

## PRESS RELEASE TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2004

### Remember Our Children

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October would have been the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of Anthony Redding. Yet Anthony died on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2001 aged 16 in HMYOI Brinsford.

The family of Anthony Redding will be holding a vigil outside Brinsford Young Offenders Institution to commemorate his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. Anthony is one of twenty-seven children to have died in penal custody since 1990.

Anthony Redding's mother Helen said:

"We are holding this vigil in celebration of Anthony's 20th birthday and also to highlight the shortcomings in these prisons that lead to our children taking their lives. People need to be aware of these 'hell holes' that force our children to not want to live."

The families of other children who have died in penal custody will also be attending the vigil, including Yvonne Scholes, mother of 16-year-old Joseph Scholes who died at HMYOI Stoke Heath. Yvonne will be reading a prayer of remembrance as flowers are laid at the gates of Brinsford.

Gilly Mundy, senior caseworker at INQUEST said: "It is six years since Anthony's death and yet deaths of children in custody are still happening. Anthony's death is not an isolated case. Already this year two more children have died. Gareth Myatt aged 15 and Adam Rickwood aged 14, the youngest child to die in penal custody in recent times. These deaths cannot be ignored any longer. The deaths of children in the state's care are a serious human rights issue."

Further Details

**The vigil will start at midday outside HMYOI Brinsford. 27 white balloons will be released in memory of the 27 children who have died.**

Notes to Editors

All families attending will be available for interview.

Other families attending include Violet and Ron Bryson parents of Robert Bryson who was left in a permanent vegetative state after he was allegedly found hanging in his cell in 1994. They later lost their daughter Anne-Marie Bates in HMP Brockhill in 2001.