



PRESS RELEASE

Launch of the Mikey Powell Memorial Family Fund

On the twelfth anniversary of the death of Mikey Powell, who died in the custody of West Midlands Police, campaigning news group 4WardEver UK, which was launched on 1st June 2006 by his cousin Tippa Naphtali, will be launching the National Mikey Powell Memorial Family Fund appeal.

The Fund is being developed in conjunction with the Friends of Mikey Powell Campaign, The United Families & Friends Campaign and Migrant Media.

Organisers also acknowledge the late Pauline Campbell who died in May 2008.

The fund will be the first permanent national resource of its kind for those affected by deaths in custody, making small grants available for families and their campaign groups across the UK to provide practical domestic assistance, to further the work of their own campaigns or to assist them in engaging in other local, regional or national campaigns, events and initiatives.

This fund will make a real difference for families and their campaign groups that need financial support during the often long and drawn out struggles for justice lasting for decades in many cases.

Sieta Lambrias (sister of Mikey Powell) said;

My brother Mikey Powell died in police custody in September 2003. It's been a long struggle for justice since then and many thousands of other families are still struggling to find out why and how their loved one died in police, prison or secure hospital units.

Marcia Rigg (sister of Sean Rigg) said;

My brother Sean Rigg died in police custody in August 2008. The impact on our family has been devastating and there are many thousands like us who need your support. It's time to step forward to keep up the work that Pauline and many other families have taken on. With your support we can move closer to justice.

Tippa Naphtali (cousin of Mikey Powell) said;

The needs of affected families and children often get lost in the equally important work of campaigning and lobbying of state institutions. We want to change that with a permanent fund set up specifically for their needs.

Find out more: www.mikeypowell-campaign.org.uk/donations



PRESS RELEASE

Mikey's Case;

Mikey Powell was a fit and healthy 38 year old black man and a father of three young children. He had suffered several short episodes of mental illness in the past from which he had recovered. One of these episodes occurred on 7 September 2003. Police had previously dealt appropriately with Mikey and were called again on this occasion by concerned family members.

During this incident Mikey was detained outside his mother's house in the Lozells area of Birmingham, officers drove a police car at Mikey, hitting him, then used CS spray and a baton while restraining him. Even though Mikey was injured, rather than taking him to a hospital, the officers instead drove him to Thornhill Road Police Station. An inquest found that Mikey died whilst in the police van.

- statement ends -

Notes to editors:

This release has been issued via 4WardEver Campaign UK.

4WardEver UK is an international community collective providing news and information sharing services for its readers and members.

Their core purpose is to provide a one-stop-resource for case profiles, news and event details, useful resources, statistics, appeals, and more in relation to deaths and abuses whilst in custody; including the death penalty, other injustices and human rights abuses in the United Kingdom and internationally.

Further Information:	www.4wardeveruk.org www.mikeypowell-campaign.org.uk www.uffcampaign.org www.vimeo.com/migrantmedia
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