

United Kingdom: Jean Charles de Menezes (m)

Problem: Right to Fair Trial and to Redress

On 22 July 2005, the day after a series of serious security incidents on the transport system in London, Jean Charles de Menezes, a 27-year-old Brazilian man, was killed by officers of the Metropolitan Police Service on board an underground train in London. He was reportedly pinned down, and shot seven times in the head, after being mistakenly identified as a suicide bomber.

Amnesty International is concerned that, as yet, there has been no full and public scrutiny of all the events leading up to, and the circumstances surrounding, the fatal shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes; and that no criminal charges have been brought against any individuals in connection with his death.

The organization is also concerned about the failure, to date, to disclose the investigative report of the Independent Police Complaints Commission into the killing to the family of Jean Charles de Menezes and its lawyers.

In September 2006, the inquest into his death was adjourned indefinitely, pending completion of ongoing criminal proceedings against the Office of the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police for failing to provide for the health, safety and welfare of Jean Charles de Menezes. Such a prosecution under health and safety legislation could result in a financial penalty only, and it is not a prosecution that could result in someone being found individually criminally responsible for his death.

Given what has emerged thus far, justice would be better served by bringing criminal charges against those reasonably suspected of involvement in the killing. Amnesty International considers that this failure compounds the family's distress, and undermines public confidence in the rule of law and the conduct of law enforcement officials.

Please write to the authorities asking for:

- The family of Jean Charles de Menezes to be provided with critical information about all the circumstances surrounding his death. The provision of such information is a key component of the family's right to an effective remedy under human rights law.
- A prompt full and public scrutiny of the allegations that the killing of Jean Charles de Menezes resulted from unlawful use of force;
- An immediate resumption of the inquest; and criminal charges to be brought against those individuals responsible for the killing of Jean Charles de Menezes.

Please send appeals to:

Dr John Reid MP,
Secretary of State for the Home Department,
Home Office, 2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DF, UK