

## White Murderers Are Free While Black Victims Suffer In Australia

“...You slept safe in your bed last night didn't you? You slept safe in your house with your family while we have no place to go...If Australia was a democratic country it would lock up the murderers instead of putting the innocent through a horrific nightmare...” Words of pain and desperation coming from Australian Aborigine Letty Scott Nupanunga, wife of Douglas Scott who was unlawfully detained for ‘swearing in the presence of police officers’, tortured and finally killed in an Australian Northern Territory prison in 1985. Fifteen years later, the Australian authorities keep covering up the regime of institutionalised racism at the centre of which lie the hearts and bodies of the country's Black Aborigines.

Jeffrey Bindai, prisoner in a neighbouring cell to Douglas' cell, recalls, “...I hear the click key in that bloke cell it wake me up. I look through my window 4 blokes with long batons go in that bloke's cell hear that noise Tfffff! Tfffff! ... he been saying ‘help, help me’...they kept hitting, hitting ... then silence ... Next morning, I hear the key, I look through that little window I see him hanging ...They bashed him up ...After breakfast they told me to go and clean up that cell ... I go in there ... blood on sheet, blood on pillow, blood on wall, blood on floor...”.

Jeffrey's testimony with a plethora of other evidence were handed in to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody that was called to investigate Douglas' death. Nevertheless, the Commission suppressed such evidence and ruled suicide. Contrary to the Commission's conclusion, the experienced Forensic Investigative Committee that investigated JFC's and Martin Luther King's murders, published this year a Reconstruction Report according to which Douglas' injuries are more consistent with compression of the neck by baton, hands or feet than by suicidal hanging.

Letty Scott has been vigorously trying to re-open Douglas' murder case. In one of her attempts, Letty was faced with Royal Commissioner Elliot Johnson QC who warned her, “Listen here girlie, don't you try to fight this case...leave this case alone... He was only a black man anyway....” Unable to accept however, the racist ‘suicide’ rationale behind the death of more than 300 aborigines in custody since the 1980s, Letty Scott continues to fight for justice. She argues against the racist theory of ‘Black Suicides’ in Australian prisons calling for the Australian authorities to respect the right to life of black Aborigines. In her words, “The suicide theory is absurd. To say that Australian blacks have weak minds, get depressed and commit suicide is an insult...worse than when the white man said that the black African is inferior to a white European...”

Because of her outspoken character, Letty has been the victim of continuous harassment. As a result of that she was forced yesterday to leave her house with her family and move into...a car. With desperation evident in the tone of her voice she wonders, “Prison officers, Barry Medley, Harold Robertson, Bill Bowden and Michael Lawson have murdered my husband in Darwin prison...they are still free while we have to suffer... why?...how is it our fault? Why doesn't the Australian government trial these people and protect us?”.

Racism and systematic discrimination against Aborigines in Australia remains unabated. In the meantime the number of custodial deaths of Aborigines presented as suicides in Australian prisons increases while not one of the perpetrators has ever been brought to trial.

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