

PRESS RELEASE TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2005

KWAME WIREDU– BLACK DEATH IN STOKE NEWINGTON POLICE STATION – INQUEST BEGINS

**HM Coroner for Inner North London Dr Reid
St Pancras Coroner's Court, 9.30 am
Camley Street,
London NW1 0WP
Kings Cross/Euston (nearest tube)**

The inquest into the death of 23-year-old Kwame Wiredu started yesterday and is scheduled to last nine days.

On 30 August 2002 Kwame collapsed and suffered a cardiac arrest whilst being detained at Stoke Newington police station. Kwame had been apprehended outside a supermarket in Dalston. He complained of pain and trouble breathing. CCTV evidence shows his limp body being dragged to a police van. He was taken to Stoke Newington police station where 4 hours after arriving he was found dead.

It is hoped that the inquest will examine a number of key issues including:

- Whether or not the police officers took his complaints seriously;
- Whether or not he was fit to be detained;
- If he was appropriately monitored;
- Why there is no CCTV record of events at the police station.

The first day of evidence dealt with security staff at the store. The police officers who arrested the deceased are expected to give evidence either this afternoon or Wednesday 12 October and custody staff and the forensic Medical Examiner will give evidence on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 October.

Notes to Editors

INQUEST Lawyers Group members Jocelyn Cockburn of Hodge Jones and Allen Solicitors and Alison Macdonald of Matrix Chambers represent the son and partner of Kwame Wiredu.

INQUEST is the only non-governmental organisation in England and Wales that works directly with the families of those who die in custody. It provides an independent free legal and advice service to bereaved people on inquest procedures and their rights in the Coroner's courts.