, said: "We have had three contradicting stories from the police on what happened in the station. We want to know what happened and we are not going to let it lie."

She said the police had kept her in the dark about her husband's condition in the station.

Jamie's police cell death a tragic mystery

by Michael Mattus

he was driving belonged to him.

They further said he was arrested when he was unable to produce the required documents but he became so violent and abusive when questioned that it became "necessary to forcibly restrain him".

It is believed that Mr Stewart was anxious not to be separated from two young children and a youth, aged 16, who were travelling as passengers in his vehicle.

The 16 year-old was

also arrested for disorderly conduct and has since made a formal complaint against the treatment he and Mr Stewart received.

Postmortem

A hastily arranged postmortem, conducted by a specialist from the London Hospital failed to positively identify the cause of death but stated Mr Stewart had suffered "only slight injuries" and had the traces of a substance in his stomach which required forensic analysis.

The police have since suggested that

the substance was cocaine.

The Stewart family have insisted on an independent pathology examination of Jamie's body set to take place this week.

The Police Complaints Authority are to appoint a senior police officer to investigate the circumstances of Jamie's death.

Police Commander David Stevens said he was unable to comment directly on the case as it was the subject of investigation but said he and his officers "deeply regret the death of this young

man."

Islington North MP Jeremy Corbyn has written to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert, to demand he give his permission for an independent police inquiry to allay community fears.

The Hackney Community Defence Association are demanding the instigation of a public inquiry and the immediate suspension of the officers involved.

Five Holloway police officers were jailed in 1987 for their part in the 1983 assault on four local schoolboys.

CT 14.7.89

'We will fight to uncover the truth'

Families of arrest death men to battle for public injury

The mourning families of two men who died after being arrested have vowed to carry on the fight to uncover all the facts.

While angry community groups have called for a public inquiry into the tragic deaths of both Jamie Stewart, 22, and Edwin Carr, 39, the families are waiting for the results of independent post-mortems.

Jamie Stewart, from Stamford Hill, north London, was taken to Holloway police station for suspected driving document offences, and was handcuffed and thrown into a cell after police said he reacted violently to a search.

Pulse

An hour later Mr Stewart had no pulse and was dead on arrival at Whittington Hospital, north London.

Police said that there

By Nighat Haider

were large amounts of cocaine found in Mr Stewart's stomach, and that a police officer had seen him swallow cocaine in the station.

Makbool Javaid, the Stewart family's solicitor said that the devastated family from Chingford, Essex had been working hard to encourage witnesses in the area to come forward: "They want an independent public investigation and said that they will pursue the case whatever the cost, no matter how long it takes because they don't want



DEATH: Jamie Stewart.

this to happen to other black kids."

Reports

Edwin Carr, of Camberwell, south London was arrested for possession of cannabis at his home. A few hours later

he was on a life support machine which was switched off one week later after he was diagnosed brain dead.

The family are very disturbed by the conflicting reports. Mr Carr "fell ill" during a conversation with a police surgeon according to a police spokesman.

The inconclusive results of the post-mortem gave the initial cause of death as "pneumonia due to respiratory failure", but the police surgeon's report showed that Mr Carr suffered an epileptic fit followed by a heart attack.

The family were too grieved to comment, but a friend revealed that they were also carrying out an independent post-mortem.

A police spokesman said: "Enquiries of this nature are quite lengthy and there has been no development at this stage."

V 18.7.89

Police defence

AS CHIEF Superintendent of Holloway Police Station, I was concerned to read your editorial comment "Who will answer our questions?" on Jamie Stewart in your 7-13 July issue.

As with all cases of sudden death an investigation into the circumstances is taking place and this matter was referred voluntarily by the Metropolitan Police to the Independent Police Complaints Authority.

An inquest at the Coroner's Court with a jury will determine the cause of death as quickly as can be arranged.

If you had made enquiries last week you would have been advised that I called meetings with representatives of the black community on Monday, 3 July, where senior Metropolitan Police Officers and representatives of the Police Complaints Authority endeavoured to answer all the questions put to us by representatives of the Hackney Police Consultative Committee; Hackney Council for Racial Equality; West-Indian Standing Conference; Ethnic Minorities Joint Consultation Council; Hackney African Organisation; African Development Agencies (Hackney); Association of Jamaicans (UK); Community Education

Trust; Stamford Hill TA; Chi Centre; and the family's solicitor.

In the interest of stopping the spread of rumours among the community we got the agreement of the Police Complaints Authority, the Coroner and the Pathologist to take the unusual step of releasing advance information that only minor injuries were found on Mr Stewart and an early analysis examination revealed a concentration of cocaine in his stomach.

The independent pathologist has kept samples for assessment by the family in order that an independent examination can be made.

Mr Stewart was stopped as a result of erratic driving, including over-taking on a pedestrian crossing. He was arrested because, although he claimed ownership of the car, it was not registered in his name and he was unable to provide positive identification.

As the Editor of an independent newspaper seeking to inform your readers of the true situation you should want to publish this letter. It will be interesting to see if you do and whether you give this reply the same prominence as your "Comment".

DA Hopkins
Chief Superintendent
Holloway Police Station

Jamie's family question the Met

THE FAMILY of Jamie Stewart, the young man who died whilst in the custody of Holloway police, have expressed their dismay and condemnation at the police's handling of the situation.

Although the full results of the police's post mortem has yet to be released there has been a repeat of the inference that Jamie's death was caused by swallowing a large amount of cocaine.

The Police Complaints Authority (PCA) was called to investigate the incident after one of the passengers in Jamie's car accused the arresting officers of mishandling the youngster.

Jamie was stopped

for a traffic offence and was forced to undergo a full strip search, including the handling of his genitals, at the roadside before he was taken to the station.

The family and concerned members of the community are asking how someone who was thoroughly searched and arrested was able to conceal cocaine from police officers long enough to swallow it in the cells.

"It seems strange that the police's thoroughness in searching for traffic documents was not matched by similar vigilance concerning serious drugs," noted Desmond Riley of the Chi Community Centre, north London.

The Stewart family are attempting to force an independent inquiry and have received the support of local MP Jeremy Corbyn in this matter.

The police's attempts to smooth things over by calling meetings with representatives of organisations such as the West-Indian Standing Conference, the Hackney Council for Racial Equality and others have not abated this call.

Chief Superintendent Matthias of Holloway police station has expressed his "concern" over *Caribbean Times'* reporting of the entire incident (see let-

Continued on page 3.

Continued from page 1

Jamie's family question the Met

ters page six).

He claims that the release of "advance information of only minor injuries . . . and a concentration of cocaine in his stomach" was made "in the interest of stopping the spread

of rumours among the community".

Mr Makbool Javaid, the Stewart family's solicitor, has slammed this decision.

"Releasing information about the presence of cocaine in Jamie's blood to the press may have prejudiced the forthcoming inquest. They should have exercised restraint," he said.

Man connected with murder commits suicide after chase Holloway police claim

A POLICE chase ended with a man stabbing himself to death, say police.

Vincent Graham was pursued by police in connection with the killing of credit salesman Michael McDermott. Mr McDermott was found bound and gagged on the back seat of his Ford Sierra in Holloway, north London, last May.

Police claim Mr Graham, aged 40, went into hiding in

south London after officers gave notice of their interest in his whereabouts at his north London home and his usual whereabouts in Holloway and Finsbury.

He was spotted by Holloway police officers in north London and attempted to escape when challenged.

The officers pursued him towards City Road where, they claim, he pulled out a knife and stabbed himself

through the heart.

He was taken to St Bartholomew's Hospital, Smithfield, where he later died.

Detectives leading the hunt for Mr McDermott's killers had carried out forensic tests at Mr Graham's home.

Police are still searching for other men they believe may be connected with Mr McDermott's torture and eventual death.



Re-think needed on policing

IT'S been a very bad week indeed for news on the crime front.

Dr Jock Young, who lives locally, tells us that half the families in Hackney have almost certainly either been burgled or had an offence committed against a member of the family in the past year.

Dr Young, a friend of mine who's Profes-

sor of Criminology at Middlesex Poly, has discovered that government figures mask the seriousness of crime in places like Hackney.

His studies show that two out of every five women are afraid to go out after dark. So they impose a curfew on themselves and become prisoners in their own home every

evening. Personally, I've always been sceptical about the value of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and Jock confirms my view.

Looking at what goes on in Hammer-smith and Fulham - and it's unlikely to be any different in Hackney - he discovered that people seem to be remarkably short-sighted when it comes to spotting a burglary taking place. So he argues for new and very different measures of crime prevention.

I'm also not surprised when he finds that people are unhappy with the performance of the police in clearing up crime.

That's what they keep telling me in Hackney. How could it be otherwise when only 124,000 out of 720,000 crimes are solved in London?

I was astonished to learn recently that the Met Police don't bother to investigate 70 per cent of the crimes committed in places like Hackney. A local shortage of police officers, for which the Home Secretary is responsible, means that most calls for help from the public are not met.

Except for very serious crimes, local police operate a points system which in the jargon they use "screens out" most crimes as

being impossible to solve. We're supposed to praise this policy as being sensible because without clues it's obvious that crimes cannot be solved.

Only a fool would fall for this argument. In the case of a large number of crimes committed in Hackney the clues don't exist because there aren't enough police searching for them, acting quickly enough, or on the spot to prevent them.

It's appalling that there's little or no deterrence in Hackney to the criminal who intends to commit a simple burglary. And, worse, there's a virtual licence for thieves, polluters and those who commit car offences.

My own view is that we need more resources, new structures which make local policemen more accountable to local people, and a complete rethink of police policies. What do you think?

Brian Sedgemore

HC 28.7.89

HC 4.8.89

Jamie: call for inquiry

HACKNEY Council for Racial Equality has called on the Home Secretary to set up an independent public inquiry into the death of Jamie Stewart, the 22 year old Stamford Hill mechanic who died at Holloway police station last month.

The CRE also wants the inquiry to investigate wider questions regarding policing policy and practice in London, particularly as it relates to the black community.

Adu Seray-Wurie, chair of HCRE, said: "Jamie's death is not an isolated incident. There

have been a number of deaths and injuries to black people in custody, and many questions regarding the facts have been left unanswered."

According to HCRE, the Police Complaints Authority, which is investigating the circumstances of Mr Stewart's death, does not have wide enough terms of reference to deal with all the issues involved. It also believes a PCA investigation "will not allay the fears and suspicions among a substantial section of the community in Hackney."

Booklets bungle

FURIOUS police chiefs are demanding to know why thousands of homes in Hackney and Islington have still not received their anti-racist campaign booklets - six months after the campaign started.

The booklets, in 14 languages, give advice to residents who have suffered racial attacks. They should have been delivered to every home in the two boroughs by top advertising agency Saatchi and Saatchi, but bungling distributors missed out the whole of the N1 postal area.

The news comes as racial attacks in Hackney soar. There were 43 attacks reported to police during 1988, and so far this year that figure has doubled to 86 and looks set to double again by Christmas.

Supt Dave Dugmore, community liaison officer at Stoke Newington police station, said: "Thousands of homes have been affected, and we feel badly let down." No-one from Saatchi and Saatchi was available for comment as the Gazette went to press.

Worried residents who have missed out on the anti-racist booklets can still get a copy by phoning Supt Dugmore on 488-7102.

Demo charges: police step up security at court

THIRTEEN Bangladeshi men arrested during last month's demonstration in Bethnal Green against the "racially motivated" murder of an Asian man appeared before Thames magistrates on Monday.

A tight police security net was thrown around the court to prevent a recurrence of trouble which flared

in Bethnal Green Road on July 15, when nearly 40 men were arrested for alleged offences of affray, violent disorder and assaulting police.

They had been demonstrating against what they claimed was inadequate policing after 51-year-old Bangladeshi, Esmoth Ali, of Flower and Dean Walk, Stepney, was stab-

bed to death.

Charges of assaulting police and causing actual bodily harm were withdrawn against three of the accused, and replaced with lesser charges of assaulting police officers in the execution of their duty. Another man was charged with using abusive words and behaviour.

The remaining defendants, including a juvenile, are charged under Section Four of the Public Order Act with using threatening behaviour.

They were all remanded on unconditional bail. Ten other defendants facing similar charges will appear today (Friday).

Stewart family organise against police allegations

HOLLOWAY'S POLICE were last week prevented from making further unfounded and misleading allegations about the way which Jamie Stewart met his death.

Twenty two year-old mechanic Jamie died shortly after being arrested by Holloway police officers three weeks ago. The police have deliberately pre-empted the results of the police autopsy and an independent examination carried out at the behest of the Stewart family, to infer Jamie's death was attributable to drug abuse.

Stormed

A public meeting by the north London vicinity's local police consultative group was stormed by local people, including members of the Stewart family, who demanded the police be prevented from repeating their allegations.

The Stewart family's lawyer, Makboul Javaid, has accused the police of deliberately attempting to prejudice the forthcoming inquiry by constant re-

by Michael Massie

petition of the slanderous statement.

Observers have labelled the play a favourite police tactic for combating public disquiet over suspicious deaths in custody.

When Colin Roach died from gunshot wounds to the head in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station in 1983 a statement was issued stating he had a history of mental illness. There were never any medical records of Colin's alleged mental afflictions.

Similarly, in 1985 Clinton McCurbin's death by asphyxiation at the hands of a Wolverhampton police officer was attributed to a cocaine overdose. No traces of cocaine were ever found in the coroner's report but the national press were content to print the police's earlier statement without ever revealing the inconsistencies of the pronouncement following further developments.

After an acceptable period of mourning the Stewart family intend to join forces with the

family of Edwin Carr.

The Carr family also suffered defamation by default after Carter Street police officers claimed that his illness while in custody and subsequent death was due to drug abuse.

A representative from the Hackney Community Defence Association said the representation had shown great fortitude in pressing their demand to the group meeting.

Courage

"The Stewart family have shown great courage and dignity in the way they have dealt with the situation so far and there is now great hope that this spate of black deaths in police custody over the years may be championed by a force for justice and lasting change," he said.

The Hackney Council for Racial Equality (HICRE) have joined the list of organisations and private citizens who have written to the Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, calling for an independent inquiry into Jamie Stewart's death whilst in the custody of Holloway police station.

Jamie's family reply to police

WE THE family of Jamie Stewart feel that we must write a reply to the letter of Chief Superintendent D A Hopkins from Holloway Police Station, published in the *Caribbean Times* of July 21.

The sudden and untimely death of our brother is a tragedy that will be with us for the rest of our lives.

July 1 will forever be remembered as the day when our brother died within an hour of arriving at Holloway Police Station. From early that morning we have asked ourselves questions as to how and why Jamie died.

The hope that justice will prevail and Jamie's death will be looked into in a fair and unbiased way by an independent jury at the inquest, has been put in jeopardy by police statements.

How can we find a jury made up of independent, unbiased people, with the police releasing selective information, and then claiming it is "in the interests of stopping the spread of rumours among the community"? Statements of this kind must surely prejudice the inquest jury.

The love we had for Jamie will be with us

forever. It is hard enough to come to terms with his death. For our own grief to be further compounded by the police releasing information is both offensive and provocative.

It is a pity that the police have not treated Jamie's death with the same fairness and sensitivity as the *Caribbean Times*. We extend our warm thanks and gratitude to everyone who has supported us over these past few weeks.

C Stewart
Hackney Community Defence Association
London N16

Gazette criticised

THE Hackney Gazette of July 7 carried an article on the death of a young black man at Holloway police station. Under the heading "Autopsy prompts cocaine link to man who died in police cells", the article focused on police propaganda concerning Jamie Stewart's death.

Jamie Stewart died in Holloway police station on Saturday July 1. On Monday July 3 the police called a meeting of community groups at the police station. The following day Holloway police issued a press statement. They did not explain how Jamie Stewart died, instead they concentrated on the suggestion that he had swallowed cocaine immediately before he died.

The police's meeting with community groups, their issuing of a press statement and the Hackney Gazette's article, raise very serious questions concerning British justice.

The police's invitation to community groups to attend a meeting where the police stated they wished to enter into a "contract" with community groups was an overtly political exercise.

The police insist they are a non-political organisation, yet here they were engaged in political manoeuvrings with community groups.

Following the death of black Hell's Angel John Mikkleson at the hands of the police in 1985, the High Court granted an injunction against a Thames TV programme asserting it would prejudice the Coroner's Inquest which had responsibility for determining how he died.

Similarly the government objected to the Thames TV programme *Death on the Rock* concerning the death of three IRA members in Gibraltar last year.

The police, on the other hand, continually interfere with the Inquest procedure.

Stoke Newington police issued a statement incorrectly claiming Colin Roach has a history of mental illness immediately after he was shot dead in the foyer of the police station in 1983.

After the death of Anthony Lemard in the custody of Notting Hill police in 1986, and before the Coroner's Inquest, the coroner

issued a statement asserting his death was not due to any struggle with police officers.

Holloway police's statement on Jamie Stewart's death linking him to drugs and unproven criminal activity, without the opportunity to defend himself, deliberately slanders and besmirches the name of a man who tragically died in police custody, thus deflecting any criticism of the police.

Secondly, the police have interfered in the judicial process by inferring the cause of death prior to the Coroner's inquest.

The Hackney Gazette article on Jamie Stewart's death concentrated on the police statement. By focusing on the cocaine angle Jamie Stewart has been discredited in the eyes of thousands of Gazette readers and the process of law has been undermined.

The black community has repeatedly suffered deaths in police custody; deaths which should be treated as murder investigations have been covered up. Instead of relying on police statements a responsible press should be using its own investigative expertise to ensure that a proper balance of information is provided. In the Jamie Stewart case the Hackney Gazette has failed to serve the community it claims to represent.

Adding insult to injury the paper stated that "the independent police watchdog, the Police Complaints Authority, is investigating the circumstances of his death". The Gazette is fully aware of the community's distrust of the PCA which is not independent, but relies on police officers to investigate complaints against the police.

According to law the police and public are subject to the same rules. How many members of the public could get away with making a press statement following an incident where serious criminal charges could be involved in order to cover up their actions?

In the Jamie Stewart case Holloway police have made a mockery of the law; the Hackney Gazette have made a mockery of independent journalism.

Hackney Community Defence Association
Rectorry Road
London E16

ouch

■ A black man from Hackney, Steve Edgar, has been found not guilty at Old Street magistrates court of assaulting a police officer. But there has been no come-back against Hackney police for the treatment allegedly handed out to Edgar. According to several witnesses, a plain clothes officer entered the minicab office where Edgar was working, hurled racist abuse at him and his cousin, and punched Edgar in the face. The blow was so severe that he had to be kept in hospital overnight for observation. Hackney Community Defence Association says that, having won his court case, Edgar is not going to let matters rest there: he's taking out a civil action against the police.

CL 10. 8 - 89

Racist cop's violent attack

A CALL for the implementation of a rule which insists on the immediate dismissal of police officers who engage in racial abuse and needless assault was made last week following the dismissal of charges of assault on a man who suffered alleged police brutality.

Steve Edgar was acquitted by Old Street Magistrates of assaulting PC Andrew Chadwick of Hackney police during an incident at Mr Edgar's workplace last March.

Mr Edgar was acting controller in his mini cab office on the evening PC Chadwick strolled in, dressed in leather jacket, jeans and sneakers, and began to

racially abuse Mr Edgar's cousin.

Witnesses testified that PC Chadwick had never identified himself as a police officer when he issued a torrent of abuse, including terms such as "black bastard" and "black cunt".

When Mr Edgar protested it is reported that PC Chadwick struck him with a full-

force blow to Mr Edgar's head which sent him flying across the room.

In the midst of the carnage PC Chadwick was joined by two other officers, one of whom was described as being "huge" to arrest the five foot eight inches tall and ten-and-a-half stone Mr Edgar.

Despite Mr Edgar's injuries he was first

taken to the police station and charged with assault on PC Chadwick before being released to see a doctor.

His injuries, including concussion and a slight skull fracture, proved serious enough for him to be kept overnight at Homerton hospital for observation.

Observers of police/community relations claim that it is now a common tactic for police officers to charge victims of often unwarranted attacks with assault to obscure details which may be uncovered by an investigation.

The Hackney Community Defence Association has called for the instigation of a mechanism which will allow the proper investigation leading to full criminal prosecution, if found guilty, of police officers the same as would apply to a member of the public.

Steve Edgar is now taking out a civil action against the police with the full support of the Hackney Community Defence Association.

CT 11. 8. 89

police cars. Mr Joseph claims he was beaten, arrested, handcuffed and thrown head-first into a police van where he was beaten again, this time so badly that blood in his throat stopped him breathing. He says he was taken by police to London Hospital in Whitechapel after desperate attempts to revive him failed. Hackney Community Defence Association has called on Stoke Newington police chief, Chief Superintendent Peter Twist, to resign and for an independent public inquiry to be held into the incident. CS Twist denied Mr Joseph was assaulted and said he was not aware of any injuries he suffered until contacted by *Time Out*, except those sustained when he fell from his motorbike. 'I'm dismayed to learn of injuries alleged to have been caused by my officers, in this unusual manner.'

Hit Squad

A 50-year-old Hackney man is suing the police after being injured so badly that officers rushed him to hospital thinking he was dead. Raphael Joseph claims he was attacked by police after making off on his motorbike from officers who had seen him driving the wrong way down a one-way street. A high-speed chase ended in Stoke Newington when the motorbike collided with one of three pursuing



TO 16.8.89

Police 'brutality' allegations grow

More and more cases are coming to light where - it is alleged - police officers are using undue force or intimidation against people they wish to apprehend. QUENTIN McDERMOTT reports.

■ IN THE EARLY HOURS OF Thursday July 20 Raphael Joseph, a 50 year-old from Hackney, rode his motorbike home after helping out a friend in a bakery. The street next to his home in Stoke Newington is one-way, and he rode down it the wrong way. Officers in a police car saw him and gave chase. Joseph panicked, and the chase, involving up to six vehicles, ended in Stamford Hill with a police car somersaulting on to its roof.

What happened next is the subject of dispute. Raphael Joseph says he stopped his bike and began to dismount, and was then hit by a police car. He says the fall only left

him grazed, and that he got up and took off his helmet. Realising that the officers approaching him were angry, he pleaded with them not to hurt him. He claims a number of officers then jumped on him and beat him, leaving him virtually unconscious. Then - he claims - they handcuffed him and threw him head-first into a van where, he alleges, he was again beaten so badly that he overheard an officer saying he thought they had killed him.

The police took Raphael Joseph to the London Hospital, in Whitechapel, where the photograph on this page was taken. The next day a story appeared in the *Hackney Gazette*, suggesting that Joseph suffered his serious head injuries after skidding off his bike when a patrol car swerved in front of him. Despite this - suggested the *Gazette* - Joseph 'still managed to run off, but was captured shortly afterwards.'

Raphael Joseph's solicitor, Raju Bhatt, told *City Limits*: 'We are

considering an action for damages for false imprisonment, assault and battery. It is a horrific case.' Bhatt described the *Hackney Gazette* story as 'a handy piece of news management.'

The senior officer in charge of Stoke Newington division, Chief Superintendent Peter Twist, says he is 'perplexed and dismayed' that the first he heard of the allegations was from *City Limits*, three weeks after the incident. 'My understanding is that any injuries Mr Joseph received were due entirely to his falling from his motorcycle,' he said. 'Until now there has been no suggestion that they were due to any criminal assaults. Clearly these are matters that will have to be fully investigated.'

Earlier, however, Mr Twist told *City Limits* that Joseph was 'uninjured' in the collision with the police car. He said Joseph was taken to hospital 'after he developed breathing difficulties,' was 'extremely



RAPHAEL JOSEPH
IN THE LONDON HOSPITAL

abusive about the police and made no allegation of assault at that stage.' Mr Twist says the police are considering prosecuting him for riding without due care and attention, riding while disqualified, and having no insurance or MOT. He has appealed to Joseph to make a formal complaint, 'so that the

matter can be investigated by the proper authorities.'

Raphael Joseph's case bears comparison with the death in March, of a black teenager, Nicky Bramble, in Notting Hill. Bramble was riding a friend's motorbike, and died after apparently crashing into a lamp post. The inquest returned a verdict of accidental death.

The inquest heard how two policemen in a van saw Bramble riding the bike 'erratically' late one evening, without a working brake light, and concluded it was stolen. They radioed in the details, followed him, and were joined by a constable in an unmarked car. Five other police vehicles - an unmarked car, a dog van, two police buses and an area car, also joined in. Moments later, Bramble was said to have collided with the lamp post, and later died from multiple injuries.

The coroner, Dr Paul Knapman, told the inquest: 'No one was directly following Mr Bramble in a conventional chase - but this evidence is only from the officers.' However, witnesses who were not at the inquest are convinced there was a chase, and that Bramble died as a direct result.

Bramble's death sparked considerable anger locally. A 200-strong group of black and white youngsters marched on Harrow Road police station, where several were arrested in a disturbance which followed. Local councillor Ben Bousquet, who represented the Bramble family at the inquest, contends that 'the only way Nicky could have gone off the road at that juncture is if he was shoved off by another vehicle.' Bousquet is convinced 'he did not have anything other than a police car in front of him.' And he says witnesses saw an unmarked police vehicle at that spot at that time.

Further anger has been caused by the recent death of a 22 year-old black man, Jamie Stewart. Stewart was arrested for a suspected driving document offence in the early hours of July 1, taken to Holloway police station - and never got out alive. It is thought a struggle took place.

Immediately after the death, the police issued a statement, 'in the interest of calming rumours in the community,' that 'minor injuries were found on Mr Stewart, and an early analysis examination reveals a concentration of cocaine in his stomach.' The statement, however, only served to cause further outrage, and the Islington police/community consultative group has asked the police not to make statements which might prejudice the outcome of the inquest which is due to go before a jury in October. The police claim the coroner instructed them to release their statement. A Police Complaints Authority investigation is underway.

Last week a further case of alleged police 'overkill' hit the headlines in south London. Southwark councillors are calling for an inquiry into an incident in which a 20 year-old Nigerian student, Michael Adewusi, broke his arm in two places after the flat where he was staying was broken into by police officers.

The council says four plain clothed officers broke down the door of the flat in Stanbury Road, Peckham, at 6am on Friday August 4. They allege that the officers were looking for another man - a white occupant - refused to show Adewusi their search warrant, and that his arm was broken when they forcibly held him.

Peckham police have taken the unusual step of issuing a lengthy statement describing Adewusi's

arrest. It says the officers went to the flat at 7.20am, 'gained entry', and showed Adewusi their identity cards and search warrant. Later, say the police, Adewusi 'became agitated' and pushed an officer. They arrested him, suspecting him of being an illegal immigrant. Adewusi, the police claim, tried to bite an officer, and hit another in the groin. 'A violent struggle ensued and all three men fell to the floor.' Adewusi had broken his arm, an ambulance was called, and he was taken to King's College Hospital.

Later, Adewusi was interviewed by an immigration officer and detained - on Immigration's orders - at Peckham police station. He was released on Saturday night - again at Immigration's request. The police claim Adewusi never complained about his treatment.

Chief Superintendent Kevin Delaney, in charge of Peckham division, told *City Limits*: 'Quite obviously we regret these things very much indeed. It was an accidental break.' Delaney says he and the officers are 'as anxious as anyone else to have an investigation. The officers want an investigation to clear their name. I want one, to see what happened, but so far Mr Adewusi has quite properly, but unfortunately, decided he will not give that co-operation. We would like to interview him. If he makes a complaint it will be investigated at a very high level by officers not at Peckham. If he doesn't, there will be an internal investigation - again, not by officers at Peckham.'

Five black Southwark councillors, meanwhile, have issued a statement describing Adewusi's treatment as 'another example of a long line of incidents involving police brutality and harassment of black people in this borough.' Adewusi is now considering suing the officers.

'Car chase cops beat me up'



Raphael Joseph pictured, he alleges, in hospital after police beat him up.

Police chief hits back at 'cover-up' allegations

A STOKE Newington man claims he was so badly beaten by police officers he had to be rushed to hospital as there were fears for his life.

Raphael Joseph, 50, was admitted to hospital with extensive bruises and had to be fed by a drip after he was injured in a police chase through Stoke Newington.

This week a police monitoring group called for an independent inquiry into the allegations, which have been strongly denied by police.

The Hackney Community Defence Association believes police have conspired to hide the truth about the incident – and they have called for the resignation of Chief Supt Peter Twist, who is in charge of Dalston station.

Chief Supt Twist refuted any suggestion of a "cover-up" and described the call for him to resign as "outrageous."

He said the police version of events was that Mr Joseph was ordered to stop after driving his motorbike the wrong way down a one-way street. He failed to do so and was involved in a high-speed chase through Stoke Newington which ended when he lost control of his machine after looking over his shoulder.

Overturned

A panda car overturned while trying to avoid Mr Joseph and a second car hit his riderless bike, said Chief Supt Twist.

Mr Joseph tried to run off but was captured, tried to escape and was handcuffed and put into a police van where he developed "breathing difficulties," he added. He was then rushed to the London Hospital.

But Mr Joseph, from Kyverdale Road, alleges he was

by MARK GOULD

knocked off his bike while dismounting, beaten up, handcuffed and beaten up again in a police van.

The incident happened on Thursday, July 20, at the junction of Stamford Hill and Craven Park Road. But it was only this week that Mr Joseph decided to make his allegations public.

At a press conference on Tuesday an emotional Mr Joseph burst into tears as his solicitor, Raju Bhatt, told how his client had been driving home on his motorbike in the early hours of the morning after helping a friend in a bakery.

"He went the wrong way down a one-way street," said Mr Bhatt. "Just then he saw a police car. Raphael panicked and the police car chased him and was joined by several others."

"Raphael soon realised that it was best for him to stop. He was dismounting from his bike and saw a police vehicle coming towards him. It hit the bike."

"He got up, took off his

crash helmet and saw several police officers coming towards him. He pleaded with them not to hit him."

"Police officers jumped on him. He was handcuffed and thrown into the back of a police van where he was assaulted again by several police officers."

"By this time he was suffering very badly as a result of the assault. Police realised this and took him to the London Hospital where he was admitted straight away."

Chief Supt Twist, confirming that official complaint had been made, said: "On the extent of Mr Joseph's injuries is known then a complaint will be referred to the Police Complaints Authority in order that they can supervise an investigation."

Dismayed

"I am dismayed that it has taken three weeks before these matters were brought to my attention and I am in a position to have them investigated by the proper authorities."

Mr Joseph has not yet been charged, but it is understood several road traffic offences may be outstanding.

HC

18.8.89



Mark called to Scotland Yard

WHEN it comes to tales of cops and robbers, Mark Glinwood knows it all. For the past three-and-a-half years he's been in charge of collecting information on every single arrest in Stoke Newington and Dalston. . . and that adds up to a lot of banged-up criminals.

Now he's leaving Dalston police station, but not the force - he's moving onwards and upwards to Scotland Yard. Two days before he transferred he was rewarded for his dedication with a special commendation.

Chief Superintendent Peter Twist said: "The crime support group he headed is one

of the most effective in the whole of London, and this was entirely due to Mark's leadership and the loyalty he won from his staff.

"These commendations have only just been introduced, and he is the first person in our area to receive one. It is especially praiseworthy since he is a member of the civil staff rather than a police officer."

● Pictured left: Chief Superintendent Peter Twist presents Mark Glinwood with his commendation, watched by Annelis Twydell, Becky Gardner and Sheila Ince from the crime support group.

As reports of minor crimes fall by 25 per cent. . .

Police urge the public: 'Don't be indifferent'

POLICE fear victims of crime have given up hope of them catching bag snatchers, muggers and small-time burglars.

The police are worried small crimes are not being reported because the public think they'll ignore them under a new "screening" system.

In the first six months of this year the number of small crimes reported has plunged by up to 25 per cent.

And police think the alarming dip is due to the new system, introduced in April last year, which means only major crimes are investigated.

Head of Dalston police's crime desk Det Sgt Alan Marable said: "People should not give up hope. They should

report crimes no matter what they are.

"Although each crime in itself may not be looked at in detail, they are all looked at together. We put more officers in a particular area if the crime rate is high there.

"If people don't report things in the first place, we will start getting a false picture of where the crime is."

Some robbers and burglars who have been caught by police have admitted to crimes which have not been reported, he added.

The system, now operating all over London, means up to 70 per cent of crimes are "screened out" and not probed by detectives.

The other 30 to 40 per cent are "screened in" and looked at in detail

because witnesses and extra evidence mean detectives have more chance of solving them.

Under the system all gun hold-ups, sex offences, common cases, serious attacks, car hijacks and political attacks are investigated fully.

New figures for Hackney show robberies have plunged from 1,126 in the first six months in 1988 to 824 in the same period this year.

For the same period the number of stolen cars have dropped from 3,703 to 3,120 and burglaries have dipped from 2,888 to 2,673.

Supt Roy Clark, of Dalston police, agreed with Det Sgt Marable. He said: "We are very concerned that people are failing to report crime."

Police supremo moves up

HACKNEY will get a new police supremo at the end of the month when Deputy Assistant Commissioner Wyn Jones moves to a top job at Scotland Yard.

DAC Jones, who has been in charge of East London's police for the past four years, has been promoted to Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Met's personnel and training department.

It is the third highest rank in the Metropolitan Police behind Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner.

The announcement was made by Home Office Minister Douglas Hurd on Wednesday.

Replacing him as Hackney and East London's new top cop will be Mike Taylor, the Deputy Chief Constable of Bedfordshire.



HC

18.8.89

'Policemen beat me up' — claim



Raphael Joseph holding a photograph of himself in hospital after he was allegedly beaten up by police

A 50-year-old Sephardi Jew who claims he was the victim of police brutality, intends to sue for damages.

Raphael Joseph, who was born in Aden and attends the Persian Hebrew congregation in Stamford Hill, spent three days in hospital, suffering from severe head, facial and bodily injuries.

He claims he was chased by about six police cars after driving his motorbike in the wrong direction down a one-way street in Stoke Newington.

At a press conference on Tuesday, his solicitor, Raju Bhatt, said Mr Joseph was jumped on by several police officers, beaten and thrown head-first into a van where he was again assaulted.

Mr Joseph broke down during the press conference and was

visibly distressed. He is being supported in his fight by the Hackney Community Defence Association.

The defence association secretary, Graham Smith, said the association was demanding the resignation of Chief Superintendent Peter Twist, officer in charge of Dalston and Stoke Newington police.

It was also calling for an independent judicial inquiry into the incident.

"Raphael has suffered horrific injuries from unnecessary and unjustified police brutality," said Mr Bhatt.

Chief Superintendent Twist said: "I deny that my officers have attacked anybody until proved otherwise."

He stressed that the matter would be investigated by the Police Complaints Authority.

JEWISH CHRONICLE

18-8-89

Pc thrown through window

A POLICEMAN needed five stitches in a gash in his right arm when he was thrown through a broken window while arresting a suspect on Sunday morning.

Pc Ian Wlthy and Pc Kevin Fitzgerald arrived at Green Lanes, 50 yards south of Manor House Tube station, after a man was spotted breaking into a car at 3am.

Pc Wlthy was picked up and thrown through the window. He was taken to Homerton Hospital for treatment, but not detained.

A man was due to appear at Highbury Court this week on three charges, including assaulting a police officer.

HC 1.9.89

Reign of terror

ASIAN shopkeepers are living in fear of young racists running a reign of terror in Hoxton.

But they refuse to shut up shop and accuse police of ignoring their pleas and doing nothing to stop their hell.

Shopkeepers in and around Hoxton Street and Pitfield Street have been the victims of brutal attacks during the last six months.

They claim they are also taunted and harassed constantly, and are now sending a petition of 37 shopkeepers' names to local MP Brian Sedgemore.

One shopkeeper, who is afraid to be named in fear of reprisals, said: "We've been harassed and called names since the day we opened three years ago.

"We've had enough, but the police just don't want to know. We've invested a lot of time and money in businesses around here - we're not just going to move out!"

Her husband almost lost an eye when

by MARTIN TALBOT

a gang of youths attacked him as they were closing up shop one Saturday, she said.

Experts at Moorfields Eye Hospital told him he had almost been blinded when one of the thugs punched him repeatedly in the head and face, she said.

It is just one of many attacks on shopkeepers which have been reported to the police and Hackney Council For Racial Equality (CRE), she added. The others include:

● A grocery shop owner who was hurt when youths dropped the store shutters onto her hands.

● An Indian takeaway had its windows smashed and the owner's car was attacked.

● The owner of an electrical shop who was injured by youngsters who threw a radio at her after trying to steal it.

Hackney CRE's Jo Newman said: "We are investigating these complaints and are now monitoring the situation. But we would like to hear from other shopkeepers who have been victims of attacks in the area."

Supt Hynes, of City Road police station, said: "I am very disappointed that some shopkeepers don't think we are taking the situation seriously.

"We have been to every shop in the area, had a public meeting with the local shopkeepers and have also put extra officers on the beat."

Anyone who is a victim of harassment in the area should call City Road police, he added, and their complaint would be dealt with.

HC

8-9-89

DEMONSTRATORS waving banners and chanting anti-police slogans picketed a magistrates court on Tuesday demanding the release of 39 Bangladeshis arrested when violence erupted outside Bethnal Green police station in July.

The 39 were arrested, mainly for alleged public order offences, after a demonstration about the way police are dealing with recent allegedly racially-motivated murders and attacks in the Spitalfields area culminating in the killing of Esmoth Ali and the near fatal stabbing of his brother, Waris.

The demonstration outside Thames Magistrates Court in Arbour Square, Stepney, was organised by the Committee for Bangladeshis' Rights in the UK, who have written to Home Secretary Douglas Hurd asking for all charges to be dropped.

Chairperson Muhammad Haque told the Gazette: "I have been told by the police commissioner that they are going to take the severest possible action against these people and make no concession for the fact that they are young."

"They (the police) are making no distinction between anti-racist demonstrations and racist murders."

The call for the Bangladeshis' release was supported by Tower Hamlets Labour group, whose leader, Cllr Phil Maxwell, said: "We have complete support for the demonstration and we still demand that all charges should be dropped and that there is an independent inquiry into policing in Tower Hamlets."

The Committee for Bangladeshi Rights in the UK is compiling a detailed report on all racial attacks and the level of police response in the East End during the period just before Esmoth Ali's murder.

The report, due out in November, will be the first of its kind ever to be commissioned and compiled by the community itself and will be circulated to all civil rights groups in the UK and Europe.

The 39 people arrested were remanded on bail until January.

Freedom fighters



● Young demonstrators leave lessons to protest outside Thames Magistrates Court.

'Stop crime' shop set up

POLICE have set up shop to help people beat the burglar, organising a two-week crime prevention exhibition at 43 Newington Green.

Officers from Highbury station will demonstrate all the different locks and alarms available, both for the home

and personal security.

There will be a chance to chat to representatives from the local Neighbourhood Watch and Victim Support Schemes, as well as recruitment exhibitions by both the Specials and the full-time forces.

HC 15-9-89

Rise in number of race attacks

THE number of racial attacks reported to Hackney police has risen, the consultative group were told.

There were 74 racial incidents reported in the first nine months of this year, compared to 43 for the whole of last year.

But Supt Dave Dugmore, head of the police youth and community section, said the rise of 31 on the total for last year didn't necessarily mean there had been a vast increase in the problem.

"It means the public is more ready to report this type of crime to the police than it has in the past," he said.

Confidence

"It shows the public has more confidence to report incidents and a commitment by police to investigate them."

There was an increased number of arrests, up from four last year to 19 so far in 1989.

The Asian community suffered the highest number of attacks, with 49 reported incidents, while there were 35 reported incidents from the Afro-Caribbean community.

There were a total of 100 victims and a total of 172 suspects. A breakdown shows that 129 of the suspects were Caucasian, and 30 Afro-Caribbean.

DETAILS of the latest purge on the borough's prostitution problem were revealed at last week's meeting of Hackney Police Community Consultative Group, held at Dalston's Roots Pool Community Centre. Other issues discussed included the latest crime figures and the role of the home beat bobby. Russ Lawrence reports.



● The sex-for-sale trade: police plan a crackdown.

We'll drive them off the streets!

POLICE are to launch a crackdown on the long-standing prostitution problem in Hackney's red light districts.

Shaming letters are to be sent out by police to motorists warning them they face prosecution as part of a new drive to rid the streets of vice girls and kerb-crawlers, the police consultative group were told.

Motorists seen driving slowly and approaching women will have their registration numbers taken by undercover surveillance officers. These will be checked with the national vehicle licensing centre's computer at Swansea to reveal their home address.

The fear that wives or girlfriends could unexpectedly open the letters is seen as a major deterrent to kerb-crawlers.

Senior police officers refused to expand on the details of the new initiative, which will concentrate on the notorious Amhurst Park red light district of Stamford Hill.

Kerb-crawlers the targets in bid to clean up red light district

But it will include increasing the number of vice squad officers in a joint operation timed to coincide with a similar crackdown on the red light district at King's Cross.

The plan was revealed following a deputation of women residents from Joseph Court, Amhurst Park. They complained that their council block had been turned into a vice den by prostitutes having sex with clients in lifts and corridors.

And they said local women, including young mothers with small children, were constantly pestered by kerb-crawling motorists looking for prostitutes.

How the police plan to clamp down on the sex-for-sale trade will be announced at a special press conference to be held when Dalston's top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist, returns from holiday.

But his deputy, Supt Roy Clarke, indicated that successful measures used to tackle the problem in other red light districts in Birmingham and Streatham, South London, would be adopted.

"It's an extremely difficult problem to deal with because by cracking down in one area you simply displace the problem elsewhere," he said.

"Instead of just arresting the prostitutes we aim to stop their clients by sending letters direct to their homes warning them they face prosecution."

The number of prostitutes arrested in the vicinity of Amhurst Park rose from 304 in 1988 to 482 for the first eight months of this year, it was revealed at the meeting, while 51 kerb-crawlers had been arrested there this year compared to 138 last year.

Gary Stretch case: seven officers still suspended

AN update on internal disciplinary proceedings against seven off-duty policemen alleged to have beaten up Hoxton man, Gary Stretch, in a crowded pub was given to the police consultative group.

The constables from City Road police station remain suspended from duty after the Crown Prosecution Service decided there was insufficient evidence for them to stand trial on criminal charges.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, the officer in charge at City Road, told the meeting he had seen all the officers personally and papers had been served on them.

"I'm hopeful that the disciplinary tribunal will be set up soon, but it is entirely out of my hands," he said.

"It is dependent on the availability of staff such as barristers and legal representatives, and the availability of all witnesses."

Two resignations

TWO long-serving members of the consultative group announced they were resigning at the meeting.

Arthur White, a founder member and representative of the Boscobel House Tenants' Association, said in a letter that he was unable to continue serving because of ill health.

And Eddie McGinty,

of the Hackney and Tower Hamlets Chamber of Commerce, said he was being forced to resign because of business commitments.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert, has provisionally accepted the invitation of the consultative group to attend its annual meeting next month.

Worries over station cells

CONCERN was expressed over the time some prisoners awaiting deportation are being detained in Hackney police station cells.

Hackney's lay visitors panel complained facilities were not good enough to detain long-term prisoners.

The public watchdog panel is made up of unpaid volunteers who visit police cells to inspect them and talk to detainees as part of the Home Office's Lay Visitors Scheme.

"Some prisoners facing deportation are spending several days and up to a week in cells where conditions are wholly inappropriate," said consultative group chairperson, Betty Blomfield.

"We are making representations to the Home Office expressing our concern at the problem."

New statistics welcomed

Police winning the war against crime – official

HACKNEY'S police are solving more crimes than ever before, according to the latest figures.

The borough with the highest crime rate in east London has the best clear-up rate of any in this part of the capital, Hackney's Police Community Consultative Group was told.

Statistics for the first eight months of this year show crime clear-up rates have improved, and more offenders are being arrested, compared to the corresponding period last year.

Hackney's top crime-buster, Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, said the figures were encouraging and were higher than the Metropolitan Police Force average.

"I don't like placing too much emphasis on statistics, but they seem to be the best gauge of performance for the public," he said.

"The figures have consistently improved over the past couple of years and there is certainly room for cautious optimism."

The most worrying trend, he explained, was the rise in the number of violent crimes.

There were over 779 reported incidents of violence against the person compared to 620 last year. These included pub punch-ups, disputes between neighbours, domestic violence and arguments between motorists.

The clear up rate for such offences was over 60 per cent, he added, which was extremely high.

Chief Supt Mulvihill was also encouraged by the figures for street robberies and theft from the person, which were on a downward spiral with an overall 15.8 per cent drop in the number of offences.

The number of burglaries was also down, from 4,043 last year to 3,825, with clear-ups and arrests both up.



● Cautious optimism: Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill.

"Neighbourhood Watch schemes have had a significant effect on this type of crime," added Chief Supt Mulvihill.

He was less encouraged by the low clear-up rates and arrests for robbery and motor crime.

Police had been successful in combating such opportunistic crimes in the past by forming special squads and launching robbery initiatives, he said. "But it has to be a trade-off because if we target street robbery we simply displace it elsewhere in the borough or find that those responsible turn to burglary or some other type of crime."

"It means senior officers have to do a juggling act and be a 'Jack of all trades' in planning divisional objectives," he added.

The heroes of the busy home beat

STOKE Newington's home beat officers were hailed as heroes for their remarkable record on tracking down missing people after the role of the busy bobbies was explained to the group.

The tribute came in response to criticism from Hackney's Tory opposition leader, Joe Lobenstein, who had asked at the last consultative group meeting for work sheets of home beat officers to be made available. He said he hadn't seen a policeman patrolling his neighbourhood for months.

Sgt Bob Drew, the supervising officer at Stoke Newington, gave a talk about the role of home beat officers. He said confusion and misunderstanding had arisen in Hackney over what their responsibilities were.

Sgt Drew explained that round-the-clock policing was provided by uniformed constables known as shift officers, who patrolled on foot and in cars.

These were distinct from home beat officers who worked an eight-hour, five-day week patrolling their particular patch.

"Home beat policemen are chosen from experienced officers," he said. "They are expected to get to know people in the community and are allowed to take longer when investigating a matter or crime to give what we like to think of as a personal or individual service."

Time-consuming

He said patrolling the beat wasn't the officers' only function. They spent much of their time in the office dealing with paperwork and the many other duties they had to perform.

Among these was tracking down the 500 people, both adults and children, who go missing each year in the area covered by Stoke Newington and Dalston police stations.

"This, of course, is extremely time-consuming, but a very important part of our work."

"And we have never yet failed to find every person who has been reported missing," he added.

Green Party representative, David Fitzpatrick, said it was a record that the home beat office should be congratulated on.

"I recently read a Salvation Army report which estimated 18,000 people go missing in Britain each year and that they are never found, so the success of the home beat officers definitely merits praise," he added.

Doctor denies indecent assault on policewoman

A HACKNEY policewoman told an Old Bailey jury how she was "shocked rigid" when a divisional surgeon cupped her breast in his hand during a medical examination at Hackney police station.

WPC Amanda Fudge, 24, said: "I told him I had no injuries at all but he grabbed my breast. His action was an invasion of me. That is what I would call it. I was very shocked. I got up and walked out. I was extremely upset."

The court heard that the assault left her shaking and crying. "I told another policewoman. I couldn't believe what had happened. I had trouble talking," she said.

Police surgeon Dr Bhupendra Sinha, 48, of South Woodford, denies indecently assaulting the officer. He claims he was checking for bruising.

A prisoner the WPC and another officer had arrested had made a complaint of assault, so everyone involved had to see the doctor.

"It is law under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act - a matter of formality - but I had received no injuries at all," she recalled.

She remembered that she was wearing only her blouse during the examination as the weather was hot.

"I sat down and he took both my hands in his and turned them around. He then placed his hands on my neck and began to press. His hands moved to my collar bone and he began pressing using both hands," she said.

"The he cupped my right breast in his left hand. He exerted pressure for about two seconds. I was shocked rigid and I walked out of the room."

Counsel pointed out that the other officer, who was also uninjured, did not have his body checked for bruises.

When questioned, Dr Sinha told detectives: "I just did a normal examination. I just examined her for

WPC claims police surgeon fondled her in examination

injuries."

WPC Fudge told the jury that she should have slapped the doctor's face after he "groped" her.

"It was a grope. It was sexual rather than accidental. There was no reason for him to touch me there, especially as I had no injuries. I told him that three or four times."

Giving evidence Dr Sinha said: "I've been a police surgeon for 10 years. Nothing like this has ever happened before."

He told the court he was "shocked and amazed" when an inspector at Hackney police station called him into his room and put the allegation to him.

Dr Sinha denies committing the offence, alleged to have occurred on June 26 last year.

Assaulted

He described to the court how he was asked to examine a prisoner and two officers after the prisoner complained of being assaulted.

"I checked her chest to exclude any injury to the ribs. I put my right hand on the front of her chest, and one to the back of the spine and then applied the compression - exactly as I had done on the other officer."

"There was no reaction at all and she did not say anything," he told the court.

Mr John Rogers, QC, defending, said: "The officer has suggested you cupped her breast. Is that so?"

"No. I did not cup her breast," said the defendant.

● The trial continues.

Cops turn on the charm

HACKNEY'S police are being sent to charm school to learn how to be more polite and compassionate when dealing with the public.

They are being encouraged by Hackney's top cop, Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, to attend the special sessions aimed at improving the service they provide as part of the Plus Programme launched by the Metropolitan Police.

And he has even come up with his own motto for the Hackney division of "courtesy and compassion."

In a memo circulated to Hackney coppers and civilian staff, he says: "The motto on this division is 'courtesy and compassion'. We are all obligated to show a proper level of courtesy and compassion to every member of the public who comes in contact with the police, and also to each other."

"There is no intention that this force initiative will be involved in any way with gimmicks. Rather it is intended that the whole ethos of the Metropolitan Police be re-

'Courtesy and compassion' is Hackney's motto

vised and this is likely to affect all of us for the remainder of our service."

Chief Supt Mulvihill told the Gazette: "I am satisfied that the public of the Hackney division covered by Hackney and City Road police have been consistently provi-

ded with a compassionate service from the police."

"But the Plus Programme was launched after the Commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert, drew attention to the fact that we must supply the public with the very top level of service we can all the time."

Playing it by the book

GETTING booked takes on a whole new meaning at a police station where the charge-room has been turned into a makeshift library so suspects can while away the hours by having a good old read.

Coppers at City Road nick have been asked to sift through their old books and magazines and bring them into the station.

And, maybe, the bookworms will even turn over a new leaf!

Superintendent David Hines, who issued the "book them" order and sentenced his men to rummaging round for reading material, said:

"This is something new we are trying at City Road and is part of our efforts to make life more bearable for people who've been arrested and Mirror Old Codgers' Lit may have to be kept in for questioning for a long time."

"It can be very boring and depressing for them books," added Supt and, at least, now they've

Police bring in reading material

got something to do." And what books are on offer? "Well, we certainly haven't censored them!" said Supt Hines.

A glance at the reading list reveals no saucy surprises - with two bibles taking pride of place in the mini library.

Appropriately, also on offer are detective novels as well as a biography of bearable for people who've been arrested and Mirror Old Codgers' Lit may have to be kept in for questioning for a long time."

"We've already had people telling us how and depressing for them books," added Supt and, at least, now they've

Have-a-go Peter wins police praise

HAVE-A-GO hero Peter George got a special pat on the back from Dalston's top cop this week - for helping catch a burglar.

Chief Supt Peter Twist, of Dalston Police, handed him a letter of thanks for tackling a man raiding the Afro-Caribbean Centre below the hero's flat in Seven Sisters Road, Manor House.

Peter, 19, took his life in his hands after hearing two burglars in the centre late one night in December last year.

He confronted the men, one of whom was armed with a screwdriver. The unarmed man ran out, so Peter grabbed the other one.

He overpowered the raider and locked him in a room. The man jumped out of a window but still Peter didn't give up, climbing through after him and giving chase.

"I never thought about the danger, although he had the screwdriver," said Peter, whose dad is director of the centre.

The raider escaped but was later arrested and charged using Mr George's identification. He pleaded guilty and was convicted at Snare-



brook Crown Court in July.

Det Con Steve Bainbridge, who led the investigation to arrest the burglar, said: "We would never have caught this man if it hadn't been for Peter's identification."

As Ch Supt Twist handed over a letter of congratulations he said: "Peter was very brave. I just wish there were more people like him."

Peter is pictured above with Ch Supt Twist and Det Con Bainbridge.

Police launch phone line in drugs crackdown

A NEW 24-hour Drugs Hotline has been launched by police in their bid to clear Hackney of its deadly drug menace.

It also marks the beginning of a tough clamp-down on the highly addictive superdrug "crack" which has started to spill onto the streets of Hackney.

Police revealed this week that

three people have been arrested in possession of the cocaine based drug during the last month.

They are the first reported cases in Hackney of "crack" - the drug which has already left a trail of devastation through the USA's inner city ghettos.

Chief Supt Peter Twist, of Dalston police, confirmed there had been three cases of "crack". He added: "The hotline is part of a

divisional initiative on drugs."

Supt Roy Clarke said: "There are a lot of drugs in the borough and in recent weeks some very small amounts of 'crack' have been found on some people."

"Even before anyone was arrested with the drug, common sense told us that it was already here."

The head of Dalston's drugs squad, Det Insp Roger Williams, said the line is open to anyone who

wants help for a drug habit or can tip-off police.

"If people have anything they want to discuss with us, whether in confidence or anonymously, they can call us," he explained.

"Or if someone has a drug problem and wants some advice they can call us and we'll be able to help them or put them in touch with someone who can."

The number is 488 7164.

New police chief

HACKNEY'S new top cop is tough Scot Michael Taylor. He takes over as deputy assistant commissioner in charge of policing East London.

The former deputy chief constable of Bedfordshire, he replaces Wyn Jones, who has been promoted to assistant commissioner of personnel and training at Scotland Yard.

The appointment means a return to the Met for Mr Taylor, aged 47, who joined the service in 1960 rising to the rank of commander in 1981 when he left the Central Robbery Squad to work in the Complaints Investigation Department.

Prior to joining Bedfordshire Police in 1986, he spent two years at the police staff college at Bramshill where he was head of the department of police operations and assistant director of the senior command course.

He is currently chairman of the National Conference of Police Press and Public Relations Officers, a member of the European International Federation of Senior Police Officers and a member of the Mental Health Commission.

He is married with two daughters and his interests include writing, history and riding.

Police doctor cleared of groping WPc

THERE were claps and cheers at the Old Bailey as a police surgeon was cleared of groping a young WPc.

Dr Bhupendra Sinha, 48, had maintained throughout he had just been carrying out a "normal examination" - checking for broken ribs when he put a hand on the officer's chest.

As the jury of four women and eight men returned their not guilty verdict, after two and a half hours of deliberation, Sinha took off his glasses and smiled up at his family in the public gallery.

He had denied the charge from the outset.

As he left court, he said: "My life is in ruins. You have seen the terrible publicity this case has generated."

Blonde WPc Amanda Fudge, now working under the married name of WPc Walker, hurried flight-lipped from the court clasping her husband's hand.

WPc Fudge, based at Hackney Police Station, had told the jury the doctor squeezed her right breast with his left hand for two seconds.

When asked by his barrister, Mr John Rogers, QC, whether he had applied his fingers to the woman's breast to get sexual pleasure, Dr Sinha said: "No. Not at all. I never even touched her breast."

A senior police spokesman said that no action will be taken against WPc Fudge. The decision to go ahead with the case was taken by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Purge on prostitutes

A POLICE crackdown on prostitution is showing early signs of success.

Residents attending Monday night's meeting of the Finsbury Park Joint Working Party heard that a clampdown on the sex-for-sale trade had driven many vice girls off the street.

Sgt Andrew Delahay, of the Finsbury Park vice unit based at Highbury Vale police station, told the meeting that fewer prostitutes have been working in the area since police launched a new initiative to tackle the problem.

Both Highbury and Stoke Newington have increased vice squad officers in a joint operation timed to coincide with a similar crackdown in the King's Cross red light district.

"Usually, when there is a crackdown it displaces the problem elsewhere, but there has been no influx of new prostitutes working the notorious Amhurst Park area of Stamford Hill," added Sgt Delahay.

Chief Inspector David Scott, at Dalston police station, said Stoke Newington was still to launch its full-scale clampdown which involves sending out shaming letters to kerb crawlers.

"Many prostitutes in the Finsbury Park area are also staying off the streets after a woman was found murdered in a churchyard in Queen's Drive," he added.

HC 6.10.89

Policeman denies attacking prisoner

A DALSTON policeman headbutted a prisoner in the back of a van and then claimed it was the prisoner who had assaulted him, an Old Bailey jury heard.

But the court heard special constable Jean Kennedy had witnessed the incident and, despite keeping quiet at the time, reported the matter to

her superiors two weeks later.

"She is an officer of four years' experience and is sticking to her story," said Mr David Spens, prosecuting.

He told the court Pc Daniel Acquah, 23, based at Dalston police station, arrested a man named Matthew Xavier in Northwold Road, Stoke Newington, on August 27 last

year.

Mr Xavier was stopped by police while driving a black Ford Escort car. In the rear of the car the officer saw a pension book in a different name and Mr Xavier was arrested on suspicion of dishonesty, said counsel.

The court heard he was taken to the police car and be-

came violent. A struggle continued, which ended with him being handcuffed and put in a police van, which Pc Acquah had sent for.

Special constable Kennedy calmed Mr Xavier by talking to him and then got into the front of the van, alongside the constable who was driving. Pc Acquah got into the back with the prisoner and they went back to Dalston police station.

"In the course of that journey Acquah was stung by an insult from Xavier and assaulted him," claimed Mr Spens.

"Special constable Kennedy turned to see what was going on and saw Acquah headbutting Xavier more than once."

She was alleged to have heard him saying: "Don't ever insult me again" and heard him demanding an apology.

When they arrived at Dal-

ston police station, the officer said she told Pc Acquah: "You're mad."

The court heard nothing more was said. Pc Acquah was examined by a police surgeon and was found to be suffering a bruise on his forehead.

He claimed he had been assaulted by Mr Xavier and filed a report in his incident sheet. Mr Xavier was then charged with causing actual bodily harm, as well as with the dishonesty matter.

But two weeks later, disturbed by this, the special constable made a formal complaint.

After the investigation, charges were dropped against Mr Xavier and Pc Acquah was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm and perverting the course of justice. Pc Acquah denies both charges.

● The trial continues.

HC 13.10.89

Cop who lied is jailed



● Disgraced policeman Daniel Acquah: refused leave to appeal.

Out of luck

FRIDAY the 13th lived up to its reputation for 26-year-old Michael Chabon

A STOKE Newington policeman has been jailed for six months, even though he was acquitted of head-butting a prisoner.

An Old Bailey jury convicted Pc Daniel Acquah of lying about the incident – a decision described by defence counsel as “perverse.”

Refusing a certificate for immediate leave to appeal, Judge Graham Laughland, QC, agreed there was “a potential difficulty” with the jury’s verdicts.

Pc Acquah, 23, had awaited his fate for eight hours while the jury of 10 men and two women deliberated.

When they did return they convicted him of perverting the course of justice, but said they had failed to agree whether he had committed the alleged assault leading to that charge.

Reinforcements

Mr David Spens, prosecuting, told the jury Pc Aquah had arrested a man named Matthew Xavier in Northwold Road, Stoke Newington, on August 27 last year.

The prisoner had been violent and Pc Acquah called for reinforcements and a van.

They had calmed Mr Xavier down and he was handcuffed to Pc Acquah in the back of the van en route to Dalston police station.

It was on the journey that Special Constable Jean Kennedy, who had four years’ experience, said she saw Acquah head-butt Mr Xavier after the prisoner taunted him with racist remarks.

She said nothing at that stage, and when they arrived the police station and Pc Acquah was questioned about bleeding to his forehead, he filed a report saying Mr Xavier had butted him.

Allegation

When Wsc Kennedy heard Mr Xavier had been charged with assault on police she told her superiors. All charges were dropped against him and Pc Acquah was charged

Six months for Pc cleared of butting prisoner

instead with the assault.

He was also charged with perverting the course of justice by making the written allegation that Mr Xavier was responsible for the attack.

In court he pleaded not guilty to both charges.

Giving evidence, he maintained it was Mr Xavier who had attacked him and said he had filed a report accordingly.

Mr Ian Goldsworthy, defending, said the verdict was unusual and inconsistent, and questioned whether the jury could legally convict Pc Aquah of perverting the course of justice when they had not been able to convict him of the assault.

Exceptional

Pc Aquah was jailed pending his appeal.

The prosecution said there would be no retrial on the assault charge.

Sentencing him, the judge said: “A police officer who does acts perverting or intending to pervert the course of justice must, unless there are exceptional circumstances, expect to go to prison.

“The consequences of your making that report were that you were likely to be believed and that no-one would have believed Xavier, and that he would have suffered detriment to his liberty, which was unjust.”

Kerb crawlers get letters from police

KERBCRAWLERS in Hackney’s notorious red-light district will get more than they bargain for when they pick up a prostitute from now on – police are to send letters to their home address to shame them into staying away.

The crackdown comes after years of misery for Finsbury Park residents, who complain they cannot walk the streets alone at night without being harassed by kerbcrawlers.

From this week, plain-clothes and uniformed detectives from the vice squad will stop and caution all drivers they find slowly roaming the streets looking for business. Their name and address will be taken, and a letter – clearly marked with the Metropolitan Police crest – sent to them as a warning.

“If wives and girlfriends pick up these letters then clearly this might cause embar-

rassment, especially to a family man,” said Chief Superintendent Peter Twist, who is heading the tough new initiative. “But they are causing embarrassment and annoyance to local residents, and they have to expect to suffer a little themselves when this letter drops on the doormat.”

Kitty Phillips, chair of the Joseph Court Tenants’ Association in Amhurst Park, commented: “The prostitutes have sex with clients on the staircases and in the garages. We often find used condoms, as well as syringes and drug equipment, and we’re frightened to let our children out in case they pick some of this stuff up.

“We totally support the police in what they’re doing. Some women residents have been stopped nine or 10 times an evening, and it’s extremely offensive. We virtually live under a curfew on the estate.”

HC 20.10.89

No excuse for police to do as they like

CONTRARY to Maurice Owen (letters, October 6), I think local politicians – and the rest of us – are quite right to question the heavy presence of police on the Broadwater Farm Estate recently.

What is of concern is why the police can find massive resources at the drop of a riot helmet on some occasions, yet claim they lack enough manpower on others. Many are also concerned by the selective way the police use their powers. Drug dealing and drug abuse is not limited to a few estates, but is found all over the country at all levels of society.

A few years ago a Cabinet Minister's daughter died of a heroin overdose at a wild student party at Oxford. Yet we have not seen riot squads storming onto the university campuses and invading the halls of residence to crack down on drugs.

Similarly, it is a dead certainty that cocaine and other expensive drugs will be available at plenty of Yuppy parties this Christmas in the City. Yet will the police be invading blocks and strip-searching stockbrokers?

I think the raid on the Broadwater Farm Estate had more to do with politics than with cracking down on drugs.

Certainly there is a lot of public concern about drugs and drug-taking, but this should not be the green light for the police to do as they like or the excuse to ignore others forms of crime or anti-social behaviour. – RICHARD CLARKE, DUNSMURE ROAD, STAMFORD HILL.

Cell death man's family in new inquiry call

A YOUNG black man who died in a police station cell less than an hour after being arrested was buried this week amid fresh calls for a public inquiry.

Family and friends of 22-year-old Jamie Stewart, who lived on the Stamford Hill Estate, attended a funeral service at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Holloway Road on Tuesday.

Mr Stewart, 22, died alone in a cell in July within an hour of being arrested on suspicion of a driving offence in Hanley Road, Finsbury Park.

Now members of the Jamie Stewart Support Committee have enlisted the support of

Islington North MP Jeremy Corbyn to demand that Home Secretary Douglas Hurd agrees to a public inquiry.

Mr Corbyn was one of the speakers at a public meeting of the Jamie Stewart Campaign in Islington Town Hall last Thursday night.

He supported allegations made by members of Mr Stewart's family that Holloway police had prejudiced the inquest – to be held in January – by releasing the results of the autopsy report to the media.

The police have previously denied the claim.

Mr Corbyn described how police had consulted him on the Tuesday after Mr Stewart's death about releasing the results of the report.

Jamie Stewart burial prompts tribute

Counselled

"I counselled them it would be a breach of natural justice, but the police and the coroner's office agreed between them that same day to release the results," he said.

"But it is not up to the police or coroner to speculate as to the cause of death. It is up to the Lord Chancellor."

Jamie Stewart's sister, Leith, told the meeting how she had heard the news of the death of her brother over the telephone in America, where she was working at the time.

"I could feel only a swelling of my heart and I thought to myself I would not wish this to happen to anyone, even if he were my worst enemy," she said.

"He was a ragamuffin, it's true, but he was a nice ragamuffin. He was a really nice brother. He had a lot of friends from all walks of life and he was the sort of person who could find time to talk to you."

HC

20.10.89

Hallowe'en police patrols at graveyard

POLICE are gearing up to combat black magic rituals in Stoke Newington's Abney Park cemetery on Hallowe'en night.

Satanists have flocked to the creepy Victorian cemetery in previous years, to perform their strange black magic rites.

And police have confirmed they will again have extra officers patrolling the area on Tuesday night, to keep an eye on the grounds.

To kids, Hallowe'en is simply a chance for robbing apples, playing trick or treat on their neighbours and dressing up as ghosts and ghouls.

But for fans of the occult it's the signal for a gruesome evening summoning up evil spirits in an occult orgy of Satanism.

In past years police have found evidence of bizarre occult rituals in the cemetery, and in 1984 and 1985 youths tried to storm the cemetery at Hallowe'en.

Last month fears of another black magic attack were raised, when bodysnatchers broke into a family vault and took a 124-year-old skeleton.

Police believed satanists could have been

**Police aim to
block black
magic rituals**

responsible, but have denied they are stepping up any security on the cemetery because of the sick theft.

Chief Inspector John Tippet, of Dalston police, who is in charge of the security operation at the cemetery said: "In the light of previous incidents in the cemetery down the years, we feel we should be keeping an eye on it at this time of year. But there are no specific incidents in the last few weeks that have caused us to be particularly concerned this year."

Knocked down after police cell release

AN Irishman was knocked down by a car minutes after being released from a prison cell and cautioned for being drunk and disorderly, St Pancras Coroner's court heard.

Seamus Flanagan, a 38-year-old motor mechanic, originally from Co. Meath, who lived in the Gascoyne Estate in Homerton, died in Whittington Hospital on May 12.

It was a week after he was knocked over by a car in Hornsey Road, a few yards south of the junction with Seven Sisters Road.

A post-mortem examination by Dr Thein Zaw showed that Mr Flanagan died from bronchial pneumonia and traumatic head injuries.

His sister, Mrs Hanna Leontia, a housewife, told the court that her brother had just started work on a building site.

The court heard that after finishing work Mr Flanagan got drunk in a pub. "He liked his drink," Mrs Leontia said.

He was eventually arrested after a minor incident

involving a market stallholder.

Pc Michael Reay told the court he arrested Mr Flanagan "for his own safety." He remained in a police cell for more than two hours, remaining "quite amicable throughout", police sergeant Anthony Sullivan said.

Sgt Sullivan was the custody officer on duty at the time. It was his decision to release Mr Flanagan at 10.30pm as he seemed steady on his feet and "lucid."

He was led out of the police station by Pc Graham Jones, who gave him directions for a bus to Hackney. Mr Flanagan told him he wanted to meet a friend in a pub there.

He was knocked over by a car after "stepping out into the road" as a Rover, which had right of way, passed.

Witness Martin Sharp, a builder of Grazebrook Road, Stoke Newington, said the driver: "Didn't have a chance." Coroner Dr Douglas Chambers recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Too many police – or not enough?

RICHARD CLARKE (letters, October 20) must be one of those who criticises when there are too many policemen to meet the recent situation at Broadwater Farm Estate, but will also criticise for a lack of police presence on other occasions.

He should make up his mind whether he wants lawlessness dealt with in the interests of ALL the tenants so a few are not allowed to run amok and give the estate a shocking reputation.

In my younger days, the police were welcomed, no matter how many there were, and they gave confidence and protection. – NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

HC

27.10.89

Acid House party blocked

ACID House revellers planning to party in a derelict Hackney warehouse found the police waiting for them when they arrived in the early hours of Sunday.

Police had been tipped off that party-goers from West London were planning to head to the warehouse in Wallis Road.

Teenage thugs tried to force her to move, court told

Neighbourhood watch mum tells of hate vendetta

Police raid on sham marriage

THE odd couple marriage of a teenage boy and his much older bride was rudely interrupted by uninvited guests - the police.

The pair were nicked right in the middle of their wedding ceremony, after the marriage of convenience backfired when police got wind of the ruse and raided a London register office.

They arrested 17-year-old Dalston dark room technician, Michael Giff, and his intended - 32-year-old Rose Kwarteng, from Ghana - before the couple got around to tying the knot, Southwark Crown Court heard.

They were fined a total of £1,600 and the woman was ordered to be deported.

Sentencing the couple, Assistant Recorder Mr G. Briten said the couple's desire to marry was a "sham." He added:

"This was a calculated attempt to circumvent the immigration laws of this country."

"There was no loving relationship."

Judge makes deport order

Giff, now 18, of Graham Road, Hackney, and Kwarteng, of Poynton Road, Enfield, pleaded guilty to making a false declaration on August 4 last year.

The court heard that Kwarteng, a computer studies student, arrived in England in October, 1987 on a one-year visa.

She met Giff - whom she claimed she knew as Mark Thomas - and the couple planned to marry at the Finsbury Register Office in Rosebery Avenue.

Both wrongly declared during the ceremony that they lived at Canonbury Road in Islington, and police arrested them before their vows were complete.

Miss Louise Kamill, prosecuting, said that Giff - who had secured a false birth certificate - had declared in writing before the wedding that he was Mark Thomas. He also falsely stated that both he and Kwarteng lived in Islington, although the pair have never resided there.

"If she had married him she would have had the status to remain in the UK without difficulties with her passport," Miss Kamill added.

Kwarteng's counsel, Mr Michael Speak, said his client - who claims she is now pregnant by Giff - had "married for love. There was a genuine relationship here. She maintains that there was no conspiracy."

Kwarteng was fined £1,250 and released on a £500 surety until deportation is approved by the Home Office.

Giff received a £350 fine.



A WOMAN neighbourhood watch leader, who was nearly blinded when CS gas was sprayed in her face, told this week of the terror campaign waged by teenage thugs to hound her out of her home.

Mother-of-three Irene Gupta, 58, was speaking after a jury at the Old Bailey had found 20-year-old Hallett Vincent guilty of the attack last summer, as she chatted with her friend outside her flat in Morris Blitz Court, Foulden Road, Stoke Newington.

And she claimed the attack was just the latest in a year-long vendetta by gangs of youths who had turned her flat into an "estate of fear," and had succeeded in their attempts to drive her out.

"All I want to do now is move away," she said. "I became a marked person because I had the courage to set up a police neighbourhood watch scheme and tenants' association to try and rid the estate of its drug and crime problem."

"I would walk past the gangs and overhear them say to one another 'here comes the police grass,' but I would take no notice."

Numerous

"On numerous occasions I would find my washing missing from the line and my balcony flowerpots thrown on the floor or completely smashed."

"Two days before I was attacked there was an arson attack on the home of a neighbour who had told a gang of youths hanging around her door late at night to move away."

The Old Bailey heard that Mrs Gupta had been temporarily blinded and needed hospital treatment after the CS gas was sprayed in her face.

Vincent, of Fairleigh Road, Stoke Newington, said he had just found the can on a nearby building site and was trying out the nozzle.

Deliberate

"It just happened that he was passing Mrs Gupta at the time," said Mr Charles Tilling, prosecuting. "The Crown say it was deliberate."

The jury agreed and convicted Vincent of assault causing actual bodily harm and administering a noxious thing with intent to cause injury.

The court heard that Vincent had one previous conviction for burglary.

Mr Recorder Paul Focke, QC, agreed with the defence that Vincent should not be sentenced until probation and community service reports were prepared, saying: "He has not yet received a custodial sentence."

Top cop's idea gets a raspberry from watchdog group

Traffic wardens could run police station

PEOPLE who expect to see a police officer behind the counter at Dalston police station could be in for a shock if plans to replace them with traffic wardens get the go-ahead.

The opening of the new £1.3 million Stoke Newington "supernick" in January means Dalston will cease to function as a fully operational station, although a 24-hour counter service will remain.

But plans to have police officers perform the function are being reviewed and an alternative proposal that traffic wardens take their place has been recommended.

The suggestion was greeted with concern and some derision when Dalston's top cop, Chief Super Peter Twist, asked Hackney Police Consultative Group for their views.

He told them that it would need at least five police officers to man a round-the-clock counter service and explained they could be better used patrolling the streets or nearby Ridley Road market.

When the new Stoke Newington police station opens in the New Year all CID, uniformed and civilian back-up staff at Dalston will be based there, while the traffic warden office and police youth and community section

will move to Dalston.

"Traffic wardens could provide a reception service and deal with traffic dispensations and fixed penalty notices and queries of that nature," he said.

Traffic wardens are a plentiful resource and they are required to perform some station duties anyway.

"Of course they will be in communication with police officers by telephone and by radio in the event of an emergency."

But the majority of the Consultative Group had reservations about the proposals.

Chair Betty Blomfield said: "I'm very concerned there is an insufficient police presence in an area which has Dalston's Ridley Road market nearby."

"Having the front counter manned by traffic wardens wouldn't create a very good image in the eyes of the public. They wouldn't feel they are receiving the same service they expect from the police."

Vice-chair, Charles Cable, said he was worried about the attitude of the public in going to the police station for assistance when traffic wardens were not trained to do that particular job. "And I'm not convinced you need five police officers to perform that role at a sub station," he added.



● Dalston nick - humble bees behind front desk?

HC 3.11.89

Hackney people look at police behaviour

STATE OF FEAR is the title given to a special public meeting taking place this week to discuss the behaviour of police officers in Hackney, east London.

The notoriety of Hackney police was set by the death of Tunay Hussan, whilst in Hackney police custody and the injuries sustained by Trevor Monerville which required emergency brain surgery in 1987.

During 1989 two black pensioners, Mr and Mrs Burke underwent an assault by police officers in their home leading to each

person suffering a strip-search in the police station. A black mother of four has also complained of assault by police officers.

Steve Edgar's bruises after an altercation with police officers were followed with a charge of assault against police officers which were later dropped without exception.

The catalogue is seemingly endless and community demands for greater police accountability have failed to elicit any favourable response.

Gloria Van Cooten is a former member of

Hackney's lay visitors panel for keeping check on the condition of prisoners held in Hackney, Stoke Newington and Dalston police stations. Ms Van Cooten claims she was dismissed after 18 months service by the Home Office because her criticism was too vociferous.

Ms Van Cooten is an invited speaker at the public meeting to be held by the Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA) at The Factory, 107 Matthias Rd., London N16 on Thursday November 9 at 7.30pm.

CT 8-11-89

Police watchdog group official banned in drink drive case

**"Many people
get done for
drinking and
driving . . .
people don't
think of it as a
crime" – Ted
Oakham**



● Ted Oakham – no reason
to quit.

A LEADING member of Hackney's police watchdog group was banned from driving for three years by magistrates this week after police arrested him on drink-driving charges.

Edward Oakham, secretary of the borough's Police Community Consultative group, was also fined £500 for driving while unfit and £100 for failing to provide a specimen, after being found guilty at Old Street court on Monday.

This week he denied rumours that he was about to resign his position on the police watchdog group after calls that he should stand down.

The 57-year-old tailor, who is also chairperson of Stoke Newington's Somerford Estate tenants association, didn't see any reason to quit.

"Many people get done for drinking and driving," he said, "people don't think of it as a crime and I don't see why that should infringe on serving the community."

Consultative chairperson Betty Blomfield said drink and driving was a serious offence which put people's lives at risk and should be dealt with accordingly.

But she believed he had done an excellent job and personally saw no reason why he should step down. "It is regrettable and no person is above the law," she added.

"I agree that as a member of the consultative group he should be setting an example to the rest of the community, but there should be no exceptions and I get angry when Royalty get away with similar driving offences."

HC 10.11.89

Top cop is rapped over AIDS scare

HEALTH bosses have hit out at a leading policeman's claims that at least half a dozen prostitutes in Hackney's red light district are infected with AIDS.

They say there is no way anyone could know how many vice girls in the notorious Amhurst Park area have the disease.

And they have rapped Chief Supt Peter Twist for telling Hackney's Police Community Consultative Group that the girls were helping to spread the killer disease to their clients.

Dalston's top cop told the group that at least six of the prostitutes were HIV positive and that one had full-blown AIDS.

Estimates

He based his claims on estimates from Stoke Newington vice squad.

But his remarks have been described as "alarmist and misleading" by AIDS counsellors and women health workers.

They say it was wrong to produce, as a statement of fact, evidence based on what they describe as "purely anecdotal hearsay."

"Details of HIV status of individuals is confidential



● Chief Supt Peter Twist: Under fire for AIDS claim.

by RUSS LAWRENCE

and there is no reliable public information on HIV or AIDS among prostitutes or their clients," said Lynda Jessop, of Hackney Health Authority's Women's Health

Strategy Group.

"Using scare tactics and pointing the finger at prostitutes is not only inaccurate but counter-productive to existing health education

initiatives."

Dr Bobbie Jacobson, leader of City and Hackney Health Authority's AIDS programme, said the only available statistics showed that less than one per cent of prostitutes in London have the HIV virus.

"HIV and AIDS is a community wide problem and we are all at risk," she added.

"We are looking at positive ways of working together with the police. We have discussions with their community involvement officers and are looking at a multi-agency approach where we offer training to new police officers and carry out joint information and education work with drug users and prostitutes."



● Dr Bobbie Jacobson: "We are all at risk."

Drink-drive comments were a disgrace...

I AM appalled at the casual attitude taken by Ted Oakham, secretary of the Hackney Police Community Consultative Group, over his drink-driving conviction. His statement that "people don't think of it as a crime" is a disgrace.

If someone close to him had been mown down by a drunken driver, he would change his tune pretty quickly. There is no excuse whatever for people who drive hazardous vehicles knowing full well that their judgment could be impaired by alcohol. Surely one of our most basic environmental rights is to be able to walk along a street (or across it) without risking our lives at the hands of befuddled motorists. If he doesn't realise that, he is certainly not fit to be leading a police consultative group, and should resign his post immediately.

I am also astonished that the group's chair Betty Blomfield should support Mr Oakham and encourage him to stay as secretary. If she thinks that he should "set an example to the rest of the community", then he should stand down because he hasn't. If he stays on, the police consultative group will just be a laughing stock. — NICK ROGERS, QUEENS DRIVE, FINSBURY PARK.

...and are a cause for great concern

I WAS appalled to read the comments made last week by Ted Oakham. He apparently does not consider that driving while reactions and judgement are seriously impaired by drink should be regarded as a criminal activity.

On behalf of the community he purports to represent, I think he should be made aware that such an irresponsible attitude is a cause for great concern. Driving while under the influence of alcohol turns those who risk it into potential killers.

I seriously question whether someone with such a casual attitude to an offence which claims so many tragic victims should be representing the people of Hackney on the Police Consultative Committee. — JULIE LAFFERTY, ICKBURGH ROAD, UPPER CLAPTON.

Jamie Stewart statement call snubbed

PLEAS to the Home Office for a public statement about the death of Stoke Newington man Jamie Stewart have fallen on deaf ears.

Islington North MP Jeremy Corbyn asked Secretary of State David Waddington to call for a report on the death of the young black man from the Stamford Hill estate, who died in Holloway police station in July.

Mr Stewart, a 22-year-old electrician, died after being arrested in Hanley Road, Finsbury Park, on suspicion of a driving offence.

But Mr Peter Lloyd, replying on behalf of the Home Office in a written Parliamentary answer, ruled out a public statement.

"The circumstances of Mr Stewart's death are being investigated by the Metropolitan Police under the supervision of the Police Complaints Authority," he told Mr Corbyn.

"An inquest has been opened and adjourned until January 1990. The case is therefore sub judice."

HG 17.11.89

Prison panel sacking row

A MEMBER of a Hackney police watchdog group says she was sacked after complaining that prisoners had been beaten up in police custody.

Gloria Van Cooten was appointed a member of Hackney Lay Visitors' Panel, which keeps a weekly check on the condition of prisoners in Hackney's three police stations, in January, 1988.

But she was removed by the Home Secretary in September after fellow panel members and senior Hackney police officers complained that her continued membership put the panel's future at risk.

The panel comprises 26 Hackney residents, the majority of whom, according to chair Betty Blomfield, voted to ask the Home Secretary to remove Mrs Van Cooten because she was disruptive at meetings.

But Mrs Van Cooten says she was sacked because she would not keep quiet about injuries she saw. She was disruptive, she admits, but insists: "The reason I was disruptive at meetings was because I found several injuries to detainees and the panel did not want to do anything about. I feel

they were covering up for the police."

Mrs Blomfield told the Gazette that Mrs Van Cooten asked prisoners "leading" questions like "have you been beaten up?"

But Mrs Van Cooten says the questions were justified. "If I saw injuries like a black eye then I would ask the detainee if he had been beaten up," she adds.

She is also calling for the panel to be scrapped and a new one appointed under tougher guidelines which allow individual prisoner's cases to be taken up.

Supt Dave Dugmore, an advisory member of the panel, denied Mrs Van Cooten had been removed because of her allegations about injuries to prisoners.

He said it was due to her consistently disruptive behaviour at meetings and police station visits.

"We strongly refute Mrs Van Cooten's suggestion that the Hackney Lay Visitors' Panel is party to a cover-up of injuries in police custody," added Supt Dugmore.

"We feel it important to state that it (the panel) is independent and free standing with no police membership or influence".

— Jamie Stewart family press for inquiry —

CAMPAIGNING friends of Stoke Newington electrician Jamie Stewart are still determined to get a public inquiry into his death despite a recent Home Office refusal.

The young black man from the Stamford Hill estate died in custody in Holloway police station, after being arrested for a minor driving offence.

The Home Office says a public inquiry is not needed because the Police Complaints' Authority is already probing

his death, and the inquest will be held in January.

But Jamie's friends and family say the inquiry is needed because police have already prejudiced the inquest by releasing the cause of his death to the press.

They claim to have received "overwhelming support" from unions like NALGO (National Association of Local Government Officers) and the NUT (National Union of Teachers), as well as other groups.

HG 24.11.89



Marcus gets medals after cops strike gold

CHAMPION sprinter Marcus Adam was presented with two gold medals this week - by Stoke Newington police.

The kindly cops handed him replica copies of two prized golds which were stolen from 21-year-old Marcus's home in Shacklewell Lane, Dalston.

Marvellous Marcus, the UK champion at 100 metres and 200 metres, was devastated when the burglars looted his home and made off with all his medals early in 1987.

Police soon found most of the loot dumped near his home - but his only two international gold medals were still missing and they've

never been found.

So Det Sgt Tony Read, then of Stoke Newington police, contacted Birmingham-based WII Darby, who made the medals and agreed to replace them free of charge.

Det Sgt Read said: "It was a pleasure to hand the medals back to Marcus.

"We meet a lot of unpleasant people in this job so it was great to do a nice bloke a good turn." Marcus is pictured with DAC Michael Taylor (left) and Det Sgt Tony Read.

Police station windows smashed

POLICE have ticked-off builders after their new Stoke Newington supernick was attacked by vandals who left them with a bill for thousands of pounds after spraying anti-police graffiti on the walls, and smashing windows.

The builders took down the hoardings outside the new station ready to lay the new pavement. When workmen returned on Monday, they found slabs had been thrown through two security glass windows and paint sprayed on the window ledges.

Dalston's top cop Ch Supt Peter Twist said: "We were dismayed at the lack of security awareness shown by the contractors."

Police raid

POLICE raided a flat in Hoxton's Sara Lane Court last Thursday, finding substances which were taken away for analysis.

HC 1.12.89

Police chief under fire

BRITAIN'S top cop was forced to abandon part of his address to Hackney's Police Community Consultative Group after protesters threatened to disrupt the public meeting.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Peter Imbert cut short his prepared speech after continual interruptions and barracking from a dozen members of Hackney Community Defence Association, a police watchdog group which campaigns against police malpractice and racist attacks.

More than 100 people packed into Dalston's Roots Pool Development Association for the commissioner's visit last Thursday night – the first time he has ever attended any of the capital's police consultative groups.

But the small band of protesters heckled him constantly, accusing police of brutality and racism throughout his address and a 30-minute question-and-answer session.

The protesters made repeated references to: Trevor Monerville, the 19-year-old black Stoke Newington youth who needed a brain operation after being detained by Stoke Newington police; Jamie Stewart, the young black man from Stamford Hill Estate who died in Holloway Police Station after being arrested for a minor driv-

Hecklers put paid to Sir Peter Imbert's speech

by RUSS LAWRENCE

ing offence; Eddie Stretch, the 24-year-old Hoxton man who alleges he was beaten up by seven off-duty City Road policemen in a Hackney pub; and Colin Roach, the teenager who died of gunshot wounds in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station.

Although Sir Peter carried on regardless, even members of the consultative group, sitting just a few places away, were unable to hear much of what he said.

At one stage, chairperson Betty Blomfield warned the protesters she would have them thrown out of the meeting if they continued to disrupt it and instructed senior officers to have

their men ready to eject them.

There was even an impassioned plea to allow the commissioner to speak from Charlie Collins, of the Roots Pool organisation, whose own son was one of 13 youngsters killed in a racially-motivated arson attack on a party in New Cross in 1979.

He compared the protesters to some of the political activists who used that campaign for their own ends and asked: "Who do you represent? You don't represent me as a black man." It brought loud cheers and clapping from the assembled gathering.

The commissioner, who had praised the consultative group on its achievements since it was formed two years ago, also remarked on the attempts to disrupt the meeting.

"Many of us," he said, "must know

of instances or similar encounters between officers or members of the public that sparked disorder and you can see here how easy it is to spark that disorder.

"Those who cause that disorder can recognise themselves. We have here a clear demonstration of the difficulties: not only police face, but ordinary citizens."

Consultative group chairperson Betty Blomfield later publicly expressed her disgust at the protesters' attempts to disrupt the meeting.

"They do not represent the views of the majority of the people who live in the borough," she said. "I was particularly disgusted with their behaviour towards the group of sixth-form schoolgirls from Stamford Hill's Our Lady's Convent Girls' School who were at the meeting as part of their general studies.

"They were both rude and insulting and laughed, jeered and ridiculed the girls for taking an interest in the consultative group as part of their studies.

"But, despite their extreme hostility to the police, I've no doubt that if the occasion arose and they were in danger they would be among the first to call police for help and protection."

The Hackney Community Defence Association defended their action, saying the consultative group was unrepresentative of the community.

"The police will never be accountable until they are subject to the same criminal justice procedure as ordinary members of the public," said spokesperson Graham Smith.

"When the community is treated with disrespect by the police you expect them to express their views in an extremely angry way and Peter Imbert was given a clear message that things are wrong here in Hackney."

● Turn to page 11 for a full report of the meeting.



● Above, Sir Peter Imbert tries to make a point; below, chairperson Betty Blomfield – disgusted by the disruption.



● Charlie Collins – "they don't represent me".

HC 8-12-89

Top cop backs new complaints system

HACKNEY'S Police Community Consultative Group was set up two years ago amid controversy — and that controversy continued at the group's AGM last Thursday. Campaigners tried to disrupt the visit of Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert, as reported elsewhere in the Gazette. But Britain's top cop still had plenty to say about policing in Hackney. RUSS LAWRENCE reports.

MEMBERS of the consultative group heard the commissioner give his backing to calls for a completely independent body to investigate complaints against police.

Sir Peter Imbert gave his clearest indication yet that police officers should not investigate complaints against themselves, as currently happens under police complaints procedure.

He was answering a question from consultative group member, David Fitzpatrick, over the independence of the Police Complaints Authority, and the time it took to resolve complaints.

Mr Fitzpatrick explained that police accountability had been called into question over PCA investigations into the cases of Trevor Monerville, the Stoke Newington teenager who needed a brain operation after being detained by Stoke Newington police, and Eddie Stretch, the Hoxton man who alleges he was beaten up by seven off-duty policemen from City Road.

"We don't seem much further in speeding up the case, or getting information," he said.

"It's 22 months since Eddie Stretch made his complaint, and the family are no further forward in understanding what is going on.

Police shouldn't investigate police, says commissioner

Mr Fitzpatrick explained to the commissioner that the former chairperson of the Police Complaints Authority, Sir Cecil Clothier, had addressed the consultative group in January 1988 and had told them that procedures could only be changed by parliament.

Sir Peter Imbert told him that he was among five chief officers who made a public declaration four years ago that the complaints procedure needed to be more publicly accountable, and investigations be independent of police.

"I believe we are now at the stage where police officers should no longer investigate complaints against themselves, and there should be a completely independent and separate body."

He also revealed that the officers in the Stretch case will face an internal police disciplinary tribunal in the Spring of next year, following the decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions not to prosecute.



Sir Peter Imbert chats with pupils from Stamford Hill's Our Lady's Convent school.

Police station cells could still be better

THE conditions in which prisoners are kept in Hackney's police station cells have improved considerably following pressure from the borough's Home Office-appointed public watchdog.

That is the verdict of Hackney's Lay Visitors' Panel who monitor them.

The borough has 26 voluntary unpaid lay visitors — ordinary citizens who visit police cells unannounced and inspect cells and talk to detainees.

But Betty Blomfield, chairperson of the lay visitors' panel, told the consultative group that improvements could still be made.

"Some of these Victorian cells accommodate

more than one prisoner who have to share one toilet," she said.

"There is no privacy and no door to lock, but everyone has got basic human rights. I mention this so the best possible standard of hygiene will be maintained. I understand this has been taken into account in the building of Stoke Newington's new £1.5 million supernick."

Dalston's top Cop, Chief Supt, Peter Twist, said that cell toilets were now being cleaned both morning and evening as a direct result of representations by the lay visitors' panel.

More officers on the streets as drug problem is set to spiral

EXTRA police are to be drafted into Hackney to combat crime and the increasing drug problem, the commissioner told the consultative group.

He was responding to concern expressed by Ray White of the New Nightingale Tenants' Association, who claimed the borough's children were at risk from the growing drugs menace.

Sir Peter Imbert explained that although the Metropolitan Police had been given an extra 150 officers, only one or two would be allocated to Hackney because there were 196 police stations in the capital and they would be thinly spread.

But he said it was up to each senior officer to identify priorities and make better use of available manpower.

He said the new Divisional Assistant Commissioner, Michael Taylor, who is in charge of policing East London, was looking at the redistribution of officers throughout the division.

"Of the extra 150 new officers the Met gained, it was necessary to put some of them onto the central drug

squad because of the increase in the drug "crack" in the capital.

The escalation in the problem can be seen by the rise in the number of seizures, he said.

Seizures

"Until last month there were 80 seizures this year, more than double the number for the previous 12 months," he said. "And the year before that there was just 10 seizures in all."

DAC Michael Taylor said he had looked at the current situation and said it was clear to him that the borough needed additional officers.

'No trust' poll result is labelled confusing

WHETHER or not the public trusted the police in the light of a recent national newspaper poll was another question the police commissioner was asked to explain.

He was quizzed by Nigel Lewis of Workers Against Racism who asked him to explain the findings of a recent national Mori newspaper poll.

It showed that out of 1,600 people surveyed nationally, over 66 per cent did not believe what the police said in court was true.

And that figure rose to 80 per cent in London.

Attitude

Nigel Lewis also attacked the police attitude to black people, using as an example a widely reported public speech made by a police officer to the Tory ... day Club in 1982 which expressed racist views.

But Sir Peter Imbert said he dissociated himself entirely from that speech, and described it as racist.

He said he found the Mori poll confusing because although 66 per cent of those interviewed didn't trust what police said in court, they had omitted another of the Mori poll's findings which showed that 69 per cent of the people interviewed said they actually trusted the police.

"I don't understand how you equate those two things," he said.

Commissioner lays down his 10-point law

POLICE officers who fail to observe the top cop's "Ten Commandments" are not wanted in the force, the commissioner told the consultative group.

The special statement of purpose published recently by the Metropolitan Police sets out a special 10-point code by which all officers should abide and was the

subject of a question put to Sir Peter Imbert.

Consultative group member Dudley Dryden, who represents the Association of Jamaicans, asked him how successful the "Ten Commandments" had been in curbing the one per cent of officers who he claimed "transgressed the law."

Mr Imbert said: "The sta-

tement of purpose was drawn up in consultation with consultative groups, local authorities, MPs, church leaders and members of the public.

"It acts as a benchmark towards the standard that all serving officers should attain. If they don't live up to it, there won't be a place for them in the job."

God help anyone who says differently

LAST Thursday evening, the Commissioner of Police, Sir Peter Imbert, attended the annual meeting of the Hackney Police Consultative Group to give an account of police activities. Unfortunately, a group had assembled outside the building shouting something about police brutality.

These people were allowed in and they started to shout at Sir Peter as he was addressing the meeting. The noise continued and the chairman had repeatedly to ask for quiet in the interest of members of the public who had come to listen. To my amazement, the Commissioner remained relaxed and calm throughout, having promised to answer questions for half an hour.

I will not dwell on the points of view raised, but surely real socialism stands for the right of individuals to put their point of view, to allow the speaker to answer and, above all, to allow the listening public to draw their own conclusions.

If one listens to Question Time on television, you will understand the point I am making. But these self-styled militants who interrupt a meeting are not interested in solving problems, but simply, in my opinion, out to cause as much trouble for the police as possible.

Suffice to say, if such people came to power, God help anyone who tried to voice an opinion contrary to their own. — A. STONEMAN, DARENTH ROAD, STAMFORD HILL.

● A report of the meeting Sir Peter Imbert attended is on page 3.

Watchdog group's officers stay the same

AS you were! The consultative group's serving officers were all elected unopposed at the AGM.

They are: chairperson, Betty Blomfield; vice-chairperson, Charles Cable; treasurer, Kurt Stern; secretary, Ted Oakham.

The chairperson of the lay visitors' panel is Betty Blomfield and the chairperson of the Crime Prevention Panel is Rashid Telsla.

Party cops face sack

NINE policemen could be sacked after rowdy stag night incidents in two pubs.

Based at Stoke Newington, the nine officers - all off-duty - are alleged to have lost control as the stag party called at the Lord Stanley in Sandringham Road and the Green Man in Shacklewell Lane.

Dalston's leading policeman, Chief Superintendent Peter Twist, confirmed that Scotland Yard would be investigating claims that the nine white constables:

- Abused black staff.
- Ordered large rounds of drinks which they said were on the house.
- Made racist comments to customers.

When they were asked to leave one of the pubs it is alleged they refused and the landlord had to call the police.

Chief Supt Twist said that he had ordered the immediate transfer of the nine men out of the Hackney police division and set up an inquiry which will be carried out by the Police Complaints Authority.

Untenable

"I considered that the position of these officers remaining in the borough of Hackney was untenable and consequently arranged for their immediate transfer away from the borough," he said.

"If these allegations are upheld, such grave misconduct could result in the dismissal of one or more of these officers from the force.

"I deeply regret that members of the public, let alone the licensee, has had cause to complain about officers in this matter."

The incident is said to have taken place on November 2.

HC 22-12-89