



KARIM CAMARA
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Joint Press Conference on the Death of Ms. Esmin Green

Assemblyman Karim Camara, Central Brooklyn Elected Officials, the Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy, and Family Members of Ms. Esmin Green to Discuss Tragic Death TODAY at 4:30 pm (Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn)

Brooklyn, NY - - New York State Assembly Member Karim Camara (43rd Assembly District), Central Brooklyn Elected Officials, the Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy, and family members of Ms. Esmin Green announce a joint press conference to address the unfortunate death of Ms. Greene last month. The press conference will take place **TODAY Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 4:30 pm** in the courtyard of the psychiatric center of Kings County Hospital. The location is in the G Building at the corner of Albany and Winthrop Avenues (directly opposite the Medical Examiner's office in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn). For more information, please call 718.756.8501 office, 646.522.4169 mobile/text, or send an email to pr@akilaworksongs.com.

On June 19, 2008, Ms. Green, a Jamaican immigrant, collapsed and died in the waiting room of Kings County Hospital's psychiatric area. She had been admitted one day prior but had been waiting for room placement for over twenty-four hours. The video of this tragedy has been seen on local and national news since last week.

Assemblyman Camara (who is a member of the Mental Health committee in the Assembly) and Rickford Burke, President of the Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) issue this joint statement:

"We wish to express our most sincere condolences to the family of Ms. Esmin Green. Like many of those you watched the video that has circulated on local and national media outlets, we were and continue to be outraged at the circumstances surrounding her death. We support a fair and thorough investigation and eagerly await the findings. We expect that those who are responsible will be held fully accountable and that the family will be treated justly in the aftermath of Ms. Green's death.

Also, we would like to acknowledge that, barring the tragic mistreatment of Ms. Green by a small number of hospital staff whose conduct defy basic human decency and represents a breakdown of professional protocols, Kings County Hospital Medical Center has played an important role in health care delivery in the communities of Brooklyn - specifically those who are poor and who are immigrants. Kings County Hospital Medical Center is Brooklyn's largest hospital and trauma center. The current \$500 million dollar rehabilitation project has resulted in a drastic improvement in the quality of care and service to the community. Even during this development phase, we pause to make sure that something like this never happens again.

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At the press conference, we will elaborate on these and other related issues. We have invited key Brooklyn elected officials and community leaders to attend the press conference and join us in expressing our condolences to the family.”

Elected officials who are expected to participate are: Borough President Marty Markowitz, Special Assistant to the Borough President Yvonne Graham; Congress Members Yvette Clarke and Ed Towns; Senators Eric Adams, Kevin Parker, Velmanette Montgomery, John Sampson; Assembly Members William Boyland, Jr., Karim Camara, Hakeem Jeffries, Nick Perry, and Annette Robinson; Council Members Charles Barron, Mathieu Eugene, Leticia James, Darlene Mealy, and Kendal Stewart.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 19, 2008 49-year old Esmin Green, a Jamaican immigrant, collapsed and died in the waiting room of King County Hospital's Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP). She had been admitted one day prior but had been waiting for room placement for over twenty-four hours.

Video surveillance tape show a slumping Green sitting in a waiting room chair for hours, then falling face down on the floor. Her head trapped between the legs of another chair, she remained in this position on the floor for over one hour, incapacitated and unattended. During this time she appeared to have had at least two convulsions (see video clip here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOCpOZ4txvs>).

Surveillance tape shows that at least three other patients, as well as hospital staff - including a security guard, witnessed Green fall and they failed to render any form of assistance. Nor did they alert medical personnel. Another security guard subsequently wheeled into the waiting room, on a desk chair, looked at the patient and then nonchalantly rolled away uncaringly. Sometime later, a medical doctor - a psychiatrist, arrived and saw Green on the floor but callously turned away, as well.

The tape then shows a nurse entering the waiting room and having observed Green on the floor, pushed her slightly with her foot. Green remained unresponsive and although the nurse failed to examine her vital signs, she rushed of and returned with medical equipment and another nurse who then attempted to resuscitate Green. However, this was too late – Ms. Green had already died. The nurses then allegedly falsified the patient's medical chart; reporting that she was checked thirty minutes prior to them attending to her, and was found to be "ambulating" (moving around) and doing well.

Six hospital staffers, including the security guards, the nurse and a doctor have allegedly been terminated amidst a criminal investigation.

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit against Kings County Hospital on behalf of Ms. Green's family.

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Media inquires are directed AKILA WORKSONGS Public Relations at 718.756.8501, 646.522.4169 mobile / text, or pr@akilaworksongs.com. Alternatively, Jevon Suralie at Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy may be contacted at 347.271.5600 or caribbeaninstitute@gmail.com.

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