



**The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry
Witness Statement**

Kosna Bayoh

**Taken by [REDACTED]
Via MS Teams
On 28 October 2022**

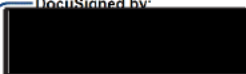
1. My name is Kosna Hawa Bayoh. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1975. I am employed as a concierge/receptionist. My address is c/o Aamer Anwar & Co, Blythswood Square, Glasgow.
2. I am asked how I first learned of the death of my brother Sheku Bayoh. On 3 May 2015 I was in Lanzarote celebrating my 40th birthday. I had been on the phone to my friend and when I finished talking to my friend I went on Facebook. It was about 4 p.m. I saw something about “we are looking for answers that Sheku Bayoh has been killed”, or “Sheku Bayoh has died in the hands of police” or something like that. That's what I saw on Facebook. I was shocked and I started ringing the family because I was in another country. I think because I was in another country on my own they didn't want to break it to me because I wouldn't have anyone to lean on, anyone to give me the support, anyone to support the shock of hearing news like that. That is how I found out about his death. I can't remember whether it was Kadi or Ade that I

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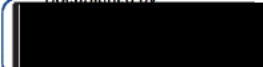
called to find out what was happening. They could not tell me anything at that time because they were still waiting for answers themselves.

3. Everyone was in shock. I was just trying to find out what information I could get but, as you know, when you hear news like that it is just shocking. You have all the people coming with different versions. I was just crying that night.
4. I was due to fly out the next morning. It was just traumatic. I was in shock, in tears. The hotel manager had to drive me to the airport to get my flight. I flew back. My ex-husband and family were waiting to receive me. We then came to my house so that I could pack my stuff and we went to my sister Adama's. We had to drive up that night to come to Scotland. We arrived in Scotland on the morning of the 4th. Until I came to Scotland I did not really understand the full story.
5. When we got to Scotland we stayed with my sister Kadi. I am asked whether Kadi was able to provide any further detail about what had happened. Yes, they told me exactly what they had heard. But, as I said, we were hearing four different statements. They were confused. We were waiting to get the right answers. I think the day after in Aamer's office we knew the right answers.
6. I am asked if I recall what the different versions were. All I know was there were different stories, a friend attacked him, he had a machete until finally they got to say that he died in the hands of police but before then there were different statements coming back and forth to my sister's house.
7. I am asked whether I had any engagement or interaction with Police Scotland. No I didn't. I am asked about my comment that we got the right answers in Aamer's office. To be honest, I remember some of it, but I can't remember all of it. We were just told that he was attacked and police came to the scene and they pepper sprayed him and CS gassed him. That was what we got to know, which was the final, I think, correct answer.

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8. I am asked how I felt the Police were treating the family at that time. At that time it is fresh and everyone is grieving, and everyone is just in shock. So we didn't know where to start. Until you start the whole process, you don't really know what to say because it was a shock. It was a shock for us at the time. Everyone was in shock.
9. I am asked about the post mortem and what happened in relation to that. That is where I thought the police disrespected the family, especially my mother. I remember when he died I think when we contacted Aamer they were told not to do any post-mortem until the mother arrives to view her son's body. Before she arrived they had already done the post-mortem. Nobody was able to see anything. I thought, why would they disregard and disrespect the family's rights? Especially the last one of the family and the mother to her son for her to see the body. They did the post-mortem. Why did they have to disrespect Aamer's decision? I am asked when I found out that the post-mortem had taken place. I don't know. I can't remember. I am asked whether I can recall how the issue of the post mortem was dealt with, whether we provided instructions to Aamer. I can't remember. That would have been discussed with Kadi and Ade.
10. I am asked whether anyone was able to see the body after the post-mortem had taken place. Not immediately no. The family was able to see the body later. I did not go to view the body. I was not able to. We went but I didn't go into the room. I was in shock and was not ready.
11. I am asked whether, during my time in Scotland, I had any engagement with family liaison officers. No I did not. I am asked whether I had any engagement with Police Scotland. No I did not. I am asked whether I had any engagement with PIRC. No I did not.
12. I am asked whether I recall any engagement with the Lord Advocate. All I know and what I can remember was that Frank was on our side and I remember his words, that if he had stayed on, he would do the best he can to

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prosecute. I felt he was trying his best for the family and was listening to the family. He had to step down and then there was a new one. I am asked about my views on the next Lord Advocate, James Wolffe. He was not on our side. We felt that it was a waste of time. We were upset, gutted with his actions. We never got any support from him. We thought that as a family he never dealt with it accordingly, the way Frank dealt with it before he left. We didn't get any support from him, I think he was more the police side than our side.

13. The last meeting I remember that we attended, we were there for three hours. He listened, obviously he had all these other lawyers sitting there listening, but then when you're facing someone, you could feel if they have empathy on what you're going through, how you're feeling, what sort of judgment you want to make. We didn't get anything off him and we ended up leaving there feeling depressed, upset. That was just what I could remember on the last meeting.

14. I am asked how I found out about the decision not to prosecute. I only found out after, because when I went back home to London, I was just getting the message from Kadi. It was stressful. We just thought is it because Sheku was a black person that they could not pass prosecution. You can see all the evidence, lies after lies, but, if he's the Lord Advocate he's the last decision maker that was his own fault and his own decision. What could we do? We just have to walk away feeling, "Well, you know where do we go from there, what do we do, what's the next move?" For somebody to be the head judge passing that sort of judgment, you could see the cold blood hand stain on someone's life been taken, and you're saying you won't prosecute. He was on the police side.

15. I am asked whether I was aware that the decision not to prosecute was leaked to the press in advance of it being communicated to the family. No, I do not.

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16. I am asked how I felt the media dealt with the death of Sheku. I don't know, it's hard to say because when you are not based up here and it was seven years ago so I can't remember anything off the top of my head.

17. I am asked whether I have any general comments on how I feel Sheku's death was investigated or any concerns I have. They took his life. If they could have stood and had patience to talk to him, even if he was arrested, we could have lived with that than taking his life away. When they were attacking him he was not saying anything, from what we saw on the first part of the hearing. So I believe if he was taken to the police station and was questioned rather than coming to the scene and slaughtering him and pushing him to the ground, they could have got more answers to why he carried the knife, what was his purpose with the knife.

18. I feel Sheku's case was mistreated, it was mishandled. Yes, he carried the knife but before he came to the scene he had no knife. So what was the threat they said? He was a threat to the community or threat to the public. There was no threat because he never attacked anyone. So, for me, I just feel they have really made us feel like we don't have faith in the PIRC, in the police. We just do this to see what the outcome is. We just don't have any more hope. We see all the deaths in custody. We see other people attacked. Why they took his life this way is just really cruel and unfair to be honest. It's just really evil.

19. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that this statement may form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and be published on the Inquiry's website.

January 12, 2023 | 4:43 PM GMT

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