# Families call for reform after Court upholds hospital order for triple fatal stabbing in Nottingham



On the early hours of June 13 last year, Valdo Calocane fatally stabbed 19-year-old students Grace O'Malley-Kumar and Barney Webber, as well as 65-year-old school caretaker Ian Coates in Nottingham. Dr. Sanjoy Kumar called for assurances that Calocane, who has paranoid schizophrenia, will never be released after the Court of Appeal in London upheld his indefinite hospital order for manslaughter.

The ruling came after families of the victims expressed dissatisfaction with the initial sentencing, arguing that Calocane's punishment was too lenient and highlights flaws in the criminal justice system. Mrs. Emma Webber, Barney's mother, urged for urgent reforms in UK homicide law, noting that many people under hospital orders are often released within 10 to 20 years.

Dr. Kumar voiced frustrations on national television, stressing the need for a law ensuring Calocane’s permanent confinement. Moreover, James Coates, son of victim Ian Coates, called for a public inquiry into police and NHS failings that allowed Calocane to remain at large.

In their judgment, the Lady Chief Justice Baroness Carr stated that Calocane’s mental condition was the sole cause of his crimes, affirming the hospital order as appropriate. Despite the disappointing verdict for the families, they remain committed to campaigning for justice and reforms.