



# THE SUNDAY TIMES

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**NEWS**

# Soldier 'confessed he killed Kenyan mother'

► Ex-squaddie recalls moment when comrade told of murder  
► MoD begins inquiry after Sunday Times investigation

Hannah Al-Othman, David Collins and Larisa Brown

A British soldier broke down in tears and confessed to murdering a 21-year-old woman while training in Kenya, a former fellow squaddie has claimed.

The ex-squaddie said he was among a group of soldiers taken to a septic tank at a hotel where troops were out drinking and shown her body. He said he told senior officers in the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment when he got back to the British base in Nanyuki.

Despite this he has never been questioned about the March 2012 killing and claimed that it had been "covered up" by the northwest's premier infantry regiment, nicknamed "The Lions of England".

An inquiry has been launched by the Royal Military Police (RMP) in light of the claims a soldier was responsible. Ben Wallace, the defence secretary, is said to be speaking directly to the Kenyan authorities, such is his concern.

The victim, Agnes Wanjiru, was last seen going to a room with a British soldier for sex during a raucous army night out at the Lions Court Hotel. She was stabbed and hidden in the tank in the hotel grounds, near rooms where soldiers were staying.

The name of her alleged killer – who can be named only as Soldier X – has been "common knowledge" in the regiment for the past nine years, according to the accounts of four soldiers.

One who was there that night says Soldier X confessed to the murder in the hotel bar. That soldier – Soldier Y – says he "told everyone" at the base what Soldier X had done, but that senior officers dismissed his account and told him to "shut up".

By the time the body was discovered by a hotel worker two months later, the soldiers' deployment had ended and they had left the coun-

**HE TOLD ME: 'I'VE KILLED HER'**  
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try. A Kenyan police investigation failed to bring anyone to justice.

Former army chiefs said the Ministry of Defence (MoD) had "questions to answer" about why it had taken nine years to begin a proper inquiry, especially since a Kenyan judge found at an inquest in 2019 that Wanjiru had been "killed by a British soldier".

General Lord Dannatt, a former army head, said: "There are questions for the Ministry of Defence to answer. On the basis there is a strong allegation, this should be investigated, and it should have been investigated in the past."

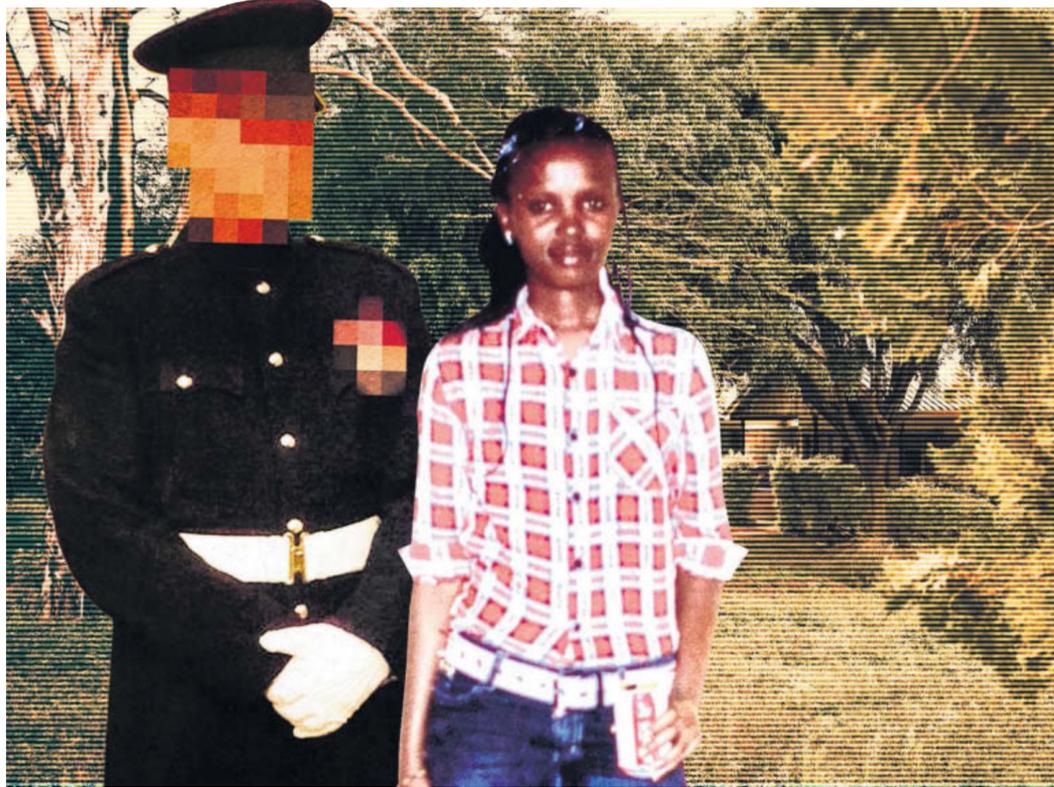
General Lord Richards of Herstmonceux, who was head of the armed forces when the killing took place, said that he "did not recall this alleged murder" but added that he had been made chief of the defence staff – the professional head of the British armed forces – by then, and that "it would have been dealt with up the army chain of command".

He added: "As far as an investigation is concerned, if in any doubt this allegation should most certainly be properly investigated."

General Sir Peter Wall, who was head of the army at the time, refused to comment.

Of those who identified Soldier X, a number said they had been led to believe Wanjiru died in a sex game that went wrong. One said he believed he had been keeping silent about "an accident" rather than a murder. Soldier Y said that

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The identity of the soldier accused of killing Agnes Wanjiru has been an open secret for years, according to his former fellow squaddies

## Motorists to be driven from city centres under plan to cut emissions

Jason Allardyce

Scottish motorists face the prospect of tight restrictions on where they are allowed to drive, under plans to cut emissions drawn up by advisers to the SNP government.

An 80-page report commissioned by the national transport agency warns that more must be done to make travel by car less convenient and push people towards public transport, walking, cycling and e-bikes.

The paper, produced ahead of the Cop26 climate change summit which gets under way in Glasgow next weekend, warns that "major changes in the way people travel will be needed, alongside technology" if Scotland is to contribute its "fair share" of emission reductions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

The plans call on policymakers to "reduce the convenience of private car use" by looking to cities such as Paris and Oslo, which have made motoring less attractive "by removing road and parking spaces, reducing car speed limits, and forcing cars to drive around the city centre instead of being able to pass through it".

They suggest ride sharing between family, colleagues and neighbours could be encouraged through the introduction of workplace parking charges and high occupancy lanes that allow those sharing a car to reach their destination quicker while solo motorists are confined to slow lanes. Road user charging, which could lead to motorists having to pay by the mile, could also be required, according to Element Energy, the consultants behind the report.

They argue that radical steps to drastically change how people and

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## Charles to review fossil fuel funds

Gabriel Pogrud and Dipesh Gadhur

The Prince of Wales's conservation charity has launched a review of its donation policy before Cop26 after accepting money from the world's biggest fossil fuel company.

Prince Charles is expected to play a leading role in next week's UN climate change summit in Glasgow. He recently expressed sympathy for Extinction Rebellion, praised veganism and criticised the oil and gas industries.

However, it can be disclosed that the Prince's Foundation, his sustainability and conservation charity, receives funding from Saudi Arabian Oil Co, commonly known as Aramco, the kingdom's state-owned petroleum company.

Yesterday Charles appeared via video at the Saudi Green Initiative Forum, an Aramco-backed forum, and welcomed a new commitment from the state to reach net zero by 2060. Aramco, a \$2 trillion (£1.45 trillion) oil conglomerate, has produced almost 5 per cent of

worldwide greenhouse gases emissions since 1965.

Since 2018, it has donated hundreds of thousands to the Prince's Foundation, whose purpose is executing Charles's vision of "revitalising the environment" and "championing a sustainable approach to the way people build community".

The money has been spent on courses and public lectures on drawing, calligraphy and Islamic art at the Prince's School of Traditional Arts, a Shoreditch-based

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