



ROLAN ADAMS
LEGACY FOUNDATION

24 July 2014

Press Release

Today, 23 years after the death of Rolan Adams, the Metropolitan Police finally admit that our family was under surveillance following the racist murder of our son.

Although not shocked, we are totally devastated and feel that there was a great sense of **infringement into our private lives, at a time when we as a family were thrown into absolute turmoil and immense grief**. We always knew that our family was under Police surveillance. The Police at the time tried to keep their intrusion covert, but it was overtly obvious that we were being watched, we were being followed and that our home phone calls were being monitored.

At the time, we repeatedly told by the Police that we knew they were monitoring us, monitoring who came to our home, that we were being watched and followed; and that our phone was being tampered with. We were made to feel stupid and that we were being paranoid. The Police continued to deny that this was happening. Because of what we were subjected to, we finally refused to allow the Police Family Liaison Officer back into our home.

In addition, because we knew our home phone was being tampered with, we had to change our telephone number on two different occasions. When this did not deter the Police from meddling into our private lives, we disconnected our home phone for a while, and used a mobile phone instead.

The real tragedy and injustice in all of this however, is that whilst the Metropolitan Police had our family under surveillance, the perpetrators of Rolan's murder and the attackers of Nathan, literally got away with murder.

In total 15 people attacked Rolan and Nathan, on that fateful February night in 1991. Only four of the group went to trial. One was convicted of murder, Mark Thornborrow; the other three received 120 hours of community service.

The Police's focus should have been on gathering appropriate evidence on all of the perpetrators, so that all of them would have been brought to justice.

We were an ordinary family going about our daily lives. Our children were in school, both of us were working; and we lived in our own home and had no criminal convictions against us.

In the Metropolitan Police report, Operation *Herne*¹, we have been referred to as “Collateral Intrusion”. The explanation the Met Police give for this is that they were monitoring “*violent protest groups*”. **We were never at the time, or subsequently been, part of any violent protest group.** We formed the Rolan Adams Family Campaign because of the lack of credible Police investigation into the murder of our son. At the time, the Police denied the murder was racially motivated, and it was not until the Judge, when sentencing Mark Thornborrow to life in prison, stated that he “*was in no doubt that the murder of Rolan Adams was racially motivated*” that the Police finally came out and said what was already glaringly obvious.

We have always struggled to believe anything the Police say and yet again, today they continue to be disingenuous. Assistant Commissioner Martin Hewitt said earlier that the families involved in the “*Collateral Intrusion*” have received an apology from the Met. This is completely untrue. No one from the Met has apologised to any of the Adams family. In fact it was not until Jane Deighton, Solicitor for the Adams family, contacted the Police, following the Leveson Inquiry, that the Met Police gave any inclination that we were involved in this saga.

We are therefore calling on the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe and the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, to take the required steps to ensure that there is immediate disclosure of all documents / information relating to the undercover surveillance of the Adams family following the death Rolan Adams.

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¹ *Special Demonstration Squad Reporting: Mentions of Sensitive Campaigns, July 2014*