



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

15 August 2023

Mr Patrick Hodgetts
Principal Lawyer
Office of the General Counsel, NSW Police Force
Locked Bag 5102
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Hodgetts,

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes: Ernest Head

I refer to the above Inquiry, and to the death of Ernest Head (DOB: 27 February 1932) who was found deceased on 22 June 1976.

The Inquiry seeks the assistance of the NSW Police Force (“NSWPF”) in obtaining any record of death for Engin Simsek, a person of interest in relation to the death of Mr Head.

Background

On 22 June 1976, Mr Head was found deceased in his apartment at Summer Hill, having been stabbed over 30 times. At the crime scene, a palmprint in blood was obtained from the wall of the kitchen above Mr Head’s body.

On 24 April 2023, the Inquiry wrote to the NSWPF requesting that further analysis be conducted on these prints. On 30 May 2023, NSWPF provided to the Inquiry the Expert Certificate of Senior Crime Scene Officer Kate Reid, indicating that Engin Simsek had been identified as a match for the palmprint.

Information available to the Inquiry indicates that Mr Simsek was born and raised in Türkiye. He migrated to Australia in 1972 and appears to have returned to Türkiye in 1994. The Inquiry has information to suggest that Mr Simsek may have died in Turkey in or around 1996.

Mr Simsek’s date of birth is variously recorded as [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in different documents. [REDACTED]. His extended family reside in [REDACTED], Türkiye.

Request for assistance

The Inquiry requests the assistance of the NSWPF to obtain any record of death for Mr Simsek from the relevant authorities in Türkiye. The record may be in the form of a death certificate, death notice, or other similar document. It is understood that international assistance may be available via Interpol to facilitate this.

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Timeframe for response

I would be grateful if you could please advise whether the NSWPF is able to submit this request to Interpol and, if so, provide confirmation that this has occurred by **Tuesday, 22 August 2023**.

Thank you for your ongoing assistance to the Inquiry.

Please do not hesitate to contact Francesca Lilly at [REDACTED] if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Enzo Camporeale

Director, Legal

Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry