

Found dead	number	name	country of origin	cause of death	source
11-11-05	1	Delroy Edwards	Jamaica	Murdered by a shotgun in Kingston (Jamaica) 9 days after being deported from GB	IRRE

A culture of disbelief

by Lester Holloway

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DELROY EDWARDS fled to Britain after being shot several times and seeing his two young daughters murdered. He was killed just days after being deported back to Jamaica.



The Home Office have been accused of operating a 'culture of disbelief' towards Jamaicans like Mr Edwards who fled persecution.

43-year-old Mr Edwards was killed just nine days after being sent back to Kingston.

His claims of persecution by gangsters associated with Jamaica's main political parties had been rejected by the British authorities. Bullet wounds to his shoulder and hand were dismissed by the Home Office. Claims that his two daughters had been burnt to death in an arson attack were disregarded. Mr Edwards, a devout Catholic, had been in hiding since his deportation. He was shot through the head on the doorstep of the Kingston house where he was staying on 12th November. Yesterday his distraught fiancé Janet Lowe, the mother of his two year old daughter Taneika, said the British authorities were "not treating people as people."

Mr Edwards spent two days at Campsfield detention centre in Oxfordshire; two days in Harmondsworth near Heathrow; and four days in Gosport, Hampshire, before being put on a plane to Jamaica. Mr Edwards, a carpenter, arrived in Britain as a visitor in October 2001 and later claimed asylum. He had been shot in 1995 and 1998 after refusing to take part in the activities of a gang linked to the PNP party.

Two daughters were killed in an arson attack in 1995 which Mr Edwards said was committed by people who wanted to harm him. But the Home Office declared he was an economic migrant and he later lost an appeal before the Immigration Adjudicator. Helen Ireland from the Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID) said: "The fact that he was shot so soon after returning raises questions about whether a correct decision was made." Janet Lilley, a friend of Ms Lowe, said: "I can't believe the whole situation. I am angry that the system has failed this person. There are so many unanswered questions that need investigating. There is unfinished business. They removed him from this country without a fair hearing. A late appeal couldn't happen because of the way he was moved around. I want to know why that happened. We need justice here." Ms Lowe had been due to marry Mr Edwards in March this year. She wants to bring her fiancé's body to Britain for cremation but is horrified that his body is still lying in a Kingston morgue 13 days after he was killed. A post-mortem is not planned until the 1st December and funeral directors say it could be up to another seven weeks before paperwork is completed allowing the release of the body.