



Siyanda Mngaza Campaign Press release

Subject: George Floyd and Siyanda Mngaza remembering them on 25 May.

On the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd in the USA, we here in Britain reflect on the fact that our own criminal justice system is institutionally racist, and the fact that black women continue to be one of its primary victims, constituting one of the most marginalised and discriminated groups in Britain today.

Today, there can be no more significant illustration of this reality than the fact that Siyanda Mngaza sits in a prison cell for a crime she did not commit. Her case represents the worst miscarriage of justice seen in Britain in recent years.

25th May 2021 is the second anniversary that saw Siyanda Mngaza become a victim of a vicious and unprovoked racist attack in Brecon, South Wales, by a group of family and friends at the Ancient Briton campsite.

The attack took place around 11pm and today, two years on from this dreadful incident. The family of Siyanda is appealing to any witnesses that may have been at the Ancient Briton campsite, Brecon, Wales and who may have seen or heard anything relating to this incident to contact her legal team.

Despite Siyanda immediately reporting this racist attack to Dyfed Powys Police at the time of the incident, they failed to investigate. In an echo of times past where victims of racist attacks would call the police only to be ignored in favour of the perpetrators and subsequently charged, the police decided from the outset that the four white people involved were victims and that Siyanda had been the aggressor.

This is despite the fact that Siyanda was a professional black woman who had never been in trouble in her life. A disabled black woman who, at the time of the attack, had recently undergone major surgery on her leg, leaving her incapable of fleeing the attack. The police choose to ignore her evidence and despite Siyanda clearly suffering injuries consistent with being attacked. All those involved denied they had, in any way, harmed Siyanda.

And in a more recent incident on the 2nd May 2021, Dyfed Powys Police, a young black woman, [Tattiana Alfaia](#), said police were slow to respond when her daughter Gabriela Tavares, 19, complained after being racially abused in Llanelli, Carmarthenshire. Dyfed Powys Police took four days to respond.

Siyanda was eventually convicted by an all-white jury at Swansea Crown Court in March 2020 and sentenced to four and half years in prison for defending herself against a vicious racist attack in Brecon Wales.

Michael Mansfield QC represented Siyanda at a recent Court of Appeal hearing (**23.03.2021**). Although leave to appeal was not granted, the court was critical of Siyanda's initial legal team for failing to present expert evidence at the original trial. However, the court accepted the evidence presented by Mansfield and Siyanda's new legal team, Virgo Legal Consultancy, that proved that Siyanda had trainer marks and bruising on her face consistent with being stamped on.

The acceptance by the Court of Appeal of this evidence clearly demonstrated that the prosecution witnesses were lying when they claimed that no one had attacked Siyanda. Nevertheless, this was not considered sufficient by the court to warrant an appeal against conviction. This reflects the long-held belief that for black people, the interpretation of the law by Courts as it relates to the standard of proof needed to appeal against conviction is higher than that required by white people.

Cammilla Mngaza, Siyanda's Mum stated,

"We are seeking the public's help and appealing to anyone who may have been at the Ancient Briton campsite, Brecon, Wales and who may have witnessed or overheard anything to do with this incident to come forward. With just over half a million people signing the [Free Siyanda petition](#), we know that all those who look at this case in detail just cannot understand how she was ever convicted.

Whilst we are devastated by the failure of our appeal, we are determined to continue to fight to prove Siyanda's innocence."

Lee Jasper, the spokesperson for the campaign and former Deputy Mayor of London, said,

"In my 37 years of civil rights struggle, rarely have I seen a case that so clearly exemplifies such a profound miscarriage of justice. Black women continue to be treated appallingly by an institutionally racist criminal justice system that is stacked against them, as demonstrated by the finding of the [Lammy Review](#).

Siyanda is today sat in jail simply because of a series of critical errors by Dyfed Powys Police, mistakes that were then typically compounded at each individual stage of the criminal justice process.

As we remember George Floyd today, we reflect that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice anywhere."

End.

[Free Siyanda website](#)