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Tortured to death

Court hears how officers drowned in their own blood

By FREDERICA ELBOURNE

SIX soldiers who died in the November 2000 mutiny were tortured, a court heard yesterday.

- Some drowned in their own blood.
- Australian pathologist Professor Stephen Cordner spoke of severe assault including:
 - Fractured eye sockets;
 - Bruising of the tongue;
 - Abrasion around the neck which suggested the use of a rope or an instrument to keep them against a wall;
 - Dislocation of collar bones;
 - Bruising in the heart;
 - Collapsed lungs;
 - Bruising to the back of the knees; and
 - Other injuries which suggested that the soldiers were tied at the wrist and ankles.

Some of the soldiers who were big in built drowned in their own blood when it entered their lungs. Others died of brain haemorrhage.

One badly injured soldier arrived at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital with only his underwear on and another with a black T-shirt and underwear.

Some were dead on arrival and others arrived with severe injuries, Dr Cordner said.

Some had their fingers forcibly separated with rips in between them, one with a crushed thumb and Adam's Apple.

Most injuries, the court heard, were caused by blunt objects and one soldier suffered an impact that almost split his kidney in two.

Loyalist Private Osea Rosinavosa suffered extensive bleeding and inhaled blood with seven metallic fragments discovered on the side of his face.

He suffered injuries to the back of his tongue extending down to his throat.

He was shot on the right side of his head and choked and drowned in his own blood, said Professor Cordner.

"His tongue was almost separated from the back of his mouth. His injuries were unsurvivable," he said.

Another loyalist soldier Private Temo Vellewai died instantly of a gunshot to his head, his death described as a massive destruction of his skull.

The court heard that the bullet went in through the front of his skull and exited at the back. Some had ripped and bruised lips.

CRW soldier Corporal Selesitino Kalounivale suffered 31 injuries to the neck and head. There were 56 injuries to his body.

Professor Cordner did not rule out the possibility of Corporal Kalounivale's hands being tied behind a vehicle and driven over a rough surface. He said while there were no injuries consistent with this, there was a possibility that the areas tied up were covered with clothing that the soldier wore.

Corporal Kalounivale had extensive thick bruising to his scalp measuring one centimetre in thickness. His brain was swollen.

Other soldiers were Warrant Officer Class One Epineri Bainimoti, Private Logani Rokowaqa, Corporal Jone Kamoedavui and Corporal Iowane Waseroma.



Silent witness ... 11-month-old Mohammed Ashim and his grandmother Zamirun Nisha who was still in shock after the death of her daughter, Ashim's mother.

Picture: ANOKH KUMAR

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By
A MAN cradled his 11-month-old grandson, hatching his life at Lautoka yesterday.

Her father had his left wrist was severed.

Witnesses danced in the street during the brutal killing settlement.

Dead was 11-month-old Mohammed Ashim, who was in poor condition at the time of his death.

Mr Mohan said his daughter's wounds to her left wrist were severe.

The man told the court he was 11-month-old before splashing blood on his house wanting to avenge the killing.

Divisional Magistrate Narayan said he was brought to court by the police.

Neighbour said he saw the victim being killed.

The victim was found at 11pm on Wednesday at the home of Mohammed Ashim's mother.

"He went to bed, and I went to bed," she said.

"At about 11pm, I heard screaming and I went to see what was happening."

"I came out of my room where I was sleeping and saw him being killed with a knife in one hand and the other," she said.

■ Continued

Colonial buys shares in freight

By SOPHIE HILDEBRAND

COLONIAL now owns more than a quarter of freight forwarder and logistics specialist Williams and Gosling Limited.

Williams and Gosling chairman Don Aidney and Colonial managing director Mike Walsh made the 28 per cent share acquisition announcement yesterday.

As one of the region's most successful freight forwarding companies, the Williams and Gosling

investment was a significant move for Colonial, "reflecting our confidence in Fiji's economic potential", Mr Walsh said.

Mr Aidney said Colonial's expertise in financial services and corporate discipline would "no doubt be of tremendous value to Williams & Gosling".

Chief executive officer David Aidney said two of their shareholders wanted to sell out — one because of migration and the other

who had no active interest in the company.

He said they considered many options including listing on the South Pacific Stock Exchange and selling to a strategic overseas partner.

He would not reveal what the deal was worth.

Mr Aidney said although Colonial would have no direct involvement in the day-to-day running of the business, its manager investment,