

Justice for Kriss

IT IS good news that three suspects in the Kriss Donald murder inquiry have been extradited to Britain, and all credit to those concerned in this effort for justice. Questions must be asked, however, about who provided the money for these three suspects to leave the country in the first place, and will they be charged as accessories should they be proven guilty?

Also, what is this whole operation costing the British taxpayer, and will those accused be getting legal aid?

It is further to be hoped, that in the event of these men being found guilty of this horrific murder of a young lad, then they will be given the most severe sentence possible, not the usual slap on the wrist that these days appears to be the norm for murderers, rapists and paedophiles in Britain.

Otherwise, all this will have been for nothing.

MARIA CONNELLY,
Bellshill, Lanarkshire.

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Extradited three arrive in Glasgow

CALUM MACDONALD

THREE men wanted in connection with the death of 15-year-old Kriss Donald arrived in Scotland last night after being extradited from Pakistan.

Kriss was found dead in the east end of Glasgow in March last year, after being abducted near his home in Pollokshields. He had been stabbed 13 times

and set on fire while still alive. Warrants for the arrest of the men, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, were issued by Strathclyde Police last year, and they were arrested in Pakistan in July.

The three, all in their twenties, agreed to be extradited to Britain to face trial and were handed to Strathclyde Police officers in Islamabad yesterday,

and flown to Heathrow, where they were arrested over the death of Kriss and flown to Glasgow.

Last December, Daanish Zahid, 20, was convicted of the murder of Kriss and told he must serve a minimum of 17 years in prison.

All three arrested yesterday are expected to appear in Glasgow Sheriff Court today.

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Murder victim: **Kriss Donald**

Back: The plane carrying the three men at Glasgow Airport yesterday, surrounded by police and Reliance security vehicles



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Three in custody in Glasgow after Scots detectives travel to Pakistan

Kriss murder suspects flown back to face trial

From **Chiade O'Shea**
in Islamabad

THREE men accused of murdering teenager Kriss Donald were last night behind bars in Scotland after being extradited from Pakistan.

Imran Shahid, Zeeshan Shahid and Mohammed Mustaq were flown back to Glasgow handcuffed to detectives.

They were formally charged and taken to Barlinnie Prison, and are expected to appear in court today.

Superintendent Elliot McKenzie of Strathclyde Police and a team of nine officers arrived in Pakistani last Friday to arrest the three men.

Shortly after dawn yesterday, Mr McKenzie officially took charge of the suspects at Islamabad Airport.

The handover followed months of diplomatic wrangling as the British Government fought to have the suspects brought back to Scotland to face trial.

All three deny any involvement in the murder.

Before he boarded the flight, Imran Shahid said he had agreed to be extradited because he believes a trial will allow him to prove his innocence, adding: 'I'm very confident about it. I'm not worried.'

After the handover, the suspects were taken to the VIP lounge that had been reserved for the extradition group. With

no belongings to X-ray, they were quickly frisked and boarded the plane minutes before take-off.

To maintain security, they were isolated in the Business Class section. Each suspect was given a window seat, with two officers between him and

'Very confident about the trial'

the aisle. To minimise contact with other passengers, the three men boarded last and were the first to leave the plane at Heathrow. They then flew on to Glasgow.

All three claim they had legitimate reasons for being in Pakistan. Sources close to the

suspects say harsh conditions in prison prompted them to agree to return to Scotland.

In court in August, they agreed to be extradited, telling the judge they wanted to see justice done.

Politicians, police and diplomats heralded the extradition deal, codenamed Operation Boxer, as a triumph.

Britain and Pakistan have no extradition treaty, so the agreement had to be hammered out in a one-off, groundbreaking deal.

Kriss' MP, Mohammad Sarwar, lobbied Prime Minister Tony Blair to find a way to bring the suspects back to face a Scottish court.

After the handover, Mr Sarwar said: 'Everybody feels very satisfied and very happy that

we have been successful. I think this will lay the foundations for mutual understanding and better relations between the two countries'.

Kriss, 15, was beaten and stabbed before being set on fire while still alive. Last

'We have been successful'

December, shopkeeper Daanish Zahid, 20, was jailed for life after being found guilty of racially aggravated murder.

Zahid Mohammed, 20, was acquitted of murder but found guilty of racially aggravated assault and abduction. He was sentenced to five years.

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VICTIM: Kriss Donald

Kriss suspects back in Scotland

THREE suspects in the murder of teenager Kriss Donald arrived in Scotland on a historic extradition flight yesterday.

The three were handed over to Scots police in handcuffs and chains at an airport in a foreign country.

They were flown to London, then Scotland, in cordoned-off areas of planes with police guards.

By Cara Page

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They had been held in the country, which cannot be named for legal reasons, for three months.

It is the first time anyone has been extradited from the country, which does not have a treaty with the UK.

Det Supt Elliot McKenzie

said: "Three people will appear in court facing charges in connection with the abduction and murder of Kriss Donald."

Kriss, 15, was abducted near his home in Pollokshields, Glasgow, last March and his body was found in the city's east end.

His MP, Mohammed Sarwar, played a key role in the return of the suspects.

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E/2/30

Extradition of Kriss suspects is 'imminent'

SHAN ROSS

THE detective leading the hunt for the killers of murdered teenager Kriss Donald arrived in Pakistan yesterday to make final arrangements to extradite the three main suspects.

Kriss Donald, 15, was abducted near his home in Pollockshields,

Glasgow, in March, and beaten, stabbed and burned alive.

Detective Superintendent Elliot McKenzie of Strathclyde Police and nine officers were met at Islamabad airport by Mohammed Sarwar, Glasgow Central MP.

Mr Sarwar has been heavily involved in negotiations with the

Pakistani government over the extradition.

Last night, Mr Sarwar told *The Scotsman*: "All the formalities have been completed and the arrangements are in place. I am confident there will be a successful outcome and that the police will be back in the UK soon."

The three suspects, Mo-

ammed Mustaq and brothers Zeeshan Shahid and Imran Shaid, were detained by Pakistani police in July. They are to be handed over to Scottish police on Wednesday. They will be held in Barlinnie prison before facing trial.

Strathclyde Police refused to comment on the extraditions.

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E/2/30

Police extradite three Kriss Donald suspects

BILLY BRIGGS

POLICE visited a foreign country yesterday to make final arrangements to bring three people back to Scotland in connection with the murder of 15-year-old Kriss Donald.

The boy was abducted near his home on the south side of Glasgow last March and his body was found the next day. He had been stabbed 13 times and set on fire while still alive.

The Strathclyde Police team was met at an airport by Mohammed Sarwar, Glasgow Central MP. The location and details of those involved cannot be given for legal reasons.

Mr Sarwar has been involved with organising the extradition. He said: "It has been a difficult, long and complex process but now all the arrangements are in place and hopefully the three suspects will be brought to Britain to face trial."

Detective Superintendent Elliot McKenzie, leading the investigation, said: "I am hopeful that soon we will be able to obtain our objective and get the three people back to Scotland to face trial."

Daanish Zahid, 20, was jailed for at least 17 years for the murder. Zahid Mohammed, 20, was given five years for abduction and racially aggravated assault.

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Police seek to bring Kriss Donald suspects to Scotland next week

LUCY ADAMS
HOME AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

OFFICERS from Strathclyde Police flew out of Scotland last night to bring back three people wanted in connection with the murder of the Glasgow teenager, Kriss Donald.

Detective Superintendent Elliott Mackenzie, in charge of the case, and other officers travelled to a foreign country, which cannot be identified for legal reasons, to meet officials organising extradition.

Kriss, 15, from Pollokshields,

Glasgow, was found dead in the east end of the city in March last year. He had been stabbed 13 times, then set on fire while still alive.

In December Danish Zahid, 20, a shopkeeper, was sentenced to a minimum of 17 years in jail for his murder.

Zahid Mohammed, 20, was cleared of murder but jailed for five years after admitting the abduction and racially aggravated assault of Kriss.

The deal to secure the extradition of the remaining suspects was delayed for months because the country involved is

thought to have demanded that Britain hand over fugitives in return.

After more than a year of diplomatic wrangling, they were arrested in the summer.

Strathclyde Police revealed that the three suspects had agreed to be extradited to Britain to face trial. They are due to be brought here under police guard early next week.

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Police said: "A delegation of officers is currently en route to make the final arrangements for the return of three people to Scotland."

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Kriss suspects 'back in 3 weeks'

EXTRADITION

Trio linked to killing of teenager will be sent back to Scotland

CHIADE O'SHEA

IN ISLAMABAD

THREE men who fled to Pakistan following the murder of Scottish teenager Kriss Donald could be back in Scotland within three weeks after they faced their final extradition hearing in Islamabad, yesterday.

Imran Shahid, his brother Zeeshan and Mohammad Faisal Mustaq were led in shackles into the court in the Pakistani capital yesterday morning flanked by policemen.

Following their appearance, the judge is today expected to give his final consent to the men being extradited, a process which is likely to take a further three weeks.

Strathclyde Police want to question them about the murder of the Glasgow teenager, who was beaten, stabbed and set on fire after being kidnapped by a gang as he walked along Kenmure Street in Pollokshields on 15 March, last year.

Police had been prevented from questioning the men by the lack of a formal extradition agreement between Pakistan and Britain, an obstacle overcome by a one-off deal struck between the two governments.

Wearing casual Western clothes, shorts and flip-flops, the three men were chained together by their wrists when they appeared in court.

As police led him away, Imran Shahid told *The Scotsman* he was keen to go to court in Scotland to expose injustices he said he has faced since he was accused of the teenager's brutal murder.

"We think we'll get justice there," he said.

He also accused Strathclyde police of "corruption and vendettas" which he said would be exposed during a trial.

"It's generally an institutional thing, but [there are] personal vendettas from singular officers as well," he said.

He said he would claim racism tainted the investigation. He refused to elaborate further on his allegations against the Scottish force but also alluded to additional grievances about his treatment in Pakistan.

"Things about here will come out as well," he said. "It's hard for us to completely talk at the moment, but all this will come

out in the trial."

The other two men refused to comment as they were led away.

The three men were arrested in Pakistan in late June, six months after senior officers from Strathclyde police travelled to the country hoping to track down the suspects.

Local police apprehended the three men in Lahore and near Faisalabad in the Punjab.

A date has yet to be agreed for their return, but it is expected to be within three weeks.

The extradition process, considered a straightforward rubber-stamping exercise, will take at least two weeks after the judge's decision, after which arrangements will need to be made to repatriate the men.

The trio will eventually be handed over to the British authorities at Islamabad airport. When they leave Pakistan, either by chartered or scheduled flight, four British policemen will accompany each suspect.

Daanish Zahid, 20, was jailed for a minimum of 17 years last December for his role in the murder.



Kriss Donald, 16, was beaten, stabbed and set on fire after being kidnapped by a gang, last year

Kriss suspects set for return to UK

Three accused in Glasgow race murder case to leave Pakistan within weeks *Page 5*



CHAINED: The three suspects in the Kriss Donald case, whose faces have been obscured for legal reasons, are led into a court in Islamabad yesterday



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KRISS SUSPECT: I'M INNOCENT

ONE of the three suspects awaiting extradition over the murder of teenager Kriss Donald has broken his silence to declare his innocence.

The suspect, who cannot be named for legal reasons, broke silence to say the trio are victims of a police vendetta.

The three are expected to return to Glasgow from a foreign country within the next three weeks.

But after they appeared at an extradition hearing on Friday one accused Strathclyde Police of "corruption and vendettas".

The suspect said: "It is generally an institutional thing, but there are personal vendettas from singular officers as well.

"It is hard for us to completely talk at the moment, but all this will come out in the trial.

"We think we'll get justice there."

Kriss was brutally murdered on March 15 last year. The 15-year-old was kidnapped by a gang as he walked near his home in Pollokshields, Glasgow.

He was bundled into a car before being beaten, stabbed and set on fire.

Last December, Daanish Zahid, a 20-year-old shopkeeper, was jailed for life for the murder with a recommendation that he serves at least 17 years.

His co-accused Zahid Mohammed, 20, was cleared of murder but was jailed for five years after admitting abducting the schoolboy.

The three suspects were arrested

By BILLY PATERSON

abroad in June. Their extradition is now expected to be a formality with a judge rubber-stamping the order within the next two weeks.

After that they will be flown back to Glasgow accompanied by four police officers.

The lack of a formal extradition agreement between the UK and the country to which they were traced had prevented their earlier return.

But a deal has been struck between the author-

ities to allow this to be seen as a special case.

That deal was arrived at following months of lobbying by the murdered boy's MP Mohammed Sarwar and Foreign Office minister Douglas Alexander.

Both flew abroad in January to put the extradition wheels in motion.

Glasgow Central MP Sarwar said: "This was a particularly brutal and vicious case for



Burned: Kriss was set on fire

all concerned. We have done everything to bring these suspects back to Scotland.

"There has been a tremendous amount of work by the police, the Crown Office and the British Government in getting this far."

One police source said last night: "At last the breakthrough has been made. We have been waiting for this news for a long time and it looks as if it will be a matter of weeks rather than months before we can question these three suspects in Glasgow."

■ SUNDAY EMAIL
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Kriss police arrive in Pakistan

Police have arrived in Pakistan to make the final arrangements to bring three people to Scotland in connection with the murder of Kriss Donald.

The 15-year-old was abducted near his home on the southside of Glasgow last March. His body was found the next day.

The Strathclyde Police delegation was met at Islamabad airport by the Glasgow Central MP Mohammed Sarwar.

Mr Sarwar has been heavily involved in negotiations with the Pakistani Government over extradition.

The UK and Pakistan do not have a formal extradition treaty.

In July of this year, Pakistani police detained Zeeshan Shahid and Mohammed Mustaq in a village near Faisalabad.

Imran Shaid was arrested several days later in the city of Lahore.

One of the men had opposed extradition but at a hearing on 11 August he dropped his objection.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/scotland/4296434.stm>

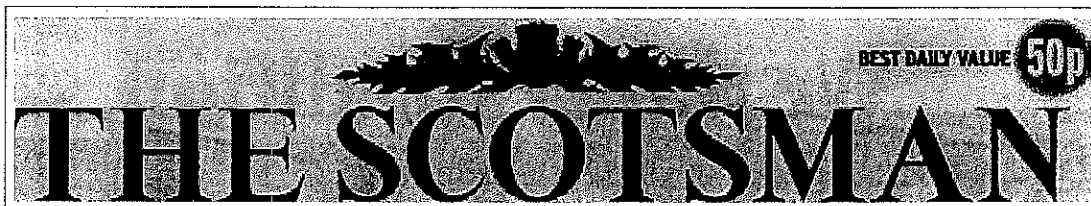
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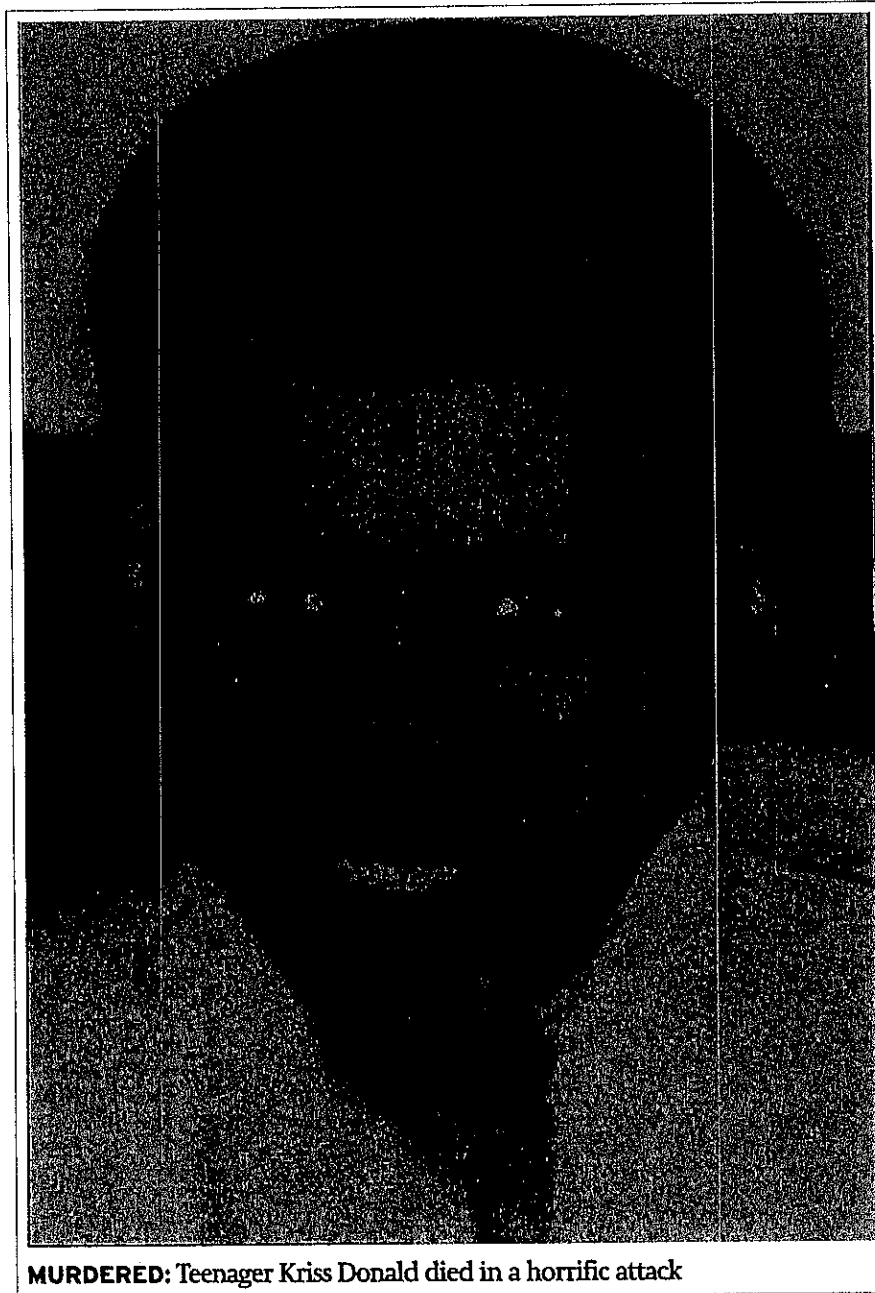
Pakistan three to face trial for Kriss murder

Suspects wanted after race
killing of 15-year-old to be
extradited back to UK *Pages 2-3*



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We want extradition, say three Kriss suspects

Diplomatic efforts deliver a breakthrough in Pakistan as men wanted for questioning over killing agree to return to Scotland

GETHIN CHAMBERLAIN
CHIEF NEWS CORRESPONDENT AND
CHIADE O'SHEA IN ISLAMABAD

THREE men who fled to Pakistan after the murder of Scottish teenager Kriss Donald yesterday agreed to be extradited to Britain to face trial.

The men's decision not to fight extradition marks a major breakthrough in the case after months of diplomatic wrangling between the British and Pakistani governments.

Strathclyde Police wanted to question the men - Zeeshan Shahid, Imran Shahid and Mohammad Faisal Mushtaq - about the brutal killing but had been unable to because of the absence of an extradition treaty between the two countries.

But yesterday the men appeared before a court in Islamabad to face an extradition hearing after an agreement was struck between the two governments. They appeared flanked by armed police from Pakistan's elite Anti-Terrorism Unit and were restrained with chains.

The trio are understood to have decided to take their chances in the UK rather than spend any more time in a Pakistani prison.

Arriving at court, shackled to his fellow accused, Zeeshan Zahid told *The Scotsman*: "We want to be extradited"

They were then led into court

for a hearing before a judge. Later, prosecutor Shaukat Ali Khan said the men had made clear their intention not to fight the process: "Without admitting their guilt, they want to contest their case in the UK"

Sources who have spoken to them said they had indicated that they would prefer to face trial in the UK than spend more time in Rawalpindi prison, where conditions are hard compared to UK establishments.

The men left Britain after the murder of the Glasgow teenager last year. The boy was abducted by a gang as he walked along Kenmure Street in Pollokshields on 15 March.

His friend, Jamie Wallace, who escaped the kidnap attempt, said he heard the schoolboy pleading with his attackers as the car sped away. His last known words were: "Why me? I'm only 15."

The gang is believed to have been looking to exact revenge for an attack on another person in a Glasgow night-club. After driving around in a stolen silver Mercedes looking for the attacker or someone known to him, they apparently settled on Kriss Donald at random.

Following a journey of 200 miles, they returned to Glasgow and on the Clyde Walkway they subjected the boy to a savage attack, kicking and punching him, then stabbing him 13

times and eventually setting him on fire. He tried to put out the flames by rolling in mud but his partially clothed body was discovered on the morning after his abduction behind the Celtic Supporters' Club in London Road

In December one of the men involved, Daanish Zahid, 20, was jailed for a minimum of 17 years for the murder. A second man, Zahid Mohammed, 20, admitted racially aggravated assault and abducting the teenager but the Crown accepted his not-guilty plea to murder. He was jailed for five years.

Warrants for the arrest of the three men who appeared in court yesterday were issued by Strathclyde Police last year but the inquiry was hindered by the absence of an extradition treaty between the UK and Pakistan.

The case was taken up by Mohammed Sarwar, the murdered boy's MP, who campaigned tirelessly for a one-off "no strings" deal to allow the extradition to go ahead.

Last night he welcomed the latest development: "I think they will be in this country sooner rather than later," he told *The Scotsman*.

"The accused have agreed to the extradition. I think the judge has to make a decision on when they will be deported"

The MP said he was glad a

deal had been struck. "It sends a loud and clear message that it is not acceptable to flee to another country after a crime has been committed," he said.

British officials, including Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, and Douglas Alexander, the Foreign Office Minister, have also travelled to Pakistan to press the case for extradition. And Mr Sarwar raised the subject with Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The three men were eventually arrested last month in Lahore and near Faisalabad in Punjab province.

They will return to court in a matter of weeks after legal paperwork has been completed and rubber-stamped by Pakistan's Ministry of the Interior.

The three, dressed in casual western clothes, were led out of court by a back entrance yesterday.

The lack of progress in getting hold of suspects in the case has frustrated police, with the man leading the inquiry, Superintendent Elliot McKenzie, promising Kriss's mother that he would not retire until he had brought the men back to Scotland.

Supt McKenzie said he felt a great deal of frustration that some of the prime suspects remained free, but he remained confident that a breakthrough





would be achieved by the efforts of the diplomats and those involved in negotiations.

Until Pakistan agreed to extend its 1972 Extradition Act to include the UK for this exceptional case, many feared the men would remain outside the reach of the UK law.

But the London bomb attacks have led to closer co-operation between Britain and Pakistan and a deal on a bilateral extradition treaty is now under consideration in Islamabad and London.

Sources in Pakistan say that work on the treaty accelerated after the London attacks and there is optimism that it may be in place to allow the extradition of anyone wanted in connection with the bombings.

The Kriss Donald case had been raised during negotiations as an example of problems created by the lack of a bilateral treaty. Pakistan is also keen for a deal to be forged to allow the extradition of criminals who have sought refuge in Britain with the proceeds of their crimes.

The killing was blamed for increasing racial tension in the Pollokshields area and prompted television presenter

Carol Smillie to front a new anti-racism campaign earlier this year.

Ms Smillie and her husband Alex Knight live close to the spot where Kriss was abducted and she said it had brought home to her the problems that remained in Scotland with racism.

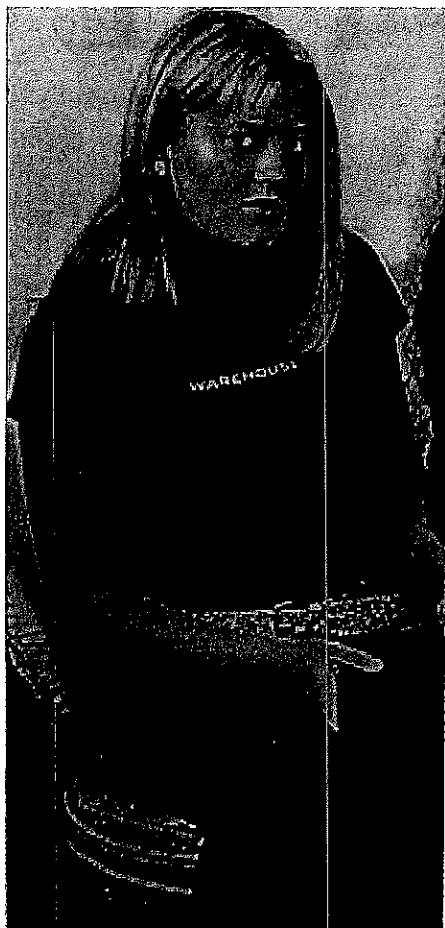
"Something as terrible as that really brings home the message that more needs to be done in Scotland to combat racism," she said at the time.

Kriss's family have been devastated by the killing and after last year's court case his mother Angela, 41, said that they would be unable to get on with their lives on until all those involved were brought to justice.

"Kriss meant everything to me, his sisters and his brother," she said. "We get little comfort from this result and we will not be able to move on until all those responsible are brought to justice."

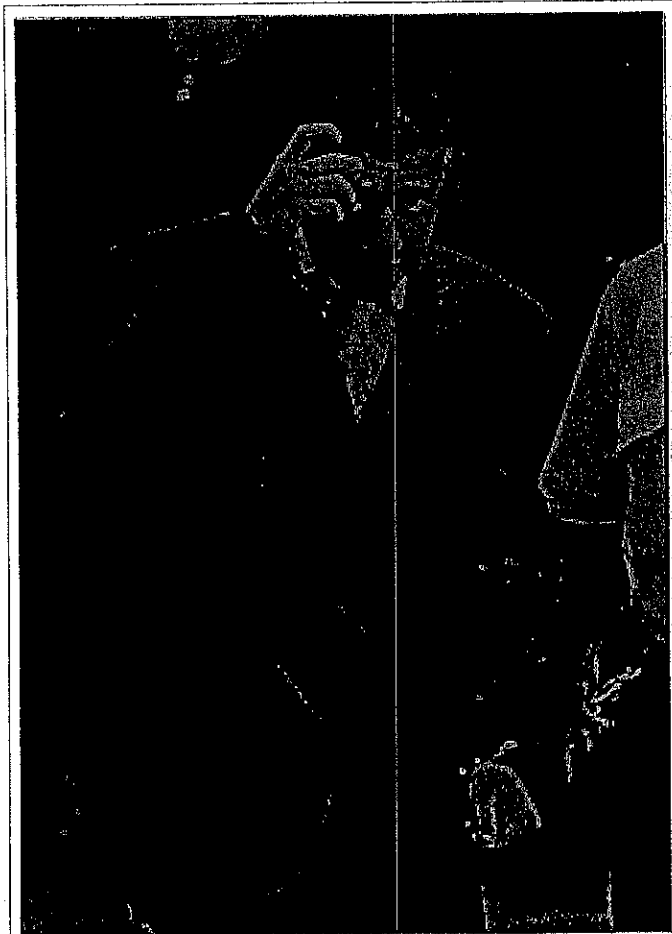
She and Kriss's sisters and brother later moved out of their flat in Pollokshields to get away from the scene of the fatal abduction. Last month the family gathered in the cemetery where Kriss is buried to mark what would have been his 17th birthday.





Kriss is sitting third from right in this Donald family picture with his sister Samantha, mother Angela and other younger members of the family





Danish Zahid: jailed for 17 years for involvement in the death



Kriss Donald's mother Angela at his funeral in April last year



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Suspects to return for Scots trial

THREE SUSPECTS wanted in connection with teenager Kriss Donald's death are returning to face trial in Scotland, police said yesterday.

They are being held in a foreign country where they were arrested last month.

The three, for whom there are international arrest warrants in place, appeared in court in an unnamed country yesterday.

Scottish police had planned to seek their extradition, but a spokesman for Strathclyde Police said all three agreed to return to the UK and stand trial for the murder of Kriss (15).

The teenager, from Pollokshields, Glasgow, was found dead in the city's east end last March.

It is expected that the suspects will now be flown back to the UK within weeks.

A spokesman for Strathclyde Police said, "The three suspects for the murder of Kriss Donald, for whom there are international arrest warrants in place, today appeared in court in an unnamed country.

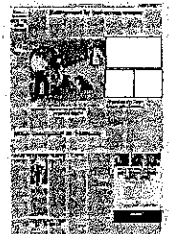
"All three agreed not to continue to fight extradition.

"They remain in custody in that country and have agreed to return to the UK, under police escort, for trial."

The 15-year-old was abducted near his home in the south side of Glasgow.

His body was found a day later behind the Celtic Supporters' Club in the east end of the city, a few hundred yards from the football stadium.

The country where the three were arrested and their identities cannot be revealed for legal reasons.



Kriss suspects to face trial

THREE people wanted in connection with the death of teenager Kriss Donald will return to face trial in Scotland, it emerged last night.

Police issued arrest warrants for the trio, who are being held in a foreign country.

Imran Shahid, Zeeshan Shahid and Mohammed Mustaq appeared in court yesterday, where they agreed not to continue to fight extradition.

Kriss, 15, from Pollokshields,

Glasgow, was found dead in the city in March 2004.

He had been bundled into a car near his home and taken on a 200-mile drive before being beaten, stabbed and burned alive.

Last month's arrests come six months after detectives flew overseas in an effort to trace the suspects. Pressure was also put on the foreign authorities through political and diplomatic channels.

Following months of lobbying by the murdered boy's MP,

Mohammed Sarwar, Foreign Office Minister Douglas Alexander flew out in January to discuss the case with officials.

Last December, Daanish Zahid was found guilty of Kriss's murder and jailed for life. Shopkeeper Zahid, 20, will serve at least 17 years in prison before he can apply for parole for his part in the brutal killing.

Zahid's co-accused, Zahid Mohammed, 20, was cleared of murder but admitted abducting Kriss and was jailed for five years.

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KRISS: THREE TO FACE SCOTS COURT

EXCLUSIVE

By Tom Hamilton

THREE suspects wanted over teenager Kriss Donald's murder are returning to face trial in Scotland, it was revealed yesterday.

The three are being held in a foreign country where they were arrested last month.

And yesterday there was a major breakthrough in the 17-month murder inquiry when they appeared before a magistrate.

Scottish police had planned to seek their extradition but the court was told they had volunteered to return and stand trial for the murder of Kriss, 15.

Kriss, from Pollokshields, Glasgow, was found dead in the city's east end in March 2004. He had been stabbed repeatedly and set on fire.

It is expected that the suspects will now be flown back within weeks. A

TURN TO PAGE 6



STABBED: Kriss Donald

From Page One

court order bans identification of the suspects or of where they were arrested.

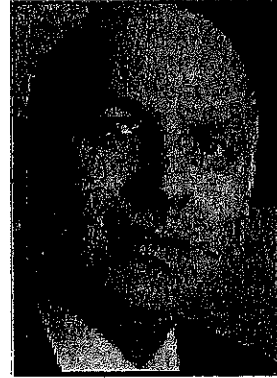
A police source said last night: "The three have intimated they will not be fighting extradition. These arrangements will be made in the coming weeks."

It is understood the trio gave their undertaking to come to Scotland in signed documents which carry their fingerprints.

The source said the three had to make a further court appearance to confirm their intentions before a team of detectives from Glasgow flew out to bring them back.

Earlier this year, Detective Superintendent Elliot McKenzie travelled overseas to provide crucial information which led to the suspects' arrests on July 2 - which would have been Kriss's 17th birthday.

Government ministers and



TALKS: Sarwar

Glasgow Central MP Mohamad Sarwar also had talks with police and politicians in the country where they were held.

The UK does not have an extradition treaty with the country. But one-off arrangements had been made to ensure the three would have been returned if they had not agreed to come back.

Last November, Daanish Zahid, 20, was convicted of Kriss's abduction and murder. Another man was convicted of abduction.

But the hunt for other suspects continued.

On the afternoon of the three suspects' arrest, Kriss's mum Angela, 41, held a birthday party for her dead son.

Angela gathered family and friends for a tribute and picnic at the cemetery where he is buried and unveiled a headstone in her son's memory.

As she did so, she said: "This is the saddest birthday present a mother could ever buy a son - but it is a glorious day."

Hours later, Angela was told by police that the suspects they had been looking for were being held in custody.

BBC NEWS*Public domain*

Murder suspects to be extradited

Three men wanted in connection with the murder of Glasgow teenager Kriss Donald have agreed to be extradited from Pakistan to face trial in the UK.

The men, who were detained in July, may be sent to the UK next month but their trial is not expected for some time.

There is no formal extradition treaty between Pakistan and Britain so special measures had to be taken.

Kriss Donald, 15, was abducted near his Pollokshields home last March and his body found the next day in Glasgow.

Warrants for the arrest of the three men were issued by Strathclyde police last year.

Police escort

Early in July, Zeeshan Shahid and Mohammed Mustaq were detained by Pakistani police in a village near Faisalabad in central Pakistan.

Imran Shaid was arrested a few days later in the city of Lahore.

At an earlier hearing in Islamabad one of the men opposed extradition but on Thursday all three suspects agreed to be sent to Britain.

They will be escorted from Pakistan by officers from Strathclyde Police.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/scotland/4143858.stm>

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Three arrested over Kriss murder

Three men have been arrested in Pakistan in connection with the murder of the Glasgow teenager Kriss Donald.

The 15-year-old was abducted near his home in Pollokshields last March and his body found the next day.

Imran Shahid was arrested in Lahore earlier this week. Later, Mohammed Mustaq and Zeeshan Shahid were taken into custody near Faisalabad.

Glasgow Central MP Mohammed Sarwar said he was confident they would now face trial in Scotland.

Warrants issued

Warrants for the arrest of the three men, who are now being held in Lahore, were issued in 2004 by Strathclyde Police.

Kriss Donald's body was found burned and stabbed on a walkway above the River Clyde near Celtic football club's Parkhead stadium, about three miles from where he disappeared on the south side of the city the previous day.

Kriss was a pupil at Bellahouston Academy.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/scotland/4644453.stm>

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SADDEST BIRTHDAY PRESENT A MOTHER COULD GET HER SON .. BUT THIS IS STILL A GREAT DAY

Jul 4 2005

THE FAMILY OF MURDERED KRISS SHARE MIXED EMOTIONS Cops tell mum of arrests as she marks boy's 17thum of arrests as she marks boy's 17th

By Mark Irvine

THE mother of murder victim Kriss Donald held a birthday party for her dead son - just hours after she was told three suspects had been arrested.

On what would have been Kriss's 17th birthday, Angela Donald gathered family and friends for a tribute and picnic at the cemetery where he is buried.

And as she unveiled a headstone in her son's memory and said: 'This is the saddest birthday present a mother could ever buy a son - but it is a glorious day.'

Flowers were laid on the grave and candles flickered during the private ceremony on Saturday afternoon.

The silence was broken only by wind chimes hung by the family in a blossom tree that overhangs Kriss's grave.

The small group of relatives and friends hugged each other as a protective sheet was removed from the headstone to reveal a moving inscription - a poem written by Angela, 41, as a tribute to Kriss's memory.

Just a few hours earlier, the officer leading the inquiry, Detective Superintendent Elliott McKenzie, had visited Angela.

He told her that three people had been arrested in connection with Kriss's murder.

The officer, who also joined the Donald family at the graveside, has led an international investigation into the killing in March 2004, when Kriss was only 15. Three weeks ago, Mr McKenzie, 49, made a special visit overseas to provide crucial intelligence information that resulted in the three arrests.

A court order bans the Daily Record from identifying the suspects or saying where they were arrested.

Authorities in the country swooped after a marathon surveillance operation and months of sensitive diplomatic negotiations.

The top-secret operation culminated just after midday on Saturday, when the three were taken into custody and their identities finally confirmed.

Diplomatic efforts by the family's MP, Mohammed Sarwar, and UK Government ministers have formed a major part of the investigation in recent months.

Glasgow Central Labour MP Sarwar has met with PM Tony Blair to discuss the case.

And top-level government talks have taken place involving Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Foreign Office minister Douglas Alexander.

The UK does not have an extradition treaty with the country where the suspects were arrested. But special one-off arrangements have been made to ensure the three are now returned to Scotland to face questioning.

It is expected that Mr McKenzie will travel abroad later this month to bring them back.

Kriss was snatched off the street in Pollokshields, Glasgow, and bundled into a Mercedes car.

Arrest He was driven on a 200-mile journey, via Dundee, kicked repeatedly, stabbed 13 times, then set on fire.

Fatally wounded, he was dumped in Glasgow's east end, near the River Clyde.

Forensic experts say he tried to put out the flames by rolling around in a muddy hollow near a cycle path, where he was found next morning.

Last December, shopkeeper Daanish Zahid, 20, was sentenced to 17 years for the murder.

Another man, Zahid Mohammed, 20, was cleared of murder but sentenced to five years for abduction.

During the trial of Daanish Zahid, the High Court at Edinburgh was told that as he was hauled into the car Kriss screamed: 'Why me? I'm only 15.'

Sarwar spent two weeks persuading police and politicians in the foreign country that they should arrest the three suspects.

During a second visit in May, he met senior politicians, including the prime minister and interior minister, along with high-ranking police officers and representatives of the legal system.

The foreign country has never extradited any non-terrorist criminals to any country in the world before now. The one-off extradition order could now pave the way for a formal treaty between that country and the UK.

Sarwar said he could not go into details of the arrests.

But he praised the people of Pollokshields and Kriss's family for their dignified behaviour in the 15 months since the murder - despite attempts by the British National Party to use the killing to raise their profile. Sarwar said: 'This was a brutal murder and no stone has been left unturned by myself, the police, the Crown Office and the British Government to do all they can to help Kriss Donald's family.'

'The family and our community have behaved with honour and dignity - and that is why extremists like the BNP couldn't use this tragic case to create racial disharmony.'

'I cannot comment any further on developments surrounding the arrests at this time.'

TV star Carol Smillie recently told how Kriss's murder moved her to spearhead a new anti-racism campaign.

The former Changing Rooms presenter lives in the Pollokshields area with husband Alex Knight, close to where the schoolboy was abducted.

She said: 'It was just round the corner from my front door. I couldn't believe it'

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Scotland on Sunday
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E/2/30

Three to face trial for Kriss killing

TOM MARTIN

THREE suspects in the murder of Glasgow teenager Kriss Donald could be returned to Scotland for trial within weeks of their arrest in Pakistan.

The 15-year-old was abducted, stabbed and set on fire in March last year in a case that shocked Scotland.

One man has already been

convicted of Kriss's murder and another of abducting him, but it was feared that the lack of an extradition treaty with Pakistan meant the case would get no further.

But last night Strathclyde Police confirmed that three men had been arrested in connection with the case.

Sources close to the case said the three were arrested in

Pakistan in the past week. It is understood negotiations are under way about bringing Imran Shahid, Ziham Shahid and Mohammed Mustaq to Scotland.

The murdered boy's MP, Mohammed Sarwar, said he was confident the three suspects would stand trial in Scotland following intensive lobbying by British politicians and officials.

■ **FULL STORY: PAGE 9**



Kriss murder suspects face UK trial

Trio arrested as Pakistan extradition deal finally agreed over brutal killing

TOM MARTIN

THREE suspects in the horrific abduction and murder of Scots teenager Kriss Donald have been arrested abroad and could be returned to face justice within weeks.

Following months of diplomatic wrangling, an unprecedented deal has been reached between officials in the UK and Pakistan to return the trio to Scotland for trial.

A fourth man has already been convicted of murdering Kriss, 15, who was abducted in Glasgow and taken on a lengthy car journey around Scotland before being stabbed and set alight.

But because of the lack of an extradition treaty with Pakistan it was widely feared the case had ground to a standstill.

Warrants for the arrest of the three men - Imran Shahid, Ziham Shahid and Mohammed Mustaq - were issued in 2004 by Strathclyde Police.

It is understood Shahid was arrested in Lahore early last week. Mustaq and Ziham were later taken into custody near Faisalabad.

Despite the lack of an extradition treaty, it is understood the UK and Pakistan have thrashed out a "no-strings" one-off arrangement to return the men. It remains unclear how long this could take but sources say it could be a matter of weeks.

The arrests come just six months after senior detectives flew to Pakistan in an effort to trace the suspects. Pressure on the Pakistan authorities has also been applied through political and diplomatic channels. Following months of lobbying by the murdered boy's MP, Mohammed Sarwar, Foreign Office Minister Douglas Alexander jetted out to the country in January to discuss the case with

Pakistani officials.

That was followed by a visit last month by Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, who discussed the case with Pakistan's foreign minister Shaukat Aziz.

Sarwar last night said he was confident the three suspects would now face trial in Scotland. The Glasgow Central MP said: "This was a particularly brutal and vicious case for all concerned not least Kriss Donald's family. We have done everything to bring these three suspects back to Scotland. We have left no stone unturned in that process.

"There has been a tremendous amount of work by the police, Crown Office and British Government is getting this far."

Kriss was abducted at random in Pollokshields, Glasgow, on March 15 last year, driven 200 miles around Scotland, stabbed 13 times and burned alive. He was the innocent victim of a revenge attack. His friend Jamie Wallace, who managed to escape, said that as the car sped off he heard Kriss's bewildered cries: "Why me? I'm only 15"

Yesterday, police sources closely involved in the case said they were now waiting to interview the suspects.

One source said: "We have waited long enough. I think it will be a matter of weeks rather than months."

Last December, Glasgow shopkeeper Daanish Zahid, 20, was jailed for at least 17 years for murdering Kriss. Zahid Mohammed, 20, was cleared of murder but sentenced to five years for abducting the teenager.

Kriss's mother Angela, 40, last night could not be contacted for comment but has previously said she and her family would "not be able to move on until all of those responsible are

brought to justice". Relatives of the murdered teenager are also said to have been shocked by the slow progress in the case.

Kriss's death led to racial tension in some parts of the city and Kriss's friend was put into the witness protection scheme.

Six weeks after the murder, hundreds of people, including senior Islamic representatives, lined the streets at the schoolboy's funeral as Kriss's coffin passed by.

The detective leading the murder inquiry has also described the lack of progress as frustrating. Superintendent Elliot McKenzie said last year: "I've told Kriss's mother that I won't retire until we've brought these suspects back to Scotland, and I mean it.

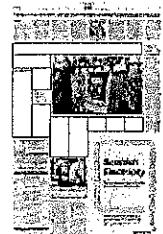
"This was an innocent 15-year-old schoolboy who was plucked from a busy street in broad daylight before being tortured, stabbed and set alight while he was still alive."

Crown Office officials said it was too early to predict the next stage of extradition.

A spokeswoman said: "We are aware there have been developments in this case and remain in close contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth office and the country concerned."

The talks have coincided with Pakistani moves to forge new alliances with the west, led by President Pervez Musharraf, who has publicly backed the United States' and Britain's campaign against terrorism in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

Whitehall sources had previously indicated that the timing of any approach to a special extradition request was felt to be potentially disruptive in terms of long-term negotiations.



Three arrested in Pakistan over murder of Kriss

By **Mark Aitken**

THREE men have been arrested in connection with the murder of teenager Kriss Donald.

The 15-year-old was tortured and killed after being abducted in Glasgow in March last year.

Authorities in Pakistan said Imran Shahid, 28, was arrested in Lahore last week, while Mohammed Mustaq and Zeeshan Shahid were taken into custody near Faisalabad.

Warrants for the arrest of the men, now being held in Lahore, were issued last year by Strathclyde Police.

The three are set to face trial in Scotland after the Pakistan government agreed to extradite them.

Last December, at the High Court in Edinburgh, a shopkeeper was jailed for life for Kriss's abduction and murder.

Daanish Zahid, 20, was told he will serve a minimum of 17 years in prison before he can apply for parole for his part in the killing.

Zahid's co-accused, Zahid Mohammed, 20, who was cleared of murder but admitted abducting Kriss, was jailed for five years.

He also admitted attempting to defeat the ends of justice by asking a friend for an alibi.

He gave evidence for the prosecution, explaining he had left the

scene as he had been electronically tagged and had to be home for 7pm.

Kriss's body was found on

March 15 last year on a walkway above the river Clyde near Celtic's Parkhead stadium, three miles from where he disappeared on the south side of the city the previous day.

Kriss was abducted near his home in the city's Pollokshields area. The teenager, a pupil at Bellahouston Academy in Glasgow, was taken on a 200-mile drive before being beaten, stabbed and burned alive.

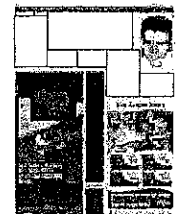
The teenager was thought to have been attacked as reprisal after another incident at a Glasgow nightclub in which he was not involved.

During Kriss's funeral at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Pollok, Glasgow, a tribute from his mother Angela read: 'Kriss grew into the most placid and gentle and loving boy we could wish to have.'

Earlier this month the Pakistan government agreed to the extradition of three men wanted in connection with Kriss's murder, despite the lack of a formal extradition agreement between the two countries.

It followed a meeting between Glasgow MP Mohammad Sarwar and Pakistan's Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao.

Last night, a spokesman for Strathclyde Police said: 'We can confirm that three men have been arrested in connection with Kriss's death.'





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KRISS MURDER SUSPECTS ARRESTED

Jul 3 2005

Country gives go-ahead for Scots police to question three

By Lindsay Mcgarvie

SCOTLAND'S three most wanted people have been arrested in connection with the murder of teenager Kriss Donald.

They were seized by armed police in a foreign country which cannot be named for legal reasons.

Despite having no extradition treaty with the UK, that country's interior minister has authorised a one-off order to allow the three suspects to be returned to Scotland to face questioning by Scottish police.

Last December, shopkeeper Daanish Zahid, 20, was sentenced to at least 17 years for the murder of the 15-year-old Kriss, though he did not strike the fatal blow. Zahid Mohammed, 20, was cleared of murder but sentenced to five years for the abduction of the teenager in broad daylight in March last year.

Police believed three other people they suspect to have played a leading role in the gruesome murder fled abroad after a major hunt for them was launched.

The teenager was playing truant from school when he was plucked off a busy street in Kenmure Street, Pollokshields, Glasgow.

He was bundled into a Mercedes, driven on a 200-mile journey, via Dundee, kicked repeatedly, stabbed 13 times, then set on fire.

The fatally wounded youngster was then ditched in the city's east end, near the River Clyde.

Forensic experts say he stumbled towards the Clyde before attempting to put out the flames by rolling around in a muddy hollow near a cycle path, where he was found next morning.

During the trial of Daanish Zahid, jurors heard that as he was bundled into the car to be driven to his death, Kriss screamed: 'Why me? I'm only 15.'

The grisly murder enflamed racial tensions and attracted the ultra-right British National Party, who tried to make political capital from it.

After more than a year of behind-the-scenes talks between politicians and police in Britain and the foreign country, the three suspects are in custody awaiting extradition.

It is thought they will be flown to Scotland in the next two weeks.

The foreign country has never extradited any non-terrorist criminals to any country in the world before.

The one-off extradition order could pave the way for a formal treaty between the country and the UK.

The astonishing arrests were made after Glasgow Central MP Mohammed Sarwar spent two weeks in the foreign country persuading police and politicians there that they should arrest the three suspects.

Sarwar flew there on the case in May - for the second time in a year - and met senior politicians, including its prime minister, interior minister and high ranking members of the police and legal system.

During Mr Sarwar's visit, a delegation of Strathclyde Police officers, led by Detective Superintendent Elliot McKenzie, travelled there to track the three individuals they believe were part of a group that tortured and murdered Kriss. Last night, Mr Sarwar said he could not go into the complexities of the arrests but praised Pollokshields community and Kriss Donald's family for the way they have behaved in the 15 months since the

murder.

Mr Sarwar said: 'This was a brutal murder and no stone has been left unturned by myself, the police, Crown Office and British Government to do all they can to help Kriss Donald's family.

'The family and our community have behaved with honour and dignity, and that is why extremists like the BNP couldn't use this tragic case to create racial disharmony.

'I cannot comment any further on developments surrounding the arrests at this time.'



The police and Government have repeatedly been accused of dragging their heels in their efforts to bring the three suspects back to Scotland.

The arrests will come as a major relief to Detective Superintendent McKenzie, the police boss in charge of the murder hunt.

In March, he told the Sunday Mail that he had promised Kriss's mother, Angela, he would not retire until he had brought the suspects to justice.

The 49-year-old policeman is entitled to retire in less than a year, after 30 years service

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set alight while he was still alive."

Last December, Glasgow shopkeeper Daanish Zahid, 20, was jailed for at least 17 years for murdering Kriss.

Zahid Mohammed, 20, was cleared of murder but sentenced to five years for abducting the teenager.

Supt. McKenzie said the murder was the worst of the dozens he has dealt with in

his police career. He said the last year has been "incredibly frustrating" as the three suspects have been able to evade questioning by hiding in a foreign country with no extradition treaty.

He said: "The police, Crown Office and UK Government have worked tirelessly to try to establish a one-off extradition agreement with the country involved.

"Mr Sarwar, in particular, has made tremendous efforts in the country involved to try to resolve this matter as soon as possible."

The top policeman has even met

recently with senior ambassadors of the foreign nation to discuss the technicalities of returning the three suspects.

He said: "I believe we are closer than ever to seeing justice done. And I believe the British and foreign politicians are working to make this one-off extradition happen."

Trial

We can reveal that the Prime Minister of the country where the three suspects are living met with a senior UK Government minister last January to help bring the trio to trial.

Following months of lobbying by the murdered boy's MP Mohammed Sarwar, Foreign Office minister Douglas Alexander jetted out to the country in January to discuss the case with its Prime Minister.

To keep up pressure on that government last month Foreign Secretary Jack Straw flew out to hold talks on the Kriss Donald case with its Foreign Minister.

Govan MP Sarwar has met with both Tony Blair and the foreign country's Prime Minister on a number of occasions on the case in the last year.

Sarwar said: "I will do everything in my power to try and bring these three suspects back to Scotland.

"That is what the people of my constituency and all across Scotland expect. We should leave no stone unturned in that process."

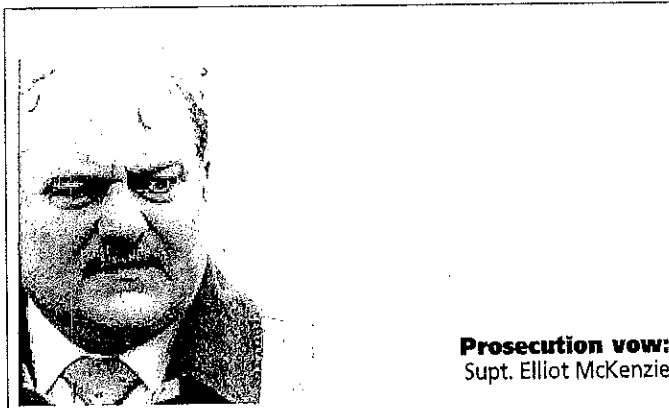
UK government sources say talks on a one-off extradition to bring the three back to the UK have been "very productive". Foreign Office minister Alexander said: "As the local constituency MP Mr Sarwar has been tireless in his efforts to bring this case to the attention of the Foreign Office which has led to a number of high level talks."

The abduction and murder of Kriss was a reprisal for an attack in a nightclub. Zahid was one of five who drove around in a stolen Mercedes looking for the attacker or one of his friends.

Kriss was driven for 200 miles before being beaten, stabbed 13 times and burned alive.

His body was found in a ditch near the River Clyde in the east end of Glasgow.

■ SUNDAY EMAIL
l.mcgarvie@sundaymail.co.uk



Prosecution vow:
Supt. Elliot McKenzie



NO PLACE TO HIDE



**Kriss cop
tells mum:
I will not
quit until
your son's
killers are
brought
to justice**

Torn apart:
Kriss with his
mum Angela

EXCLUSIVE
By LINDSAY MCGARVIE

THE detective leading the Kriss Donald murder inquiry broke his silence yesterday and vowed to hunt down the killers.

Superintendent Elliot McKenzie insists he will not retire until he has brought all those suspected of murdering the 15-year-old Glasgow boy to justice.

He spoke of his "incredible frustration" that some of the prime suspects remain free.

One man has already been convicted of the schoolboy's murder but three other suspects fled abroad.

The country they escaped to cannot be identified for legal reasons but has no extradition treaty with the UK.

Supt. McKenzie said he believed diplomatic efforts by the family's MP Mohammed Sarwar and UK Government ministers could bring the suspects back soon through a one-off extradition.

Tortured

McKenzie, 49, said he is entitled to hand in his warrant card in a year's time when he will have notched up 30 years service.

But he told the Sunday Mail: "I've told Kriss' mother that I won't retire until we've brought these suspects back to Scotland - and I mean it."

"This was an innocent 15-year-old schoolboy who was plucked from a busy street in broad daylight, before being tortured, stabbed and



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E/2/30

Kriss suspects still abroad

STRATHCLYDE Police yesterday insisted everything possible was being done to bring three suspects in the murder of Kriss Donald to trial.

The Foreign Office also said it was working with authorities to ensure they were brought to justice from abroad. Their comments followed allegations that efforts to recover the trio have "ground to a standstill".

The suspects fled in March last year after the death of Kriss, a 15-year-old Glasgow schoolboy. For legal reasons, the country cannot be named. It has no extradition treaty with the UK.

In December, Daanish Zahid, 20, of Shields Road, Glasgow, was jailed for life for his part in the murder. His co-accused, Zahid Mohammed, 20, was jailed for five years for abduction.



3 of 3 DOCUMENTS

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DAILY MAIL (London)

March 16, 2005

SECTION: ED_SC1_04; Pg. 1; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 785 words

HEADLINE: RACIST KILLERS ESCAPE JUSTICE Killers left unpunished

BYLINE: GRAHAM GRANT

BODY:

THREE suspected killers who fled abroad after Scotland's first race murder may never be brought to justice.

A bid to capture the group linked with the abduction and killing of teenager Kriss Donald has ground to a standstill.

Relatives of the murdered 15-year-old were told police and diplomats are involved in intensive behind-the-scenes moves to bring the trio back to Scotland. But the Scottish Daily Mail can today reveal the state minister for the interior in the country where the three are believed to be in hiding has received no official request from his superiors to find the suspects.

The high-ranking government minister revealed officials in the country, which cannot be named for legal reasons, are not actively looking for the three. The revelation sparked a diplomatic row last night after the British Government insisted that ministers, including Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, had contacted the regime in the country concerned to raise the case, describing negotiations as 'difficult and sensitive'.

But Kriss's family are understood to be angered by the lack of progress.

Their local MP, Mohammad Sarwar, who represents Glasgow Govan and has lobbied Mr Straw to raise the issue with the country involved, said: 'I am very much alarmed by this news and the apparent lack of movement.' The minister for the interior in the foreign country told the Mail: 'Of course we would arrest and hand over any suspect to the Scottish government if they desired and if they submitted proof of their involvement in the crime.'

'But so far we at the ministry have not received any request from the British or Scottish authorities.' Relatives of the murdered teenager are understood to be shocked by the slow progress and by the fact that the authorities have so far made no attempt to locate the three and return them to Scotland.

Kriss's mother Angela, 40, was too upset to comment last night, but last November she said her family would 'not be able to move on until all of those responsible are brought to justice'.

Last night the Foreign Office insisted that contact had been made with senior figures in the country's administration. But the Mail's investigations show that, despite this contact, no efforts are currently being made to track down the alleged killers.

A source said: 'The wheels turn slowly, especially in this country, and it may be that some pretty broad discussions have happened but that hasn't necessarily filtered down and translated into any kind of action.' The country involved cannot be named because of a court order.

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banning its identification in case future legal proceedings are hampered.

The latest revelations came as TV presenter Carol Smillie told how Kriss's murder moved her to spearhead a new antiracism campaign.

The former Changing Rooms star lives in Glasgow with her husband Alex Knight, only yards from the spot where the schoolboy was abducted.

She said: 'It was just round the corner from my front door.

I couldn't believe it.

'Something as terrible as that really brings home the message that more needs to be done in Scotland to combat racism.' At the Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow yesterday, Miss Smillie unveiled a mosaic of more than 1,200 Polaroid pictures of people from across Scotland.

The mosaic, which forms part of the Scottish Executive's One Scotland Many Cultures campaign, shows Scots from nearly 130 places and several different ethnic backgrounds.

Last December, a shopkeeper who helped to kill Kriss was jailed for life.

Daanish Zahid will serve at least 17 years in prison before he can apply for parole for his part in the brutal killing.

Zahid listened to Kriss's screams as he was viciously stabbed and set on fire but did nothing to help him.

Zahid's co-accused, Zahid Mohammed, 20, who was cleared of murder but admitted abducting Kriss, was jailed for five years.

Kriss was the innocent victim of a reprisal after another person whose identity cannot be revealed was attacked at a Glasgow nightclub. A five-strong group, including Zahid, drove around in a stolen Mercedes looking for the attacker or someone who knew him.

Kriss was bundled into the car by the gang near his home in the city's Pollokshields area on March 15 last year.

The teenager was taken on a 200-mile drive before being beaten, repeatedly stabbed and burned alive.

Strathclyde Police last night refused to comment on moves to bring the suspects back.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: 'These are difficult and sensitive issues, but we are working with the authorities in the country concerned to try to ensure that the suspects stand trial.' g.grant@dailymail.co.uk END

GRAPHIC: MURDERED: TEENAGER KRISS DONALD STUNNED: CAROL SMILLIE'S HOME IS NEAR WHERE KRISS WAS ABDUCTED. DAANISH ZAHID, FAR LEFT, AND ZAHID MOHAMMED WERE JAILED

LOAD-DATE: March 19, 2005

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1 of 1 DOCUMENT

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The Mirror

February 14, 2005, Monday

ACTION: Scots Edition; NEWS; Pg. 11

LENGTH: 369 words

HEADLINE: STRAW IN KRISS SUSPECTS HUNT;
FOREIGN SECRETARY FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE

BYLINE: STUART MACDONALD

KEYWORD:

JUSTICE BID; Straw; MURDER: Tragic Kriss

SYNOPSIS:

FOREIGN Secretary Jack Straw has stepped in to try and catch three men suspected of being involved in the killing of teenager **Kriss Donald**.

Straw has agreed to raise the issue with the leader of the country where the three are now living after fleeing their homes in Scotland.

Neither their names nor the name of the country they are in can be published for legal reasons.

There is no extradition treaty between the UK and the country the suspects have fled to but it is hoped the intervention of the Foreign Secretary could pave the way for them to return.

Kriss, 15, was taken from a street in Pollokshields last March. He was beaten, stabbed repeatedly and set alight with petrol while still alive.

His body was found the next day near a Celtic Supporters' Club in the east of Glasgow by a man cycling to work. Mohammad Sarwar, the Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, who helped to broker the deal with Straw, said he was confident that the trio would now be brought to justice.

He said: "I have made representations to Mr Straw about this and he is very aware of the case."

Last month, Detective Superintendent Elliot Mackenzie, who led the hunt for Kriss' killers, said the suspects would be brought back to Glasgow "sooner rather than later". Last December, Daanish Zahid, 20, was jailed for a minimum of 17 years after becoming the first person to be convicted of the murder.

He claimed to be part of a gang that abducted 15-year-old Donald and subjected him to horrific injuries leading to his death.

Zahid Mohammed, 20, admitted racially aggravated assault and abducting the teenager. The crown accepted his not guilty plea to murder.

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The Mirror, February 14, 2005

Mohammed's defence was that three others wanted in connection with the murder, known only as X, Y and Z, were responsible for the death.

The court had heard how X had been attacked in a nightclub.

The next day there was a call for revenge and a decision was made to grab a lorry off the street in Pollokshields.

A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said: "The Foreign Secretary will raise this case with ministers in the relevant country to try and ensure that the suspects return to stand trial in the UK."

AD-DATE: February 14, 2005

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STRAW IN KRISS SUSPECTS HUNT

Foreign Secretary fights for justice

FOREIGN Secretary Jack Straw has stepped in to try and catch three men suspected of being involved in the killing of teenager Kriss Donald.

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By **STUART MACDONALD**

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He claimed to be part of a gang that abducted 15-year-old Donald and subjected him to horrific injuries leading to his death.

Zahid Mohammed, 20, admitted racially aggravated assault and abducting the teenager. The crown accepted his not guilty plea to murder.

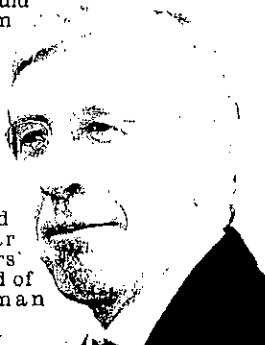
Mohammed's defence was that three others wanted in connection with the murder, known only as X, Y and Z, were responsible for the death.

The court had heard how X had been attacked in a nightclub.

The next day there was a call for revenge and a decision was made to grab a youth off the street in Pollokshields.

A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said: "The Foreign Secretary will raise this case with ministers in the relevant country to try and ensure that the suspects return to stand trial in the UK."

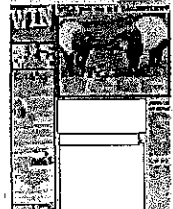
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JUSTICE BID: Straw



MURDER: Kriss Donald



Straw steps in to aid Kriss murder enquiries

BY MIKE TAIT

FOREIGN Secretary Jack Straw has intervened in the case of three men suspected of involvement in the killing of teenager Kriss Donald.

Mr Straw has agreed to raise the issue with the leader of the country where the three now reside after fleeing their homes in Scotland.

Neither their names nor the name of the country they are in can be published for legal reasons.

There is no extradition treaty between the UK and the country concerned but it is hoped the intervention of Mr Straw could pave the way for them to return.

Kriss, 15, was abducted from a street in the Pollokshields area of Glasgow last

March. He was beaten, stabbed repeatedly and set alight with petrol, but still alive.

Mohammad Sarwar, the Labour MP Glasgow Govan, who helped to broker a deal with Mr Straw, said he was confident the trio would now be brought to justice.

He said: 'I welcome his decision to help which will increase the pressure to bring these men to justice. We will not rest until that happens.'

Last December, Daanish Zahid, 20, was jailed for a minimum of 17 years as a result of becoming the first person to be convicted of the murder.

public domain

igh. The present equip-
t is the result of 35 years of
imental development and
greater understanding of the
erse, suggesting more
ential sources of gravita-
al waves than we had previ-
y thought."

Professor Kip Thorne, of
Caltech, said: "There is a dark
side of the universe that we just
cannot see electromagnetically.
There is cosmic phenomena
that we can only learn about
through gravitational waves,
such as the collision of black
holes, the most powerful event

spent £190m c... careff-and
development... provides
£16m a year to fund the search
for gravitational waves.

Although Glasgow Univer-
sity has received a more modest
£7m from the government to
design the equipment, it is
leading the race.

search for the most important
force in the universe. If the
waves are detected then it will
take us on to greater discovery.
I would have thought this kind
of work was of sufficient
calibre to merit a Nobel prize."

Spin-offs from the Glasgow
research have included the

death and the anniversary
of the publication of his four
landmark theories.

Last summer Ladbrokes, the
bookmaker, offered odds of
500-1 on gravitational waves
being detected by 2010. The
odds were cut to 2-1 before
betting was closed.

SUNDAY TIMES pg 5 13/02/05

to be Cherie

Al Ham

with Bob Carr, premier of
South Wales, to the sound
of Beatles song She Loves
Me. A photograph signed by
Blair of the front door of
Downing Street was sold at
event for £2,500.
Blair is to be paid £100,000
for the six-city tour, provoking
criticisms that she and Max
Crosby, the impresario known
in Australia as "Mr 20%",
are at their full charges.
The tour had got off to an
uncertain start in Auckland
when Blair twice referred to the
New Zealand audience as "Aus-
tralian". She was further criticised
for what some saw as a clichéd,
referential speech. One
critic said: "The whole show
is very frothy and based
on her book about the lives
of prime ministers' spouses, so
there was lots of trivia."



Blair: to be paid £100,000

Straw joins chase for Kriss Donald suspects

THREE teenagers suspected of
involvement in the killing of
the Glasgow teenager Kriss
Donald are facing extradition
back to Britain following the
intervention of Jack Straw.

The foreign secretary has
agreed to raise the issue with
the leader of the country where
the three are now resident.
Neither their names nor the
name of the country can be pub-
lished for legal reasons.

Mohammad Sarwar, the
Labour MP for Glasgow Govan
who helped to broker the
deal, said he was confident
that the trio would now be
brought to justice.

"I have made representation
to Mr Straw and he is very
aware of this case. I welcome
his decision to help, which
will increase the pressure to
bring these men to justice.
We will not rest until that
happens," he said.

Last year Daanish Zahid, 20,

Mark Macaskill

was jailed for a minimum of 17
years after becoming the first
person to be convicted of the
murder. He claimed to be part
of a gang that abducted 15-
year-old Donald and subjected
him to horrific injuries leading
to his death.

Zahid Mohammed, 20, ad-
mitted racially aggravated
assault and abducting the teen-
ager. The crown accepted his
not guilty plea to murder.
Zahid Mohammed's defence
was that three others wanted
in connection with the murder
— known only as X, Y and Z
— were responsible for Don-
ald's death.

The court had heard how X
had been attacked in a night-
club by members of a gang
from McCulloch Street, in the
Pollokshields area of Glasgow,
where Donald lived.

The next day there was a call
for revenge and a decision was
made to grab a youth off the
street in Pollokshields. A
group including Zahid Moham-
med set off, taking a knife, a
screwdriver and a hammer.

Donald was last seen alive as
he was bundled into a car. He
had been with a friend, Jamie
Wallace, 20, on his way to play
computer games and was tar-
geted simply because he was
white and lived in the area.

He was taken on a 200-mile
round trip from Glasgow to
Motherwell, Dundee, then back
to the east end of Glasgow
where he was beaten, stabbed
13 times in the stomach, back
and arm and burnt alive.

A spokesman for the Foreign
and Commonwealth Office
said: "The foreign secretary
will raise this case with minis-
ters in the relevant country to
try and ensure that the suspects
return to stand trial in the UK."

which is suggested by the
title, it was an assault on
middle-class prejudice.

He also directed and acted
in plays exploring class atti-
tudes, homosexuality and
what he described as "other
human frailties".

"The theatre was almost
the police's loss," said Nick
Bamford, a director of such
television programmes as
Antiques Roadshow, Top
Gear and Location, Location,
Location, who was one of
Blair's closest friends at
Oxford and was best man at
his wedding. "He was nearly
torn down that path."

to talk more about his "ir-
rue" years at Oxford. A co-
league said: "He wants to
move on and concentrate on
policing issues."

Blair has also refused to
say whether or not he
smoked cannabis as a stu-
dent. But another of the
alumni, Sir Gavin Arthur,
barrister and former
mayor of London, said: "I
had a beard then, but I can
tell you truthfully that there
are absolutely no other indis-
cretions to report."

"It may have been the can-
nabis-smoking generative
but he absolutely didn't."

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rane Centre in Oxford, who is
one of Britain's drug safety
experts. He believes that only
about 5% of problems are
reported through the yellow

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Racist killer is jailed for life

A man has been jailed for life for the racist murder of the Glasgow teenager Kriss Donald.



Daanish Zahid must serve a minimum of 17 years

Judge Lord Philip said Daanish Zahid, 20, must serve 17 years in jail before being eligible to apply for parole.

The judge said the public had been "shocked and horrified" by the murder of the 15-year-old who was abducted, beaten, stabbed and then set alight.

Zahid Mohammed, 20, who admitted abducting Kriss, was jailed for five years.

On 18 November, a jury found Zahid guilty by a unanimous verdict of racially-aggravated murder, abduction and of attempting to defeat the ends of justice by destroying evidence by setting fire to the car used to snatch Kriss.

He was also convicted of attacking Kriss' friend as the pair walked along Kenmure Street in the Pollokshields area of Glasgow in March.

Zahid, of Shields Road,

“ The public has rightly been shocked and horrified by the callous, brutal and prolonged nature of these crimes and the ordeal which the victim had to go through ”

Lord Philip

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Public track

Glasgow, had denied murder, claiming Kriss was stabbed and beaten by others, but jurors decided that he had "acted in concert" and was equally guilty.

Captain relieved of command

At the High Court in Edinburgh on Thursday, Lord Philip told Zahid: "The public has rightly been shocked and horrified by the callous, brutal and prolonged nature of these crimes and the ordeal which the victim had to go through."

He noted that a background report revealed he had "shown little indication of remorse for your participation in the crime or concern for your victim".

But the judge took into account that Zahid's role was one "of aiding and abetting and supporting those who were the main participants in the attack, abduction and murder of Kriss Donald".

The murder happened after an Asian man was hit on the head by a bottle outside a club on an evening in March, the trial heard.

Genuine remorse

Daanish Zahid and Zahid Mohammed were part of a gang who had set out in a car for revenge the next day.

They came across Kriss and another teenager in Kenmure Street and abducted him.

Kriss was stabbed 13 times in the stomach and back before being burned alive.

His near-naked body was found the morning after the abduction behind the Celtic Supporters' Club in London Road, Glasgow.

Before sentencing, Zahid's solicitor told Lord Philip that his client expressed genuine remorse for his actions.

He added that Zahid had been left to shoulder the collective responsibility of the group.


The court heard that Zahid's family had sold their business and moved away.




Zahid Mohammed was jailed for five years

Mohammed, also of Shields Road, was cleared of murder but admitted abduction. He will be kept under supervision for a further five years after serving his sentence.

Three other individuals, who cannot be named for legal reasons, are being pursued by police in connection with Kriss' murder.

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MP hope on Kriss suspects

AN MP has said he is confident the remaining suspects in the Kriss Donald murder case will be brought to trial.

Mohammad Sarwar, Kriss's local MP, is one of the figures working behind the scenes to bring the trio back to Scotland.

It is understood all three fled the country following the torture and killing of the 15-year-old.

Reporting restrictions imposed by the courts mean that the names, sexes, ages or racial backgrounds of the trio cannot be revealed, nor the country to which they are understood to have fled.

Last week, Daanish Zahid, 20, became the first person in Scotland to be convicted of a racially motivated murder.

During the trial at the High Court in Glasgow, the jury heard that Kriss was snatched off a street close to his home in the city's Pollokshields by youths.

Eyewitnesses heard him shout as he was dragged into a car and driven off: "Why me? I'm only 15."

Kriss was stabbed repeatedly before being set on fire and left to die in the city's east end.

A second man, Zahid Mohammed, 20, admitted racially

aggravated assault and abducting Kriss.

His not guilty plea to murder was accepted by the Crown.

It is believed that the delicate issue of persuading the trio to return here is being left to religious and community elders.

The country where the three are believed to be in hiding does not have an extradition treaty with the UK.

Sarwar, Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, said yesterday: "I remain confident that they will be brought back to face trial."

However, he said claims the trio will be back in Scotland "within weeks" were not helpful.



MURDERED: Kriss Donald



Kriss suspects will be 'back within weeks'

THREE murder suspects who flew abroad after the killing of Scottish schoolboy Kriss Donald could be brought back to face trial "within weeks" according to sources.

Kriss, 15, was the first white victim of a racially-aggravated murder in Scotland.

Last week Daanish Zahid, 20, an Asian shopkeeper, was found guilty of murdering the teenager, who was abducted from a street near his home in Pollokshields, Glasgow.

Another 20-year-old, Zahid Mohammed, admitted attacking Kriss and then abducting him.

However, the court heard allegations that the pair were only two of five people who were involved in the killing on

March 15 this year.

The names, gender, and race of the three cannot be identified for legal reasons.

The media is also banned from naming the country they have flown to. But it is understood detectives and foreign diplomats are involved in talks about their return to Scotland. As Zahid was led away to begin his life sentence last week at the end of an eight-day trial, Detective Chief Superintendent Elliot McKenzie of Strathclyde Police vowed: "The job is only half done as far as we are concerned. The Crown and the police will not rest until those others have been brought to justice."

The schoolboy was chosen at

random for a revenge attack. He was driven around Scotland in a stolen Mercedes before he was stabbed and burned alive.



RACE MURDER: Kriss Donald



Guilty: man who abducted and murdered innocent schoolboy

Gang member convicted of first racist killing

IAIN WILSON and CALUM MACDONALD

A 20-YEAR-OLD man yesterday became the first person to be convicted of a racially motivated murder in Scotland after being found guilty of abducting and killing a schoolboy.

Daanish Zahid was found guilty of the murder of Kriss Donald at the High Court in Glasgow, but three other people, who cannot be named for legal reasons, are still wanted by Strathclyde police in connection with his death. Detectives last night said their job was only "half done".

Kriss, 15, was the innocent victim of a revenge attack. He was stabbed 13 times and then set on fire while still alive behind the Celtic Supporters Club on London Road, in the east end of the city.

His mother, Angela, wept in court yesterday as Zahid, of Shields Road, Glasgow, was convicted. However, she said her family would not be able to move on until all those involved in the murder were brought to justice.

Zahid, whose family run a newsagent's shop outside Glasgow, was also found guilty of attacking Jamie Wallace, 20, a friend of Kriss, as the two boys walked along Kennure Street in the Pollokshields area of Glasgow, four hours before the murder.

The jury of eight men and seven women also convicted him of attempting to defeat the ends of justice by setting fire to the silver Mercedes used to abduct the teenager. All the ver-



KRISS DONALD: Burned.

INSIDE

Spoiled sons Page 2

Community shock Page 3

dicts, which were delivered after the jury deliberated for more than two hours, were unanimous and followed by hushed cries of delight from a full public gallery.

Outside the court, Detective Superintendent Elliot McKenzie, the officer in charge of the investigation, read a statement on behalf of Mrs Donald, who was joined in court by her daughter Samantha.

It said: "I would like to thank all those concerned in the inquiry into Kriss's abduction and murder.

"I would also like to thank all the people who helped the police with their inquiries, in particular those who were called to give evidence. I would not want to say much more because, as you all know, there are others who still have to face trial for killing Kriss. Kriss meant everything to me, his sis-



FACING LIFE: Daanish Zahid, who was found guilty of the murder of Kriss Donald, but three others are still wanted by police over the killing. Picture: Claran Donnelly

ter and his brother. We get little comfort from this result and we will not be able to move on until all those responsible are brought to justice.

"After reading the statement, Mr McKenzie said the investigating team shared the family's sentiments. He said: "The job is only half done."

Mohammed Sarwar, Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, said: "I

would like to pay tribute to Kriss Donald's mother, his family, and friends who behaved in a very dignified and honourable way in this very difficult time for the family.

"It was made more difficult for them as they had to listen to the appalling evidence in the court and they appealed for calm in the community.

"All the communities living

in Pollokshields in Glasgow were united that these criminals, who have committed this brutal, callous, murder must be brought to justice. And I am glad that justice has been served. We will not leave any stone unturned to bring other suspects to trial and to justice."

At the start of the three-week trial, another man Zahid Mohammed, 20, admitted

attacking Kriss in a racially-aggravated assault and abducting the teenager. Mohammed also admitted a racially-aggravated assault on Jamie Wallace and pleaded guilty to persuading a friend to provide him with an alibi. He was cleared of murder when the Crown accepted his not guilty plea.

Zahid lodged a special defence naming two people,

who cannot be identified for legal reasons, as Kriss's killers.

Mohammed also named the two persons and a third as being responsible for the abduction and murder.

Lord Philip said Zahid faced life imprisonment, but deferred sentence on the two men for background reports until December 16 at the High Court in Edinburgh.

Law was changed in effort to stop racially motivated crimes

THE LAW

LUCY ADAMS

HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

LEGISLATION to deal specifically with racially aggravated offences was introduced in 1998 to assuage fears that racial attacks were not being taken seriously enough, and concerns that racism was not being properly monitored.

Daanish Zahid's conviction was the first for racially aggravated murder in Scotland, but it was not the first time the law has been used for cases of racially motivated crimes.

The Crime and Disorder Act

1998 added two offences of racially aggravated crime into Scots law, and gave courts the power to increase a sentence for any crime where racial aggravation was established.

It followed fierce criticism of the way police and prosecutors had dealt with racist crime in the aftermath of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the young black man murdered in London in 1993, and came into force in October 1998, just a month before Surjit Singh Chhokar was murdered outside his girlfriend's home in Overton, Lanarkshire.

Despite two separate trials, no-one has ever been convicted of killing the 32-year-old

Asian waiter, and subsequent reports into the way the case was handled found "evidence of institutional racism" in the procurator-fiscal service and Strathclyde Police.

Prior to the new legislation, police monitoring of racist incidents was scant. There was also evidence that the prosecution was accepting plea bargains, meaning the racist element of an offence was not considered. Plea bargains can no longer be accepted.

The new measures are thought to have dramatically improved the monitoring and handling of racist incidents, but there has been no full evaluation of their impact.

Mixed messages come from Scotland's most diverse community

POLLOKSHIELDS

STEPHEN STEWART

THE messages coming out of Pollokshields last night were as mixed as the area's population.

The Glasgow home of Kriss Donald and his killer, Daanish Zahid, is one of Scotland's most diverse racial and cultural areas, with the country's largest Asian community.

There was still perceptible shock at Kriss's brutal abduction and murder, but it was by no means clear that the problem behind it was solely racial. Gang-related, certainly, but territorial factors and a lack of facilities for young people most also shoulder some of the blame.

The fact that, following the murder, the BNP was unable to stir up tension into any manifestation of anger was seen by some as testament that the community is more stable than people assume.

Father John Gannon, of the St Albert Roman Catholic Church, acknowledged that the community would have to work harder to create a greater sense of integration and cohesion.

"There is a large population from different Asian cultures," he said. "It's hardly surprising that you then have Asian gangs. The problem is with youths hanging about.

"But the murder came right out of the blue. It is usually low-level stuff which makes people feel intimidated and afraid to go out at night.

"One of the problems is that the different communities seem to live separate lives. There are no great tensions at the moment, but there are no links between the religious and cultural groups should they arise."

The owner of one business, who asked to remain anonymous, said gangs were a problem, but were more likely to be involved in relatively minor street crime.

He said: "You sometimes see the odd youngster getting into a fight or being slapped about, but to have an abduction and murder is really shocking.

'Everyone was shocked... they never thought that could happen here'

There are white kids in gangs and there are some Asians involved in gangs. It seems to be more a territorial, rather than a racial, thing.

"Some of the people (involved in gangs) are just headcases and wouldn't think twice about stabbing you."

Others claimed the issue was the divide between the lifestyles of the young people, particularly males. Many mentioned the way Asian men and teenagers take to their cars on Friday nights, rather than going to the local pubs.

If young people are bored enough to take to the streets, Osama Saeed, for one, is not in the least surprised. "There are

absolutely no facilities whatsoever for young people in Pollokshields," says Mr Saeed, Scottish spokesman for the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB).

"No sports centres, nowhere designated for them to hang out. Somebody has to provide for these young men."

Many residents, business-people and youth workers were eager to point out there were no racial tensions at the moment. Anwari Din, chief executive of Pollokshields youth counselling service, said the community, which incorporates Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians, had come together in the aftermath of the murder.

"A lot of people feel that justice has been done now. Everyone was shocked when Kriss was murdered as they never thought that could happen here," she said.

"The community will try to show a united front now. The young people, especially, were shocked by the crime."

Robina Qureshi, director of Positive Action in Housing, the anti-racist charity, said: "We welcome the guilty verdict. The Pollokshields community is united in its condemnation of those who carried out this tragic and brutal murder.

"Everyone feels for the tragic loss of Kriss's family. They are united in their solidarity against extremist groups who disgracefully tried to make political capital out of one family's tragedy.

"Pollokshields is an example of how cultures can live side by side in Scotland."

four certificates during an Army work experience placement.

On March 15, when Kriss and Jamie Wallace, his pal, were spotted in Kenmure Street, near McCulloch Street, heading to play computer games shortly after 3pm, the unnamed person told the other gang members in the Mercedes: "They'll do," and ordered the car to be stopped.

Jamie, 20, recalled how he was called "a white bastard" as he fought to prevent Kriss being put in the Mercedes.

His captors took him on a 200-mile round trip at knifepoint via Strathclyde Park in Lanarkshire and Dundee. Mohammed left the

car at Strathclyde Park and took a taxi home, because of the 7pm curfew imposed with his electronic ankle tag.

After four hours, the Mercedes arrived at what was to become the scene of Kriss's death: the Clyde Walkway in the east end of Glasgow,

Just minutes after one of his abductors assured him he would be freed - "You're going to be all right. It's your friends I'm after" - the teenager was subjected to a frenzied attack.

He was repeatedly kicked and punched and stabbed 13 times, before being burned alive.

Restrained by at least one person, the slightly built eight-and-a-half-stone schoolboy was stabbed seven times in his front, five in his back, and once in his left arm. So vicious were the knife thrusts that one of Kriss's ribs was severed, along with three arteries, one of his lungs, his kidneys, and liver.

The teenager was then doused in petrol and set alight. Engulfed by flames, he stumbled towards the river before making a vain attempt to extinguish the flames by rolling around in a muddy hollow near the cycle path.

Zahid told the High Court he remained in the front seat of the Mercedes, while the teenager was stabbed and set alight. He claimed he was too

afraid to do anything to stop the attack.

Kriss's body was found the morning after the abduction, behind the Celtic Supporters' Club in London Road by Gary Neil, a car salesman. He said afterwards: "I thought it was a dead pig lying on the cycle path, just because of the colour of the skin and the dirt."

The body was naked, except for the charred remains of underpants, a sock, and a trainer.

Details were not made public by Strathclyde Police for almost 24 hours. Detectives argued they held back until enough information was gathered for an appeal, and

that initial examinations suggested the body was not that of a teenager.

Kriss was formally identified by his mother, a single parent who has four other children - three daughters and a son - aged four to 17. Kriss was said to be a father figure to the youngest, Laurie, Amber and Taylor.

More than 60 officers then took part in the murder hunt, facing public pressure as intense as that following the slaying of Stephen Lawrence in London in 1993, and the 1988 killing of Surjit Chhokar in Wishaw, Lanarkshire.

Muslim community leaders such as Mohammed Sarwar MP and Bashir Maan, the former councillor, stepped in to issued reassurances, as did Gordon Jackson, the local MSP, and Christian leaders and police.

However, the growing culture of inter-racial clashes in Pollokshields was well-known, as was the emergence of Scottish Asians whose criminal and gang lifestyles mirrored white counterparts, from wielding baseball bats to dealing in drugs.

A visit by Nick Griffin, the British National Party leader, further fuelled racial tension.

But the community was determined not to be seen as divided, especially at Kriss's funeral, when mourners, both white and Asian, stood side by side to pay their last respects to the teenager.

During the funeral at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Pollok, a tribute from Kriss's mother was read out. It said: "Kriss was a beautiful child and he grew into the most placid and gentle and loving boy we could wish to have. God gave me an angel."

Stripped and set alight, boy fought for life in muddy pool

The spoiled sons of hard-working Asians who turned to violence

Their families were upstanding and moral, and gave them everything they could want. So what went wrong? **Iain Wilson** finds out

THE two men linked to the callous execution of Kriss Donald come from upstanding, conscientious families who made Glasgow their home decades ago.

But both men shunned their relatives' traditional morality and ethic of hard work. One source summed it up: "By the time they grew up as second generation Scottish Asians, they had access to money and cars, and had no need to work."

Daanish Zahid and Zahid Mohammed, 20-year-old former pupils of Shawlands Academy, were part of a small core of Asians who terrorised their own community, regardless of the colour of their neighbours' skin.

That violence culminated on the night of March 15 this year, when Kriss was tortured, stabbed repeatedly, and burned alive in Scotland's first racially aggravated murder. His plea for mercy as he was abducted was pitiful: "Why me? I am only 15."

The innocent victim's older sister, Samantha, 17, said later: "Tragic is too soft a word to describe what happened to him. Kriss was not perfect, but he did not have enemies or grudges."

Zahid, who went by the street name Ziggy, had no previous convictions, and lived with his parents, who were last night said to be absolutely distraught at the unanimous jury verdict that their son was a murderer.

A friend said: "They could not come to court, such was their upset. They cannot believe it."

After leaving school, he occasionally worked as an assistant in his family's newsagent's in East Kilbride. He has two younger brothers, aged 17 and 11, and a 23-year-old sister.

His lack of a criminal record is in contrast to Mohammed. When he helped abduct Kriss, Mohammed

was still electronically tagged for three road traffic offences in July, 2003, which involved a car chase in Paisley Road West, Glasgow, at speeds of up to 90mph, with a police helicopter overhead.

He also had a conviction for carrying a knife, which he claimed was for defence against intimidation by other Asians, and had been charged with attempted murder, reduced to breach of the peace, in September last year. Mohammed appears to



ZAHID MOHAMMED: Terrorised his own community.

have been indulged as a youngster, and was immature and irresponsible. A friend noted he was the youngest of three brothers and two sisters, and spoiled all the more for that.

He added: "He comes from a caring family with a nice home, and no other member has a criminal background. It is hard to believe what he has become."

Mohammed's parents came to Glasgow from Pakistan some 40 years ago. His father, who worked in a clothing factory, died from a heart attack when Mohammed, born on New Year's Day, 1984, was 18 months old.

Although a struggle, Sadika, his mother, decided to stay because her older children

had settled in the city. For the past 19 years, she has lived a four-bedroomed house in Pollokshields, which is still shared with a daughter, a son, and, until now, Mohammed who left school aged 16 with no qualifications.

The other siblings are all married, living independently with jobs ranging from running a grocery store to a driver.

It is a relatively mundane existence, but so was Kriss' until March 15. The night before, one of his alleged abductors was struck by a white teenager - a member of a gang called the McCulloch Street Team - in Victoria's, Glasgow nightclub.

Swearing revenge and threatening to "cut up the culprit and take his eyes out of the person amassed a five-strong gang of armed helpers including Zahid, to prowling the streets in a stolen Mercedes looking for him or someone who knew his identity.

Kriss was in the wrong place at the wrong time, chosen at random during the revenge mission when he was 100 yards from his ground-floor tenement home in Pollokshields. As so often, he was playing truant. A likeable teenager, he loathed school and was absent much of the time.

However, although "chill and laid back", he was academically bright and was scheduled to sit seven Standard grades in two months' time.

Kriss attended Bellahouston Academy, where Jim Cassells, the then headteacher, was working closely with his mother over his attendance record.

The school, with 40% of pupils from ethnic minorities, has acknowledged incidents of a racist nature and gang problems, although none appear to have involved Kriss a Rangers fan who took particular pride in winning

Glasgow Herald
5-11-04.

E/2/30

public

Mother weeps as jury sees evidence

ARNOT McWHINNIE

A WOMAN wept in court yesterday as a jury was shown a video and photographs of her son's body, which had been burned in an alleged racially motivated attack.

Angela Donald watched as jurors were shown police photos of her son Kriss's body. They showed the 15-year-old covered in mud, lying on his left-hand side.

The body was naked except for the charred remnants of his boxer shorts, a shoe and pieces of material round his ankle.

The jury was also shown photographs of an area of burning near a pile of logs yards from where the body was found, and red staining in a mud-covered track.

Aerial photographs of the scene and white-overall-clad forensic experts examining the scene were also displayed.

Mrs Donald stayed in court after the trial judge, Lord Philip, warned her and other members of the public that they were free to leave if they did not want to see the video.

Kriss was found dead on the Clyde Walkway near the Celtic Supporters' Club in the east end of Glasgow, after he was allegedly bundled into a car near his home in the city's Pollokshields area on March 15.

Daanish Zahid, 20, has denied the abduction and murder of the teenager. He blames three others, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, for the crime, Zahid Mohammed, also 20, was earlier cleared of the murder after the Crown accepted a not guilty plea.

Mohammed has admitted abducting Kriss and to a racially aggravated assault on a friend of Kriss's during an attack in Glasgow on March 15. He also pled guilty to persuading a friend to provide him with an alibi on his whereabouts at the time of the alleged murder.

Mr Zahid denies acting with others to seize Kriss by the clothing, repeatedly punch and kick him on the head and body, remove his jacket and abduct him, force him into a vehicle and imprison him.

He is accused of forcing Kriss, of McCulloch Street, Pollokshields, to accompany him and others in the vehicle to Strathclyde Park, Motherwell, Dundee and Glasgow.

Mr Zahid also denies helping to remove Kriss from the car at Clyde Walkway in Glasgow, repeatedly punching and kicking him, repeatedly striking him with a knife, setting him on fire and murdering him in a racially aggravated attack.

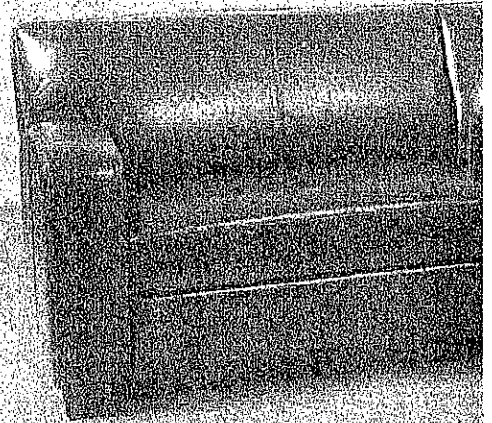
Mohammed is expected to go into the witness box today.

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BBC NEWS

Crown accepts Kriss murder plea

A man accused of a race murder in Glasgow has had his not guilty plea to the main charge accepted by the Crown.

Zahid Mohammed's not guilty plea to murdering Kriss Donald was accepted at the High Court in Glasgow.

He admitted the reduced charge of racially aggravated assault and of abducting Kriss, 15, in March.

Another accused, Daanish Zahid, also 20, denies all the charges and blames three others for the murder. The trial is continuing.

Kriss's body was found on wasteland near the River Clyde, close to Celtic football stadium at Parkhead, on 15 March.

Details of Mohammed's guilty pleas emerged after reporting restrictions were lifted.

He also admitted a racially aggravated assault on a friend of Kriss during the attack and another charge of persuading a friend to provide him with an alibi for his whereabouts at the time of the alleged murder.

Legal bar

The Crown dropped the charge against Mohammed of murdering the teenager, helping to steal the car used in the abduction and setting fire to the vehicle afterwards to defeat the aims of justice.

Daanish Zahid blame three others, whose names cannot be published for legal reasons, for murdering Kriss.

Daanish Zahid denies acting with others to seize Kriss by the clothing, repeatedly punch and kick him on the head and body, remove his jacket and abduct him, force him into a vehicle and imprison him against his will.

Knife allegation

The charges go on to accuse him of forcing Kriss, of McCulloch Street, Pollokshields, to accompany him and others in the car to Strathclyde Park, Motherwell; Dundee and to Glasgow.

Daanish Zahid is alleged to have helped to remove Kriss from the car at Clyde Walkway in Glasgow, repeatedly punched and kicked him on the head and body, repeatedly struck him on the body with a knife, set him on fire and murdered him in a racially aggravated attack.

The trial, before Lord Philip, resumes on Thursday.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/scotland/3978901.stm>

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