

Satpal Ram

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Satpal Ram is a British man of Asian descent who was charged and convicted of killing another man named Clarke Pearce in Birmingham, England during fight in 1986. His case has drawn some controversy due to alleged mistreatment by the courts and the British prison system due to his racial background.^[1]

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Background

According to **Satpal Ram**, he and two friends visited a restaurant in November 1986. While there, an altercation broke out among Ram and his two friends and another group of 6 people also in the restaurant. The argument, which was initially over Asian music being played on the restaurant's radio system became a physical fight. One of the party of 6, Clarke Pearce, was taken to hospital with knife wounds and later died. Consequently, **Satpal Ram** was arrested for murder and convicted in 1987.^[2]

Controversy

Later debate and controversy arose among the British media when it was alleged that his barrister did not meet with him and only saw him for about forty minutes before the trial. The jury was claimed to have also missed vital evidence because no interpreter was provided to translate for Ram. It is also alleged that the judge was to have said he would interpret but also that he couldn't speak the Bengali Language.

It must be noted that these stories and allegations were made some time after the actual trial, and that the sources which claim them to be true have a clear pro-Ram bias. Artists such as Primal Scream and Asian Dub Foundation have championed Ram's cause, but their efforts have only succeeded in clouding the facts of the case, and now every source available appears to have a obvious bias one way or the other.

Other reports of Ram being beaten, starved, repeatedly strip-searched, and being made to spend large periods of time in solitary confinement also arose, resulting in accusations of racism within the criminal justice system.^[3]

The protest for Ram's release from prison involved a song by the Asian Dub Foundation entitled "Free Satpal Ram".

Release

Satpal Ram was released from prison on parole in June 2002. His initial release as recommended by the parole board in 2000, was overturned by the Home Secretary at the time, Jack Straw. His release in 2002 resulted from a European Court of Human Rights ruling which stated that government executives such as the Home Secretary had no right to overrule a decision of a parole board.^[4]

References

- ↑ http://www.ncrm.org.uk/campaigns/ram.html - Retrieved: April 25, 2007
- ↑ http://www.innocent.org.uk/cases/satpalram/index.html#grauniad200901 - Retrieved: April 25, 2007
- ↑ http://www.guardian.co.uk/racism/Story/0,2763,193365,00.html - Retrieved: April 25, 2007
- ↑ http://www.blink.org.uk/pdescription.asp?key=847&mid=&grp=2&cat=169 - Retrieved: April 25, 2007

External links

- Satpal Ram on www.innocent.org.uk - Archive of articles by the British newspaper "The Guardian" regarding Satpal Ram.

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satpal_Ram"

Categories: Articles needing additional references from July 2007 | Living people | British murderers

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