

DEATH OF SHEKU BAYOU

Kirkcaldy 07/05/2015

**MINUTES FROM COMMUNITY IMPACT AND REASSURANCE GROUP, LAY ADVISORS' SUB
GROUP MEETING**

Kirkcaldy Police Station, 1315 hours, Thursday 7th May, 2015

AGENDA

Attendees Maciej Dokourno (Fife Migrant Forum), Azmet Sayed (lay advisor legacy Central Scotland Police), Chief Inspector Shepherd (Local Area Commander), Insp. Jane Combe, Detective Superintendent Gordon Crossan, PC Shirley Buttercase, Inspector Nadine Aliane (National Safer Communities Dept.) and PS Jimmy Adamson.

Summary of discussion

After introductions were given by members, Chief Inspector Shepherd provided a brief summary of the events known to Police Scotland. Chief Inspector Shepherd explained that the PIRC were dealing with the case in isolation of Police Scotland to preserve the integrity of the investigation and therefore only limited information was known regarding the circumstances of the death and the familial background of the deceased, in particular in relation to the deceased's faith. Mr Sayed highlighted that there are different sects of the Muslim Faith and it would be important to know if deceased is a Sunni, Sh'ite etc Muslim. Mr Sayed stated that he would estimate that the African Muslim population in Fife would be approximately 1%. In Glasgow it would be as large as 9-10% with the majority being asylum seekers.

It was the opinion of both lay advisors that the police should continue the positive work that they are carrying out in the community with both the Muslim and Black Minority Ethnic population. Mr Sayed highlighted that Friday would be a significant day at the Mosque with Friday prayers ongoing which would be well attended by people from across Fife.

There was a discussion about community officers attending at the local mosques. It was agreed that local officers would have to obtain more information from the PIRC about the case before attending at any places of worship or meeting groups linked to the deceased. Without more information being available the officers would be unable to answer questions, which was likely to have a detrimental effect on relationships.

Both Dokourno and Sayed volunteered to contact the mosque to act in an independent basis as intermediaries for Police Scotland to establish the faith of the deceased and his family and arrange a meeting between community officers and the Imam. At this stage it was decided that a decision would be made after further information had been made available from the PIRC regarding the mosque that the deceased and/ or his relatives attend.

There was a discussion about the fund raising event organised by [REDACTED] at Blue Mondays Night Club, which has been organised for the evening of 8/5/15. [REDACTED]. The lay advisors agreed that there would be no value in the police attending the event as there would likely be hostility to the police given that patrons may have consumed alcohol.

The lay advisors were concerned about the lack of information that had been made available by Police Scotland to the public. Chief Inspector Shepherd reiterated that the investigation was being carried out by the PIRC and that any media release would be issued by the PIRC. A further discussion took place in respect of providing the public with a greater understanding of the role of the PIRC as it was felt that the general public would not realise that the PIRC was an independent body from the police. Detective Superintendent Crossan said that he would task [REDACTED] from Corporate Communications to speak to the PIRC communications officer in relation to releasing more information to the public.

Mr Sayed informed the group that the body of deceased, when released, would be most likely taken to the Mosque where it would be prepared as per Muslim customs prior to burial. Normal practice is for part of a local cemetery, normally reserved for persons of Muslim faith to be designated as the burial site.

Chief Inspector Shepherd informed the attendees that there would be a further meeting and that the members of the group would be contacted, at a later date, so that arrangements could be made for an appropriate time and date for the meeting to take place.