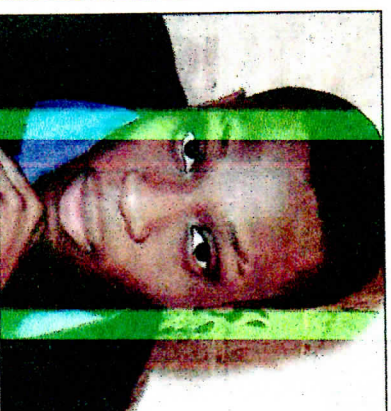


DJ stabbed in stomach, court told



VICTIM: Carl Beatson-Asiedu

A TEENAGER confessed to his girlfriend of stabbing a DJ to death outside a nightclub before he fled to Nigeria, a court has heard.

Jeffrey Okafor is alleged to have knifed 19-year-old Carl Beatson-Asiedu in a gang fight outside Club Life in Godding Street, Vauxhall, in 2009.

Within an hour of the attack, Okafor, 18 at the time, called his girlfriend to say he had been involved in a "madness", jurors at Woolwich Crown Court heard on Tuesday.

A few days later, he is said to have told her that he stabbed Mr Beatson-Asiedu in the stomach before asking her to look after a pair of black gloves and a T-shirt. Okafor is said to have gone into hiding before police arrived at his home at Landcroft Road, East Dulwich, on August 13 2009 to arrest him. It is said that he boarded a flight to Nigeria using his brother's passport four days later.



Protesters send



Protesters send bailiffs packing

By JACK GRIFFITH

PROTESTING crowds thwarted bailiffs' attempts to evict one of Lambeth's last remaining tenants in "short life" housing.

Around 100 people waving banners and flags greeted bailiffs who arrived in Lillieshall Road, Clapham, on Wednesday morning to take possession of a home Tracey Newton has lived in for more than 30 years.

An officer was blocked from entering the front gates by the demonstrators, including neighbours, housing activists and politicians, and stopped them from executing their warrant.

The bailiffs are due to return at a later date. Lambeth council says it has offered a new flat with a secure tenancy, but Ms Newton says it is "not practical" because of disabilities she suffers from.

Kate Hoey, Labour's parliamentary candidate for Vauxhall and MP for the

area since 1989, joined the : "This is a disgraceful way to treat a long-term Lambeth resident who has a home that is among the best examples of a tenant-improved property."

"No other Labour council in the country is behaving in this way."

Julian Hall, of Lambeth United Housing Co-op campaign group, said: "There was an excellent turn-out, and there has been cross party support."

"This was just one success, and we will keep fighting until there is a settlement. The sanctity of the home is at the heart of all of this."

Ms Newton is a victim of Lambeth's recall and sale of its short life housing stock, which has generated £58million for the borough in the past four years.

The local authority says the money has been spent on vital services and building new council homes.

The 56-year-old moved into her home in 1980 on a "short-life" tenancy, when they were being offered as a way to keep abandoned council homes occupied and ease pressure on housing waiting lists, at no cost to the council.

Many of the tenants, who paid low rents in return for keeping the property in good condition, remained for decades and established housing "co-ops".

Councillor Matthew Bennett, Lambeth cabinet member for housing, said: "The vast majority of short-life properties have so far been handed back amicably and we have rehoused many former occupants."

"Legal action is always a last resort, when our attempts to secure possession amicably have failed."

"The refurbished flat and secure tenancy which were offered to Ms Newton some two years ago remain available to her."



EVICTED FURY: Crowds gather outside Tracey Newton's house in Lillieshall Road, Clapham

18929

Fierce house blaze kills man

A MAN has died in a house fire. About 60 firefighters and officers with eight engines tackled the blaze in a three floor terraced house on Richborne Terrace, Oval during the early hours of Friday

morning. The man was pronounced dead at the scene. The fire had been developing for some time before the Brigade was called at 3am. The whole of the second floor was

damaged in the blaze as well as most of the roof and around half of the ground and first floor. The fire was under control by about 5am and its cause is under investigation.

