



5th December 2012

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The Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP
Chairman, Home Affairs Committee

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith MP
Chairman, Justice Committee

Dr Hywel Francis MP
Chairman, Joint Committee on Human Rights

Alan Hywel,

In 2008/9 the Home Affairs Select Committee published, as its 12th report, "The Macpherson Report – Ten Years On". As you will remember, Stephen Lawrence was murdered at a bus stop and the case continues. I am writing about the death of another BME teenager, Zahid Mubarek, who was murdered in Feltham YOI in 2000.

Following the very unsatisfactory internal Prison Service inquiries, and the consistent refusal of successive Home Secretaries to hold a Judicial Inquiry into the circumstances of Zahid Mubarek's death, the House of Lords ordered such an Inquiry to be held. Mr Justice Keith's report in 2005 was a devastating indictment of Prison Service procedures and operations, naming over twenty individuals who had failed in their duty and making over seventy recommendations for improvement.

Since then I have been in regular contact with the family who have set up a Zahid Mubarek Trust, whose aim is to improve the treatment of and conditions for BME young offenders. A contact group was established with the Prison Service to keep the family abreast with the implementation of Mr Justice Keith's recommendations, but, sadly, there have been more promises than actions. I wonder constantly at the magnanimity and forbearance of the family who see the different treatment of the Lawrence family and their own, conscious that their son was murdered while in the hands of the State.

Reading through the Home Affairs Select Committee's report, the family wonder whether one of the three Committees, to whom I am writing, might feel it appropriate to undertake a similar report on Zahid Mubarek, either ten years after the House of Lords ruling in 2013 or the Keith Inquiry report in 2015. The Ministry of Justice is now responsible for young offenders, racism appears to be the responsibility of the Home Office, and human rights were violated in the way that Zahid Mubarek was treated at Feltham.

I have told the family that I am writing to you and that I would relay your response to them.

Yours sincerely,

David Lane OBE