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Serial killer Levi Bellfield confesses to being near Chillenden on day Megan and Lin Russell were murdered

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Serial killer Levi Bellfield has torn apart his own alibi for the brutal Chillenden murders of Lin and Megan Russell.

In an attempt to absolve himself the triple murderer, now a Muslim convert going by Yusuf Rahim and serving two whole-life terms at Durham's HMP Frankland, has admitted being in the area on the day the mum and daughter were bludgeoned to death in July 1996.

In a 15-page statement sent to his lawyer and passed on the Criminal Cases Review Commission the 53-year-old also reveals he drove a car similar to the one seen near the scene and that he flew back from holiday to have it destroyed in the days after the crime, *The Sun* reports.

The statement goes on to detail how he twice visited Cherry Garden Lane where Lin, six-year-old Megan and dog Lucy were beaten to death in a frenzied 15-minute attack and how he was going out with a woman whose dad ran a pub in the village near Deal.



Levi Bellfield Picture: Metropolitan Police

He writes: "I wish to set the record straight. It is my hope that by making this statement a line can be drawn under my suspicion of committing the 1996 Chillenden crimes."

Gillingham heroin addict Michael Stone is serving time for the murders having twice been convicted but doubt has been cast over his guilt on several occasions over the years.

But Bellfield says in his statement he is not speaking out due to any "loyalty" to Stone and claims he has never met him.

He previously claimed he was celebrating the birthday of then-girlfriend Johanna Collings at the time of the Chillenden murders.

In the statement he says he went to her house early that day before going on a long distance taxi call to Dover, 11 miles from Chillenden, in his beige Ford Sierra Sapphire.

He was away from his Middlesex home between 9.30am and 9.30pm - the Russells were murdered at 4pm.



Michael Stone Picture: SWNS

He said his job was done by 1pm but adds he "often spends time driving round areas for hours", the statement then skips several hours before he arrives home at around 9.30pm, having stopped at Clacket Lane services on the M25 to throw away rubbish and get fuel.

Days later he went on holiday to Turkey leaving the car – which was similar to the one seen being driven erratically near the scene by witnesses – at a nightclub, but "paranoia" got the better of him and three days later he returned to have it crushed at a Brentford scrap yard.

Earlier in his statement he explained how he had dated a woman whose dad ran a pub in Chillenden and visited Cherry Garden Lane after a pub lunch and again a year later after some business in Deal.

In 2008 Bellfield was convicted of murdering Amélie Delagrangé, 22, and Marsha McDonnell, 19, and the attempted murder of 18-year-old Kate Sheedy. Three years later he was found guilty of the 2002 murder of 13-year-old Milly Dowler.



Undated file picture of Lin Russell and her six-year-old daughter Megan
Supplied by Kent Police Press Office

He has suffered from mental health issues in prison and has previously said he had no links to Kent before 2002.

He addresses the coincidences in the statement and says he is speaking out as they would eventually resurface.

The former detective who headed up the team that caught Bellfield for his three murders said the statement was "surprising".

Colin Sutton said: "I'm surprised he's torn down his alibi.

"The Criminal Cases Review Commission will look at this. They have good investigators. But knowing Bellfield as I do, this could be him playing mind games."

In May a key clue in the Chillenden investigation was found after 14 years, which Bellfield was said to be concerned about.



Levi Bellfield is serving two whole-life terms

Lin, 45, daughters Megan and Josie and dog Lucy were attacked as they walked home. Josie, then nine, miraculously survived.

Josie, now 34 and dad Shaun, 70, now live in Wales and were informed about The Sun on Sunday's story before publication.

Join the debate...

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- **muhamad wrote:**

06/09/2021 09:04

This case needs an urgent review, in particular into Kent Police's handling of it which has been shambolic. Stone has clearly been set up.

- **knackers wrote:**

06/09/2021 01:06

As to Bellfield converting to Islam - Islam should be telling him to get stuffed. No religion should offer him any comfort.

- **Mary Lou Kramer wrote:**

06/09/2021 00:38

Why is this evil thing still alive FGS

1 Reply

- **knackers wrote:**

06/09/2021 01:02

He needs to be kept alive in the hope that one day he will reveal the truth about his past actions, and perhaps a potentially wrong conviction corrected. This is why death sentences are never satisfactory - because sometimes the law gets it wrong.

But it's Josie and Shaun, and all the other survivors, who have received the real life sentence from which they can never escape. It's beyond comprehension how they have to live every day set against the background of such heinous acts.

- **zedboy wrote:**

05/09/2021 16:24

Let them both rot the world's a safer place for our children with them not in it.

- **Mikah14 wrote:**

05/09/2021 15:53

Seems like a lot of crims on KOL today intent on getting one of their own sprung from the lifetime in prison he richly deserves.

- **Charthamite wrote:**

05/09/2021 15:47

Why are the media falling over themselves to publicise oxygen thieves like stone & belf?

Let them rot!!!

- **samsmith2021 wrote:**

05/09/2021 14:16

When the BBC made the program 'The Chillenden Murders' - putting together a team of investigators, solicitors, forensic experts etc, all evidence pointed to Bellfield. All agreed that Stone was most likely innocent, and certainly wasn't guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

The only 'evidence' in favour of Bellfield was his former partner who gave him an alibi. Something along the lines of 'Bellfield's a nasty piece of work, a mass murderer, but he couldn't have done this as I was with him that day'.

Well that lone shred of 'evidence' has now been proven to be a lie. While Stone might not be a great human, he's served far too long for drugs offences and violence against others - all males - in the drugs trade. And he's been tarnished as a monster, rather than the loser he is/was.

I'm sure he'll be suitably compensated in due course. In the meantime hopefully he'll be absolved of this terrible, once-in-a-generation atrocity, and allowed to resume his life.

1 Reply

- **muhamad wrote:**

06/09/2021 09:03

I was with you until you pointed out that all his violence committed was simply against "all males" as if that somehow means he's less deserving of a longer sentence versus committing violence against women. If you want equality in society, don't segregate the sexes

- **Houdek80 wrote:**

05/09/2021 13:58

It's time for Michael Stone to be freed. Whether it was Bellfield, Stone himself or indeed someone else altogether, it's patently an unsafe conviction and he's served well over twenty years.

1 Reply

- **Mandy Dunn wrote:**

05/09/2021 12:30

There was always something funny about this case ,glad I was not on that jury especially if he's been wrongly convicted and sentenced for all them years. It was almost as if back then the police needed to nail someone for these shocking murders ,and quick ! It was when they nicked this evil **** of the earth ,everyone was then thinking Stone maybe innocent after all ,yet many had always maintained he was always innocent ...time will tell ,but how can they ever compensate 26 years of a mans life behind bars ?

1 Reply

- **samsmith2021 wrote:**

05/09/2021 17:36

I think if you're Stone, you have to think positively. There's a better chance than ever before that he'll get justice.

Had he not been allegedly fitted up for these murders, would he even be alive today? Would drugs, or drug dealers, have killed him in the meantime?

Now he's hopefully been clean for many years, and ready to resume a productive and positive life without his former demons.

If he is innocent of this horrific crime, I hope he's released immediately due to an unsafe conviction. I hope he's compensated. And I hope he lives a far better life than previously.

- **Olly Scott wrote:**

05/09/2021 10:31

The biggest miscarriage of justice in this country.
Stone is no angel and convicted on the word of a known villain and convicted murderer .

- **Barbarastone001 wrote:**

05/09/2021 10:26

So Levi has destroyed his own alibi and was in the area at the time of the murders. He looks like the photo fit and drove a car similar to that described then destroyed the said car in keeping with his own **** He has been excluded by previous enquiries because his ex partner gave him an alibi ...does that amount to perverting the course of justice. Where are Kent Police they should lead a investigation into the case but would rather lead an innocent man in prison. There is enough evidence to charge Levi Bellfield...Free Michael Stone

- **Honestly wrote:**

05/09/2021 10:09

Free Michael Stone.

- **Cheery71 wrote:**

05/09/2021 10:04

About time as I always thought they had made a mistake

- **beastieboy23 wrote:**

05/09/2021 09:56

Although Mr Stone might not be a nice person, it is quite clear that there is more to be investigated in this. Clearly Bellfield has something to say on the case and so it should be looked into in case there is an innocent man behind bars.

- **R6ply wrote:**

05/09/2021 09:35

It would seem that the miscarriage of justice that Michael Stone has endured for the last 26 years will finally be realised!

1 Reply

- **Sheila Snowden wrote:**

05/09/2021 10:18

Apparently no forensic evidence, Michael Stone not exactly a model citizen, but he didn't deserve this sort of justice

- **Smoooga wrote:**

05/09/2021 12:56

Unfortunately they convicted Stone with no solid forensic evidence, but will require strong forensic evidence to release him most likely.

Like you say, Stone has a criminal background, but the evidence against him was lacking and he doesn't deserve this.

Don't think the justice system will let Stone out. That would mean confessing they made mistakes and it's rare for that to happen. Pieces of evidence in this case have been going missing and found in different places. Whole thing is compromised.

- **msmith2021 wrote:**

05/09/2021 17:40

I'd hope that the conviction being unsafe would be enough in itself. Whether the actual killer has confessed or not, or whether DNA evidence pointing to the actual killer is found, shouldn't be relevant.

- **samsmith2021 wrote:**

05/09/2021 14:22

Yep that's it. It's never model citizens who are wronged. It's always losers / bad guys. George Floyd was choked to death for passing a fake banknote. It wouldn't happen to a completely upstanding citizen.

Stay away from drugs kids - it's a slippery slope. A few puffs of NOx as a kid can, for some people - those with a certain personality - lead to a heroin addiction in adulthood. If you need something to lift you, speak with trusted/sensible friends, family and your GP.

And, obviously, free Michael Stone.

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/deal/news/bellfield-tears-apart-own-alibi-for-chillenden-murders-253404/>