

Transcript: Sari Red

01:31

Death against the wall. Blood on the street. Staining, flowing, marking. Cannot be erased. Must not be erased. Blood. Cherry red. Blood. Plum red. Blood. Sari red. Blood. Your blood. Our blood.

03:09

It was not an unusual day for November. Bright but chilly.

03:25

The winter sun greeted the free young women as they left college for her home.

05:40

Paki walk, Paki walk, Paki walk, Paki walk...

05:56

Invisible winds carrying words of hatred. This was not the first time. They had heard it before. The voices of hatred, the laughter of hyenas taking pleasure in our pain, in our blood.

06:29

It is November the 7th, 1985. Three young Asian women leave Dartford College. As they stand outside the entrance to the college, a transit van traveling along the opposite side of the road suddenly and deliberately turns towards the three friends. Inside the van are three white men.

06:53

Paki walk, Paki walk, Paki walk, Paki walk...

07:02

Invisible winds carrying words of hatred. Angry at this violation Kalbinder shouted back. For her dignity and her pride, she shouted back. For her self-respect, she shouted back. For such violation in public, she shouted back. Yes, she shouted back. Indeed, she shouted back. Of course, she shouted back.

07:42

It's November the 7th, 1985. Kalbinder and two friends leave Dartford College. As they stand just outside the entrance a transit van traveling along the opposite side of the road suddenly and deliberately turns towards them. Inside the van are three white youth.

07:59

Three white men drive the van onto the pavement where the three young women are standing. The van plows straight into them straight into them. Kalbinder is violently crushed against the wall and immediately loses consciousness.

08:12

I fall suddenly, silently, drawing my breath deeply, deeply, gasping through the blood, through the air, through the pain, through the hate, through the silence. The silence.

08:35

Kalbinder died soon after of massive internal injuries. One of her friends was badly cut and bruised. Her other friend had to be treated for severe shock.

08:59

The police charged a passenger of the transit van with manslaughter. The driver of the van has not been charged. The police allowed racist murderers to walk free. No proper investigation has taken place. No eyewitness statements were taken. The white youth in the van are known locally for their long history of violence against black people. They have not been charged. Police believe that there was no racist motivation for this vicious murder.

09:48

Daughter. Sister. Friend. She, who was only just 18. She, who brought laughter and joy. What were your hopes of tomorrow? What dreams did you dream? Did you dream of colours? Gliding swirling oranges and purples, blues and yellows. Did you run with the laughter of colours? Did the beauty of sunsets give you pleasure? What did you desire?

10:22

Our parents came looking for gold. Streets paved with gold, they were told, to entice them. They came full of their dreams for you and me.

10:48

No longer the silent exiles we watch, looking on, eyes glimmering, through the smoke piercing the silence.

11:06

Dead against the wall. Blood on the street. Staining. Flowing. Marking. Cannot be erased. Must not be erased. Blood. Cherry red. Blood. Plum red. Blood. Sari red. Blood.

11:35

Memory.