

Life should mean life on knife sentencing, says family of victim

Julia Atherley

THE family of a trainee engineer who was fatally stabbed have called for tougher sentences to help tackle London's knife crime epidemic.

Joshua Boadu, 23, was repeatedly knifed in a Bermondsey street in June last year and died in King's College Hospital 11 days later.

Denilson Davis, 21, and a 16-year-old boy who cannot be named for legal reasons were convicted of his murder at the Old Bailey this week. They are due to be sentenced on Monday.

Today, Mr Boadu's father, Frank, praised police for doing a "tremendous job" tracking down his son's killers.

He added: "I think you've got to give tougher sentences. I think if you carry a knife without even intending to use it then you should go to prison... If you kill somebody you have to go for life, life should be life. No matter your age."

Mr Boadu's sister, Lady, 23, said: "The Government needs to put its foot down on this knife issue. It is affecting so many families."

Apprentice lift engineer Mr Boadu, known as SJ, went to St Joseph's College



"Senseless": Denilson Davis, above, and a boy of 16 were found guilty of the murder of trainee engineer Joshua Boadu, top

in Upper Norwood before studying business at Saint Francis Xavier Sixth Form College in Wandsworth.

Davis, of Hemel Hempstead and the teenager, of Southwark, hired a car before carrying out the attack in Linsey Street shortly after 6pm on June 11, the court heard. Mr Boadu was pushed against a parked car and surrounded by three males, one of whom stabbed him. The victim ducked under one of his attackers and sought refuge at a nearby home but had serious injuries.

Police later recovered mobile phone footage of the 16-year-old and the third man involved — who remains at large — in a "celebratory mood" in a recording studio hours after the attack.

Mr Boadu's mother said: "It wasn't fair. Our son was a marvellous boy, he had vision and all of a sudden... you can't just come and take somebody's life like that. He used to care for the elderly and helped them with their shopping."

After the trial, Detective Inspector Ian Titterrell said: "We have never been able to establish a motive for this senseless killing. While of course SJ's family remain devastated, I hope today's result brings them some comfort."

STAR ROLE NATALIE AT SPACE FILM



NATALIE PORTMAN arrives for the Los Angeles premiere of *Lucy in the Sky*. The actress, 38, stars in the space drama

Six friends on way home from gym targeted by armed gang

Julia Atherley

SIX gym-goers were set upon by more than a dozen thugs armed with knives as they returned from a workout in north London.

The "burly" members of Dynamic Sports Academy were attacked by masked men as they walked through Finsbury Park to the station after a gym session.

One man told how three of the group were singled out and two had their phones stolen at about 8.30pm on September 16.

"They were targeting certain people in the group, they were targeting the smaller boys, the ones that seemed quiet," he said.

He added that one of the friends fled the scene on foot after being separated from the others and held at knifepoint by the muggers.

"The boy that they pulled away by himself, they were threatening to stab him if he didn't unlock his phone," he said.

A Met spokesman said officers had received a report of a robbery by thugs on a bicycle. He added: "The men intimidated the victim hand over his phone before leaving the area. Inquiries are ongoing; no arrests have been made."