# North London community reeling as 87-year-old man dies after brutal street attack



An incident in north London has shocked the community, leading to serious concerns about safety for vulnerable populations. An 87-year-old man, John Mackey, was brutally attacked on May 6, 2025, after leaving a local Co-op store where he had purchased groceries and a newspaper. His trip turned tragic as he was allegedly followed and assaulted on Goodchild Road in Manor House, with his attack occurring just as he was returning home.

Witnesses reported that Mr Mackey was found lying unconscious in the street, bleeding from head injuries after what appeared to be a robbery gone wrong. Eyewitness accounts revealed harrowing details; a member of the public reportedly heard one assailant shouting, “give me the bag,” while others observed a man delivering multiple blows to Mr Mackey, who was said to be punched, kicked, and stamped upon. The brutality of the episode is underscored by the emergency services' swift response, arriving on the scene around 5.53 pm to find Mr Mackey gravely injured.

After being taken to hospital, Mr Mackey regained consciousness but sadly succumbed to his injuries two days later. A post-mortem examination indicated that he suffered significant trauma, with bleeding on the brain and fractured ribs identified as the provisional cause of death. This incident has raised troubling questions regarding safety for the elderly, particularly in urban areas where public assaults can occur without warning.

The police swiftly apprehended a suspect in connection with Mr Mackey's murder. Peter Augustine, 58, of Hornsey, north London, faces charges of murder and robbery following his arrest on May 8. As proceedings advance, a trial has been set for November 3, with a plea hearing scheduled for July 29. This case, poised to be heard at the Old Bailey, has drawn not only local but also national interest, as it highlights growing concerns about violent crime targeting the elderly.

The increase in attacks against older adults has sparked alarm across various sectors of society, prompting discussions on how to better protect vulnerable individuals. Community advocates have called for improved safety measures in public spaces and increased awareness around the risks that the elderly face, particularly in areas frequented by younger populations. Mr Mackey’s tragic death serves as a stark reminder of the need for heightened vigilance and protective strategies to prevent such senseless acts of violence in the future.

In the wake of this incident, calls for justice have resonated throughout the community, with many hoping that Mr Mackey’s story will instigate meaningful dialogue about the challenges faced by the elderly in today’s society. His untimely death not only reflects a personal tragedy but also a communal loss, urging society to confront the broader implications of such violence and the urgent need for action.

### Reference Map

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