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Harrison could be out in little as 4 years

Sri Lankan victim had 'impaled himself' on my knife - robber

(DailyMail.co.uk) - The family of a shopkeeper stabbed to death in a botched robbery have expressed their 'shame and sadness' after his killer was acquitted of murder, despite graphic CCTV footage of the moment a knife was plunged into his throat. Father-of-two Mahesh Wickramasingha was stabbed to death in a struggle with Sam Harrison, 19, after he attempted to foil a hold-up on his store in Huyton, Liverpool, last year. Harrison's ten-inch knife severed the Sri



Victim, father-of-two Mahesh Wickramasingha

Lankan-born 30-year-old's jugular vein, stopping only when the blade struck his spine. But a jury at Liverpool Crown Court accepted the teenager's account that the killing was an 'accident' and agreed to a manslaughter charge after he insisted his victim had 'impaled himself' on the weapon. He was jailed for ten years, which means he could be out in just over four. Today Mr Wickramasingha's relatives hit out at the verdict, claiming graphic CCTV footage proves it was murder and that Harrison should be jailed for life.

Speaking from Sri Lanka, his brother Manjula said: 'It should have been murder - nobody has given us correct justice for our loss. 'We feel shame and sadness. I am out of mind and my mother is crying. 'We look at the photo of Mahesh and into his eyes, and think about how Harrison has broken our family. Mahesh went to the UK to earn money, not to die.' The eight-second CCTV footage, taken at three frames per second, seems to show Harrison walk into Stanley News, in Kingsway, on November 29, and plunge the weapon into Mahesh's throat after a brief struggle. Today, Mahesh's family, friends and the city campaign group Families Fighting for



Harrison

Justice demanded the case be reviewed. Mahesh had worked in Liverpool for a year after pawning his few belongings to buy his passage from Sri Lanka. He had a dream of earning enough money to educate his son Wenura, four, and daughter, Indika, 10, and build a home for his wife Dilmi, 28. But his life was ended when Harrison targeted the small shop in the hope of robbing a till to recoup some of the £530 he had blown in a nearby bookies. The main legal advisor to the government is to review whether the sentence handed down to teenage killer Sam Harrison was "unduly lenient" following intervention from the Liverpool Echo newspaper.



'Diamond Jubilee' orchid presented to Queen

Dr Henry Oakeley, President of the OSGB, welcomed HM The Queen to the Society's display at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. He presented Dr Chris Nonis, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka; Valerie Pugh, OSGB Displays Manager; and Liz Johnson of McBean's Orchids to Her Majesty and discussed the Society's exhibit. On behalf of the Society and the Sri Lankan High Commission, a posy and plant of *Oncidium alexandrae* 'Diamond Jubilee', grown by McBean's Orchids, were presented to Her Majesty. Her Majesty has been the recipient of many Sri Lankan orchids.



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