

9 December 2014

Frau Bundeskanzlerin Dr Angela Merkel
Bundeskanzleramt
Bundeskanzlerin
Willy Brandt Strasse 1
10057 Berlin
Germany

Dear Chancellor Merkel

I write on behalf of the UK Jewish community of which I am President and the family of Jeremiah Duggan, a British student, killed in Wiesbaden in unexplained circumstances in 2003.

First, may I welcome your recent declaration that “Fighting antisemitism is every German’s duty”? I do not under-estimate the significance of this statement and it gives me great confidence that you will share my concern about the on-going failure of the Wiesbaden authorities to carry out an independent and proper investigation into tragic death of Mr Duggan, in defiance of an order by the Oberlandesgericht (OLG) Frankfurt Court in December 2012.

As you may be aware, Mr Duggan was killed having attended a conference of the anti-semitic La Rouché movement in 27 March 2003. The original police investigation concluded his death was suicide, stating that Mr Duggan ran onto a busy road and was struck by several cars. This verdict has always been disputed by the Duggan family and friends, as it does not address significant aspects of the evidence.

As a result, the police’s conclusion was discounted by the OLG, which stated that the death should be investigated fully as a matter of urgency. The investigation has, however, been placed in the hands of the same police officers who reached this initial conclusion, destroyed evidence and refused to investigate material leads, which seems very unsatisfactory.

In view of the long delay by the Wiesbaden authorities, the UK coroner has reopened his own investigation with a hearing due in March next year, but I am sure you agree that it would be much better if the matter could be dealt with effectively within Germany.

To achieve this requires that:

- the investigating authorities meet with Ms Duggan's lawyers, as repeatedly requested, to address her concerns about the investigation, in accordance with human rights legislation and basic human decency.
- full cooperation by the Wiesbaden authorities with the investigation of the UK Coroner so that the full facts surrounding his death can finally be established.
- the correct instigation of mutual aid treaties in accordance with the well-established procedures, so as to enable suspects and witnesses (now in France) to be interviewed and properly investigated.

I understand the complexities of the German Court system and the need for the investigation to be able to run its course independent of political interference. Nevertheless, a full eleven years after Mr Duggan's death, the facts of case remains unexplained and the family unable to properly grieve their loss and move on. The case remains a matter of very grave concern for the UK Jewish community and a potential blot on your very clear commitment to confronting any anti-semitism within German society. I therefore urge you to use your best endeavours to ensure that the Duggan family's concerns are at last addressed properly and with all appropriate speed.

I thank you in anticipation of your help and commitment to the fight against anti-semitism.

Yours sincerely



Vivian Wineman
President