

Stop and Search of Dijon and Liam Joseph on 27 February 2018

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS 20 April 2018

Liam and Dijon Joseph were forcibly detained by Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) officers on the evening of 27 February 2018, ostensibly for the purposes of a drugs search. Liam's car was also searched without his knowledge. No drugs were found and the men believe that they were targeted because of their race: they are both young black men, and were waiting outside a Caribbean food shop in Deptford. They received no explanation or apology, nor any of the paperwork which should accompany such searches.

The search was captured on mobile phone footage which has been viewed many hundreds of thousands of times worldwide.

Liam and Dijon Joseph filed a formal complaint to the Independent Office of Police Conduct (IOPC) and to the MPS. Although the MPS initially decided that the complaint could properly be investigated by them, the IOPC have now confirmed that they will undertake an independent investigation. Terms of reference have yet to be agreed.

Dijon Joseph had this comment to add to those circulating on social media: "My brother and I see no reason for why we were grabbed in the street by police and searched, other than because of our race. We have been really grateful for all the support we have had on social media, but the real issue here is that this happens day in and day out to young black men, and doesn't make it on to social media. If the police are ever going to earn the trust of the people they serve, this sort of profiling has to stop".

Carolynn Gallwey of Bhatt Murphy Solicitors acts for the brothers. She added this: "My clients have been really heartened by the level of public support their ordeal has attracted. It is to be hoped that this incident will spark the same level of concern about racial bias as we have seen in the US following the Starbucks arrests there, and we now look to the IOPC to show leadership in that regard".

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