

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release 28 January 2008

### LINTON KWESI JOHNSON BBC RADIO 4 FUNDING APPEAL FOR INQUEST

On Sunday 3 February 2008 a BBC Radio 4 Appeal will be broadcast on behalf of INQUEST. The organisation provides a free advice and support service to over 350 bereaved families facing an inquest per year, particularly where their relatives die in contentious circumstances. It provides a unique and expert service for individuals as well as intervention at the parliamentary, media and legal levels following deaths in custody.

Internationally-renowned reggae poet Linton Kwesi Johnson's appeal for INQUEST will be broadcast on Radio 4 (92-95 FM) on **Sunday 3 February 2008** at **07.55** and **21.26**, and repeated on **Thursday 7 February** at **15.27**. A transcript will be available to read on INQUEST's website and listeners can send money as part of the Appeal as soon it has been transmitted. Donations to support our work can be sent in the post to **Freepost BBC Radio 4 Appeal** (please mark the back of the envelope **INQUEST**), or made online via the BBC Appeal website or by telephone to 0800 404 8144.

Every donation can make a real difference so that INQUEST can support more bereaved people.

#### Notes to editors

In December 2007 INQUEST was joint winner of the Liberty/JUSTICE Human Rights Award 2007 for organisations and non-legal individuals in recognition of our *"high-quality specialist casework [on deaths in custody] and ... commitment to providing incontrovertible evidence of the serious human rights abuses of children in custody"*. The Human Rights Awards are made each year on Human Rights Day. Presenting the Award, Professor Francesca Klug OBE of the LSE Centre for the Study of Human Rights praised INQUEST for *"working with families to build bridges between human emotions and the law"*.

INQUEST was founded in 1981 following a number of controversial deaths in police and prison custody. Although the scope of the organisation's work has widened since then, its main focus remains death in custody. It is the only charitable organisation in England and Wales that provides an independent, free legal and advice service to bereaved people on inquest procedures and their rights in the Coroner's Court and the civil courts. It is consulted widely, by Government Ministers and Departments, MPs, lawyers, academics, policy makers, the media and the wider public. INQUEST possesses an unrivalled body of knowledge, experience and expertise on issues surrounding contentious deaths and their investigation. Through its casework, INQUEST has a unique overview of how the whole system operates from the perspective of bereaved families and their advisers. It has extracted the policy issues arising from the deaths and their investigation and campaigned with and on behalf of bereaved families and their legal representatives for changes in practice to prevent deaths. Casework also informs our research, parliamentary and policy work.

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Further Information            | <a href="http://www.inquest.org.uk">www.inquest.org.uk</a>  |
| INQUEST                        | office 020 7263 1111  |
| BBC Appeal website             | <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/religion/radio4appeal.shtml">http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/religion/radio4appeal.shtml</a> |
| Linton Kwesi Johnson's website | <a href="http://www.lkjrecords.com">http://www.lkjrecords.com</a>   |