

## BLOODY MURDER

London, Nov 11 A jobless Briton who killed an Indian Merchant Navy officer for the colour of his skin has been jailed for 18 years by a judge who said the crime was “as incomprehensible as evil”.

Christopher Miller, 25, was jailed for life with a minimum term of 18 years on Tuesday for killing Kunal Mohanty by slashing his throat in an unprovoked attack as he was walking in the city of Glasgow along with a group of friends.

“There can be no justification for slashing the throat of a man who had done you no harm. To do so because of the colour. Judge John Beckett told Miller.  
“Everyone in this country should feel shame for what you did.”



**Christopher Miller**

Mohanty, 30, from Jalandhar, was in Glasgow to sit his captain’s exams at the city’s Nautical College, where he had begun his studies 10 years earlier. His wife was expecting their first child.

He was walking to a fast food restaurant in the Gorbals area of the Scottish city March 27 when a group, including Miller, approached him and asked him for a cigarette.

Kunal replied he did not smoke.

Without warning, Miller produced a black lock knife and slit the seaman’s throat.

Mohanty’s friends, who were a few steps in front of him, told the trial that they had initially thought he was being sick, before realising that his neck was pouring with blood.

A doctor who tried to save Mohanty said that the 18cm knife-wound, which severed the carotid artery and jugular vein, was one of the worst injuries he had seen in 29 years of practice.

Closed-circuit television footage showed Miller and a friend running through a car park, celebrating as Mohanty lay dying.

The men are seen cuddling, punching their arms in the air and Miller pulling his jumper over his head - like a footballer celebrating a goal.

An hour later Miller was again recorded on CCTV throwing sauce at staff in an Asian takeaway restaurant, and shouting racial abuse at them.

Miller’s brother told the court the killer told him he had “done a Paki”.

Kunal’s brother Kanishk said Tuesday: “This is supposed to be a developed country.

“I fail to understand what kind of developed country it is where citizens of that country can do something like this, to someone simply because they are different.”

A prosecution spokeswoman said: “Kunal’s family, wife and friends back home in India, along with his friends and fellow students here in Glasgow, have been through a harrowing experience and we hope today’s verdict will offer some kind of comfort and allow them to somehow rebuild their lives.”



**Kunal Mohanty**

Miller had earlier admitted assaulting Mohanty, but denied any racial motive, claiming he had not intended to kill his victim but just mug him. He told the police: "It was just a bit of robbery. I'm expecting him to see the blade but I don't know if he did."

Miller's lawyer, Donald Findlay, had earlier told the court: "My client has been clear through all this that the fact that the deceased is Asian is wholly irrelevant. He was not motivated by racism – it was a drunken mugging which went tragically awry."

That claim was rejected by jury. The judge told Miller: "I can identify no

or little mitigation. Your behaviour after the murder suggests that you were anything but sorry at the time.

"You went on to commit further crimes and appeared to celebrate them. There can be no justification for slashing the neck of a man who had done you no harm whatsoever."

Miller was convicted of Mohanty's racially motivated murder and of attempting to pervert the course of justice after he had burned his clothes after the attack. He was also found guilty of a racially motivated breach of the peace at an Asian takeaway nearby that night, by threatening staff and squirting them with food sauce.

Dorothy Bain, prosecuting, said the attack was "an atrocity delivered without mercy, a death blow," and "an unprovoked attack on a blameless, defenceless and wholly decent man because Christopher Miller didn't like the colour of his skin."

Lesley Thomson, the procurator fiscal for Glasgow and Strathkelvin, said the attack was "absolutely shocking". She said Mohanty was attacked "for no reason other than that Christopher Miller is a racist. He died because Christopher Miller had a knife and had no hesitation in using it.

"Racism has no place in our society; knife carriers have no place in our society; and people who act like Christopher Miller have no place in our society. Racism shows a fundamental disregard for the lives of others, and those who carry knives too often kill."

CROWN OFFICE

10 November 2009

#### CHRISTOPHER MILLER CONVICTED OF RACIST MURDER

At the High Court in Glasgow today, Christopher Miller (DOB 09/10/84) was convicted of the racially aggravated murder of Kunal Mohanty in Glasgow on 27 March 2009. He was also convicted of a racially aggravated breach of the peace at a fast food takeaway shortly after the murder and attempting to pervert the course of justice. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with a punishment part of 18 years.

Speaking after the verdict, Lesley Thomson, Area Procurator Fiscal for Glasgow and Strathkelvin said:

"All murders are horrific; but this unprovoked, racist knife attack on Kunal Mohanty is absolutely shocking. Kunal Mohanty was doing nothing other than enjoying time off his studies with friends.

"Racism has no place in our society; knife carriers have no place in our society; and people who act like Christopher Miller have no place in our society. Racism shows a fundamental disregard for the lives of others, and those who carry knives too often kill. This is why we as prosecutors do not hesitate in tackling these twin evils wherever they arise with robust action."

"Glasgow rightly celebrates its cultural diversity and everyone should be free to enjoy the city in safety. Together with the police, we will ensure those who pose a threat to this are brought to justice."

"I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Kunal Mohanty. The conviction of Christopher Miller can do little to compensate them for their tragic loss.

We can all, however, be sure that Christopher Miller is off the streets of Glasgow and facing a lengthy jail sentence."  
Ends

Notes for Editors 1. This case was investigated and prepared by the specialist Homicide Team in the Glasgow Procurator Fiscal's office. It was prosecuted by Dorothy Bain QC, the Principal Advocate Depute.

2. The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service introduced robust guidance in relation to knife crime in 2006. In Stratclyde, between the guidance coming in to force in October 2006 and May 2009:

478 knife carriers were prosecuted on indictment rather than summary complaint, allowing a greater sentencing power for the judge

Convictions were recorded in more than three quarters of all concluded cases

83% of those convicted were jailed.

3. In 2008-2009, 9 out of 10 of all racially aggravated crimes reported to the Procurator Fiscal resulted in court proceedings.

Crown Office Communications

*This is the second murder of an visiting Indian merchant Seaman in the UK in the past 2 years, the other one was in the Oil refinery town of Fawley when a teenage gang including 14 year old girls attacked a young seaman leaving him bleeding on the ground to die soon after.*

*Makes me shake my head in sorrow and shame, especially when I think back to how I used to wander about foreign cities in many countries and never came to any harm. Ed.*