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SEEMA HUSBAND SPEAKS

'MY KIDS WERE MY LIFE'



SEE PAGES 4&5

BROKEN: Sameer Syed and (inset) Seema with the couple's two young kids Asfira and Faizan

EXCLUSIVE

Dad says he's been in hell since deaths of wife and children

SEEMA HUSBAND SPEAKS

THE husband of tragic mum Seema Banu has broken his silence on the horrific death of his wife and children, telling *The Star*: "They were my life."

In an exclusive interview with this paper, an emotional Sameer Syed spoke out for the first time about the tragedy, saying:

● **HE WAKES** up every morning hoping everything that happened "was just a nightmare";

● **HE HAS** no time for people "pointing fingers" and says he does not know exactly how his wife and children died,

● **AND** he says he speaks to his deceased wife and children every night and that his life has "changed forever".

We spoke to Mr Syed (37) at his Dublin-based home, three weeks on from when his wife Seema (36), daughter Asfira (11) and six-year-old son Faizan were found dead in their home in Llewellyn Court, Ballinteer, on Wednesday, October 28.

The devastated father has not spoken until now, and he says he has a lot to say, as he believes many people are misguided and do not know the "facts" as to what happened to his family.

He said: "There are certain people who are maybe misguided. They have misinformation, so they assume things because they do not know the facts."

"It is easy to point fingers but it is really hard to be silent and wait for the truth.

"Maybe they are not close enough to understand what exactly happened.

"So I cannot talk on behalf of anybody else, OK, everybody has their own freedom of choice.

"It is easier for people to point fingers. But even I don't know what happened. I am also waiting for the truth.

"I go by what the Garda is telling. Currently they are investigating this. I wasn't there, so I don't want to be a part of those people who are misleading people."

Dreams

Mr Syed says he is going through a pain that is hard to describe, and he wants people to know that he will never let his children's memory die.

"I've lost my family. I cannot express this through any worldly words," he told *The Star*.

"Still today, I wake up believing that this could be just a bad nightmare, and I wake up and everything is over.

"I just want to thank everybody, from the Guards, to the ambassador, to the friends that I have here, my family back in India and my wife's family back in India who are again part of my family.

"This is what I believe. I know their pain because I am going through that pain."

And he says as part of his grieving, he speaks to his wife and kids every night — and imagines himself playing with the children.

"They are gone from the world. But they are not gone away from me. I see them every night in my dreams," he said.

"I talk to them every night with my wife, my kids. I play with them.

"They are always in my heart.

"My life before, I don't even remember the dates, before whatever happened, it was completely different.

"I will never get back my life. It has changed forever."

Gardai believe Mr Syed's children were murdered, after they were found with strangulation marks on their necks.

Peace

Meanwhile, they are keeping an open mind as to how Ms Banu died, as she was found with ligature marks.

Asked what he believes might have happened in their tragic final moments, Mr Syed says he cannot go there.

"That is where I don't want to go because it will take me to places where I don't want to go," he said.

"I don't want to talk anything about that now. For me, it has not been easy.

"I ask people to pray for every one of us, for our patience, and pray for my family for them to rest in peace," he said, before becoming emotional.

"I'm so hurt. Hurt is a very small word but I'm so hurt."

Asked about where he was when he got the devastating news and how he was told about the tragedy, Mr Syed again became emotional and said: "That's again a painful story.

"I don't want to discuss that here

It's easy to harder



'CAN'T FIND THE WORDS': Sameer Syed speaking from his Dublin home yesterday

...and

'I LOVED SEEMA AND MY KIDS, THEY WERE MY LIFE

'NOW I SPEAK TO THEM ALL EVERY NIGHT'

'I GO BY WHAT THE GARDA IS TELLING ME'



'I'M BROKEN': Sameer Syed prays over the coffins of his family at the funeral and (right) lays flowers at the graveside after the burial



EXCLUSIVE

■ Paul HEALY
PICS: MICK O'NEILL

— but it was a very, very painful story.

"I couldn't even believe it. My first reaction was, 'Are you talking to me or maybe somebody else?'"

"Maybe you are talking to somebody else," I said."

Patience

Mr Syed said he has many fond memories of his wife and children, and said he finds it difficult to describe just how he felt about them.

"I'm trying to give you a word. I don't think I can describe her in any humanly word I know.

"The simplest thing that I can say is they were my life. They were my kids," he said.

"I'd just like to request to the people that this is a painful moment not only for me, my family and her family."

"We are part of one family. That is what I believe, and I ask people to pray for us, for patience and for my family to rest in peace."

We also asked Mr Syed about Ms

Banu's family's statement to this paper that she had told them she feared for her life — and showed them signs she had been hurt in the past.

Video

Becoming silent, Mr Syed said he did not have the right words to express how he felt about that — but he said it was an important question.

AFTER TRIUPLE HORROR

point fingers, to stay silent wait for truth



REPLACEMENT: Mads

Mads for the role...

JAMES Bond star Mads Mikkelsen has been tipped to replace Johnny Depp as dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald in the new Fantastic Beasts film.

Depp stepped down from the role after losing his high-profile libel case against the UK Sun newspaper over an article which labelled him a "wife beater".

Early

Danish actor Mikkelsen is in early talks to replace Depp, according to multiple reports in the US.

Deadline Hollywood said he is the first choice of Fantastic Beasts director David Yates.



BEAUTY: Kate Moss

Moss reaps reward

AGE-DEFYING supermodel Kate Moss is still raking in the cash — at 46.

The British babe banked €3.5m last year as reserves in her main business rocketed to €12m.

Newly published figures for Kate Moss Ltd for the 12 months to last November reveal the continued growth of her brand.

Assets

The company had assets of €14.3m.

The figure was reduced after taking into account €2.2m owed to creditors and a €350,000 tax bill.

But Kate remains one of the world's most successful models.



INVESTIGATION: Gardai at the scene in Dublin after the bodies were discovered and (right) Seema with the couple's daughter Asfira and their son Faizan



GRIEVING FAMILY: (Left-right) Seema with her mother and father and the children; our story yesterday and her cousin Sufi with her father back in India

"It's important you know, I am trying to, because I cannot come up with an English word to explain," he told *The Star*.

"So maybe if I am telling something it might mean something completely else. So I don't want to do. It is something that I do not want to do."

"She was a beautiful wife. She supported me, took care of me and my kids."

"We were a happy family." Yesterday Ms Banu's cousin Sufi

Masood Hussain told this paper that he had sent gardai a recorded video of her, where she expressed fears for her safety.

Note

"She was afraid. She said she was afraid she would get killed. She was crying very badly in the video and she was showing us marks, burn marks on her hand."

"Next it is up to the police, we have given it to them to look at," Mr Hussain

told *The Star* yesterday.

Gardai are satisfied that the tragic children were murdered by strangulation, while they are continuing to keep an open mind as to how their mother died.

Garda sources say a note was found in the house, and there are also theories that Ms Banu had taken her own life.

However gardai remain sceptical, and are investigating if all three were in fact murdered in their home, just days

after Seema had told her family she was flying back to India.

And speaking to *The Star*, Mr Hussain said Seema's family do not believe she could have taken her own life.

"She was not that type of person. She never was."

"That would never happen. She was the bravest girl in the entire family. She loved her children."

"A mother would never kill her kids. "So we are really sure it was murder and not suicide," he said.

IRISH DAILY STAR



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GLOSSY WOMEN'S DAY MAG TRIBUTE

INSIDE



2 GREAT SPORTS MAGS



EXCLUSIVE

IRISH RACE BOSSES:

M50 chase girl: I'm too fast...



DRIVER: Gemma Greene and (below) car chase with gardai

PAGES 10&11

PHOTO 'A SINISTER ATTACK' ON GORDON



SHOCKING: Gordon Elliott sits on dead horse in photo

PAGES 4&5

IHRB ban trainer but slam leak

JOY AS HALF OF VILLAGE GET JABS AFTER WINDFALL

PAGES 6&7

CHASE WOMAN LAUGHS

They were never stopped because

24-YEAR-OLD LIVE-STREAMED PURSUIT TO BRAY AND BACK



GUILTY: Anthony O'Toole

Driver gets no prison time...



EXCLUSIVE
Nicola DONNELLY

A SCHOOL bus driver has been given a four month suspended sentence after he subjected innocent school children to travel on a "dangerously defective" bus" he was driving to a mechanic.

Anthony O'Toole (54) claimed he "made a bad decision" on the day as he initially had no intention of picking up any school children.

On his way he saw school children he knew waiting on another bus. He stopped and let them on his dangerously defective bus and brought them to their school.

Children

Gardai observed the school children getting off the bus and checked the bus out.

The bus was discovered to be dangerously defective, there was no insurance on it and no licence to carry people, the court heard. A false document was also displayed on the bus.

O'Toole pleaded guilty to driving a dangerously defective vehicle, having no insurance, no licence to carry people on that vehicle and displaying a false document.

Judge McKiernan said she won't impose a driving disqualification as this would affect his livelihood but added "It is a very serious matter."

No jail for garda assault

A YOUTH has been given a suspended sentence for taking part in a vicious attack on a garda who was subjected to "an awful hiding" while in pursuit of a suspect.

The then 16-year-old boy pleaded guilty at the Dublin Children's Court to assault causing harm to the garda and violent disorder at Shemalier Road, East Wall, on September 24, 2018.

Judge Brendan Toale accepted jurisdiction and imposed a three-month jail term, suspended on condition he keeps the peace for six months.



PIC: Paul Nicholls



BOASTS: Gemma Greene claims her car was faster than gardai chasing her through Dublin

A WOMAN who led gardai on a high-speed chase through Dublin has broken her silence to say "they were not catching me".

The Star can today reveal that the woman who was arrested and is set to appear in court over the shocking chase, which she live-streamed on social media on Monday, is 24-year-old Coolock native Gemma Greene.

And speaking exclusively to *The Star*, Ms Greene, who claimed she was about to leave the country on a flight to Spain, revealed how she claims the entire ordeal began.

"On the Monday I was driving out of the estate and I seen (a) guard...and he was gonna pull me over," she said.

"So I said I'm not f*cking listening to him today.

"He didn't even put the blue lights on, he didn't even pull me to stop, I just put the foot down and went for it."

Ms Greene then led gardai on a high-speed chase down Dublin's M50, that ended up in Bray, Co Wicklow, and all the way back to Ballymun on the night of Monday, March 1.

And in a brazen boast to this paper, Gemma appeared to take pride in the fact that she drove faster than the garda cars pursuing her.

"I went straight for the M50. But as I went for the M50, didn't two X5 gardai jeeps see me," she claimed. "So obviously your man got onto them on the radio to come after me.

"So it started from there and went all the way down to Bray and all the way back up.

"So they threw the sting out three times, tried to box me in three times, couldn't do it.

Chipped

"My car has 300 brake so it's chipped, so it'd be faster than any of their cars."

Ms Greene made it to the Hampton Wood Drive area in Ballymun at around 6:50pm - where she was stopped - with dozens of garda vehicles surrounding her.

"The only reason I went home was because I was running out of diesel so I knew I'd make it home," she said.

"So when I pulled up, I got out and I put my arms up in the air like to surrender and then one of the guards rugby tackled me."

"Then another guard rugby tackled me and three and four more other guards rugby tackled me.

"I had to pull the car over for them. They were not catching me.

"So I was down in the police station for a few hours and I got two dangerous driving charges."

Ms Greene, who was being pursued by up to 20 Garda cars and a helicopter, was heard singing to music and taunting the cops in a live streamed video of the chase that she posted to her own social media.

At one point in the video she is spotted hurling what was believed to be a can of deodorant out of the window at the gardai who were following her.

Gardai confirmed that the woman was arrested and taken to Ballymun Garda station, where she was then released and is due to appear before the courts "at a later

OFF GARDA CHARGES

catching me... I was low on fuel



WITHDRAWN: One of the toys from Polish company

Kids should Nazi that...

A POLISH toy maker who launched a controversial new range of play sets for six-year-olds — featuring World War Two Nazis in their cars — claimed they were educational.

Cobi, well-known for producing Lego-style brick toys, introduced sets depicting the German general Freidrich Paulus, who commanded troops during Poland's invasion, and Admiral Wilhelm Canaris, the head of Nazi military intelligence.

The building-block products almost immediately attracted backlash from shoppers, retailers and other toy makers and Cobi has withdrawn them from sale.



EXCLUSIVE

Paul HEALY
Chief Reporter

Greene's family home in Coolock, she greeted us at the door with a smile and said: "I will talk to you but not now. I am literally about to go out the door to the airport."

Risk

When asked by this paper why she was leaving the country, Ms Greene claimed it was "because my life is at risk".

She also claimed she would be back from Spain within a week.

While no court date has yet been set, and Ms Greene is not charged before a judge yet, she will appear in court in connection with the incident, which is still under investigation.

WHITE ON: Gemma Greene filmed car chase



date". Yesterday Ms Greene cut our interview short — claiming she would properly talk to us when she returned from her supposed trip to Alicante, Spain — which she broadcast on her Instagram page yesterday.

"I can't meet today, I've a plane to catch at 6pm. I'll ring you when I'm back from Spain," she told us. However, when we called to Ms

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