

Publication: Calgary Herald; Date: Jul 24, 2005; Section: Front Page; Page: 1



# LONDON TERROR FALLOUT

## Subway shooting a mistake: police

## Death of Brazilian man called 'a tragedy'

**MIKE BLANCHFIELD CANWEST NEWS SERVICE**

LONDON

One day after police pumped five bullets into the head of a fleeing man on a crowded subway, Scotland Yard made a shocking admission Saturday — the man had nothing to do with the bombings of London's transport system.

London police late Saturday identified the victim as 27-year-old Jean Charles de Menezes, a Brazilian.

"For somebody to lose their life in such circumstances is a tragedy and one that the Metropolitan Police Service regrets," the police said in a terse statement that appeared unannounced on their website late Saturday afternoon.

The statement stood as the only explanation for the massive mistake that rocked the already uneasy relations between the authorities and London's nervous Muslim community in the wake of multiple bomb attacks two weeks apart.

In Brazil, the Foreign Ministry said it was "shocked and perplexed" over the death of de Menezes.

Brazil's foreign minister, Celso Amorim, was trying to arrange a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw during a visit to London.

The admission came one day after police Commissioner Ian Blair said "this shooting is directly linked to the ongoing and expanding anti-terrorist operation."

Despite the massive blunder, police arrested a second man overnight Saturday near Stockwell Underground station, near the scene of the fatal police shooting and first arrest Friday.

On Saturday police questioned the two suspects who were being held in the high-security Paddington Green police station in central London under Britain's anti-terrorism law.

Police have received more than 500 tips from the public following their release of closed circuit television images of Thursday's four suspected bombers, who struck exactly two weeks after the July 7 bomb attacks on the Underground and a double-decker bus that killed 56 people, including four suicide bombers. No one was killed in Thursday's botched detonations, again on three Underground trains and one bus.

It is not clear whether the two detained men are those pictured in the photos, which were plastered on the front page of almost every British newspaper.

But as they continue the largest investigation in their history, Scotland Yard now has to deal with the public relations disaster of shooting an innocent man, an incident that had many in London questioning the transformation of their once friendly, and usually unarmed, Bobbies.

Tanzeem Wasti, a spokesman for the Muslim Council of Britain, said it is advising all Islamic organizations to cooperate with authorities and work for peace, but expressed fear that tensions would remain high.

"If such incidents repeatedly take place, it is natural that fears would merge which may affect the relations between the different communities," he told the BBC. "Therefore the members of different communities living in London are worried. There may be some people who can exploit the situation."

Scotland Yard said de Menezes was followed from an apartment complex and had been under surveillance when they started chasing him Friday morning. He was near the Stockwell station, which is near the scene of one of Thursday's attacks, on the nearby Oval Station. Police and other witnesses said de Menezes was wearing a bulky winter coat on a 20-degree morning. The man did not comply with police requests. Three plain-clothed police officers chased de Menezes into the crowded Tube station and one fired five bullets into his head as he lay on the ground, witnesses said.

Brazilian news media reported de Menezes was an electrician who had been legally living and working in England for three years.

"He spoke English very well and had permission to study and work there," de Menezes' cousin, Maria Alves, told the O Globo Online website from her home in Sao Paulo.

De Menezes' family is Roman Catholic. When asked if he had become Muslim in Britain, Agostino Ferreira Rosa, a policeman in Gonzaga said: "According to his family, he had nothing to do with Muslims or Islamism. He was Catholic."

"There was no reason to think he was a terrorist," de Menezes' grandmother, Zilda Ambrosia de Figueiredo, told the Globo TV late Saturday.

"He was very easygoing and very communicative with everybody. It's terrible what they have done to him."

The shooting is now under investigation by the police's Directorate of Professional Standards and is also being referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Meanwhile, hundreds packed Westminster Cathedral for the funeral of one young man killed in the July 7 blasts, 26-year-old petroleum executive Anthony Fatayi-Williams who has come to symbolize the indiscriminant effect of the bombings on London's cosmopolitan population.

Fatayi-Williams was the son of Nigerian parents, one Roman Catholic, the other Muslim.

His mother, Marie, stood on a London street, days after the bombings, laying bare her grief and anger in an emotional display that resonated around the world when she declared: "My heart is maimed. How many other mothers' hearts are maimed at this moment?"

Saturday's shooting setback came after police got their first major breakthrough in their investigation, with the arrest of a man late Friday afternoon near Stockwell station.

A second man was arrested early Saturday morning and was being detained, along with the first suspect, under Britain's anti-terror law, which means the men can be held for 14 days without formal charge.

Another man, who was arrested late Friday in Birmingham with suspicious luggage, has been released.

WITH A FILE BY SIMON DOYLE,

CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

AND FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Pier Paolo Cito, Associated Press Nella Ciaccia mourns over the coffin of her daughter Benedetta Ciaccia during her funeral, in Rome, on Saturday. Benedetta was killed in the July 7 bomb attacks in London.



Jean Charles de Menezes