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SUMMER SUNDAYS

**4-PAGE
SPECIAL**
STARTS PAGE 38

PLUS FANTASTIC FATHER'S DAY RECIPE TREATS SEE MAGAZINE

**WIN
TICKETS
TO THE
FOREVER
YOUNG
FESTIVAL**

DETAILS PAGE 36

ANA KRIÉGEL MURDER

'OUR SON SHOULD HAVE STOPPED ANA'S MURDER'

Parents of Boy B speak out over Kriégel tragedy

By **Garreth MacNamee**

THE parents of one of the teenagers convicted of the brutal murder of Ana Kriégel in 2018 have said their son 'is no monster' but admitted he should have saved the 14-year-old when she was being attacked by his friend.

In their first interview, published four years to the day after her killers were found guilty of the murder, the father of 'Boy B' told the Irish Mail on Sunday: 'He was a stupid, stupid boy... but our child isn't this monster that people are calling him.'

In 2019 Boy B was sentenced to 15 years' detention for Ana's murder after a seven-week trial that shocked the nation, becoming the youngest convicted

Turn to Page 6 >>



COULD MEGHAN BE THE NEXT FACE OF DIOR?

PAGES 18-19

Varadkar: We'll cut tax and increase spending

By **John Drennan**

TAOISEACH Leo Varadkar has reiterated his controversial tax cuts plan but has also signalled big public spending increases to ease Coalition tensions.

The Fine Gael leader was speaking after growing internal criticism and this week's opinion poll, which put the party's support at just 18% - the lowest since 1994.

FULL STORY See Page 14 >>

He turned and as

► From Page One

murderer in the history of the State.

The trial heard Boy B played an instrumental role in Ana's murder after he lured the teenage girl to a derelict house in Lucan, Co. Dublin, where Boy A savagely sexually assaulted and killed her.

Boy B's father said his son 'should have stopped this from happening'.

He also stressed he 'cannot imagine' the pain Ana's family endured, and that he 'wants to throw myself down on my knees and beg them for forgiveness'.

The father told the MoS: 'I do not want the Kriégel family to think that I am trying to take anything away from their pain; I am not. We know what he should have done - he should have stopped it.'

'Once it [truth] all came out I told him: "You could have saved her. You should have saved her. What was going through your head?"

'I have been very, very hard on him for that. For us, as parents, we know what the boy is like. But the country, the world, does not. For us talking to you now, it's just to let people know... that our child isn't this monster that people are calling him.'

Boy A and Boy B were 13 when Ana was murdered at Glenwood House at Laraghcon, Clonee Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin, on May 14, 2018.

They were convicted by unanimous jury verdicts on June 18 the following year.

At their sentencing hearing in November 2019, Boy A was convicted of murder and sentenced to life, with a review after 12 years. He was also sentenced to 12 years

'He was too weak to be able to say what happened'

for an aggravated sexual assault on Ana, to run alongside the murder sentence.

Boy B was sentenced to 15 years for murder with a review after eight years.

Recalling the murder trial, Boy B's mother said she 'couldn't stop crying' when Ana's devastated mother Geraldine gave her evidence.

'It was shocking. I felt so sorry for the Kriégels, really sorry for them. The worst nightmare that anyone could experience, losing a child. To lose a child is the worst nightmare.'

'When Ana's mum was at the stand talking about her, I couldn't stop crying. I was crying and crying and crying.'

'A little girl lost her life in such a brutal way, and now she will never experience her first kiss, she will never go to the prom.'

'She will never, never, never do anything.'

Recalling the moment her son's sentence was read out, Boy B's mother said: 'It was shock. I was numb - completely. Shocked. I couldn't speak. He [Boy B] turned to me and said: "Am I guilty?" And I said, "yes, they found you guilty."'

The boy's father admits he 'blew up' in the courtroom after the verdict was read out.

'I mean, I've never been in this situation before, I don't know how to take care of my feelings. But I was really, really shocked.'

'There was another child's destiny on the line; another life... that could be gone.'

His family appealed the sentence at the first possible opportunity and have always maintained that, while their son should have intervened to save Ana, they insist he is no murderer.

When it was put to Boy B's parents

that he was found guilty by a jury of his peers and is a convicted killer in the eyes of the law, his father replied: 'We know he is. We know what they have decided. If our son had done what [Boy A] did, then there would be no discussion - that was sick.'

'We would put our hands up and accept any punishment whatsoever because that is different, you know. But the point we're trying to make is that it's not the same thing.'

'He is being punished because he

was too much of a coward to tell me what happened; he was too weak and afraid to be able to say what happened on that day.'

'I know this boy. He is not what they say he is. He is not this monster.'

During the murder trial, the prosecution had no forensic or physical evidence linking Boy B to the scene of Ana's murder at Glenwood House.

Counsel for the prosecution, Brendan Grehan, told the court

the 'majority of evidence against Boy B comes straight out of his own mouth'.

Gardaí who gave evidence said he got caught up in his own lies, and that every time gardaí presented him with new evidence, his story changed.

This pattern continued over the course of 18 hours of interrogation, spread over two different arrest periods.

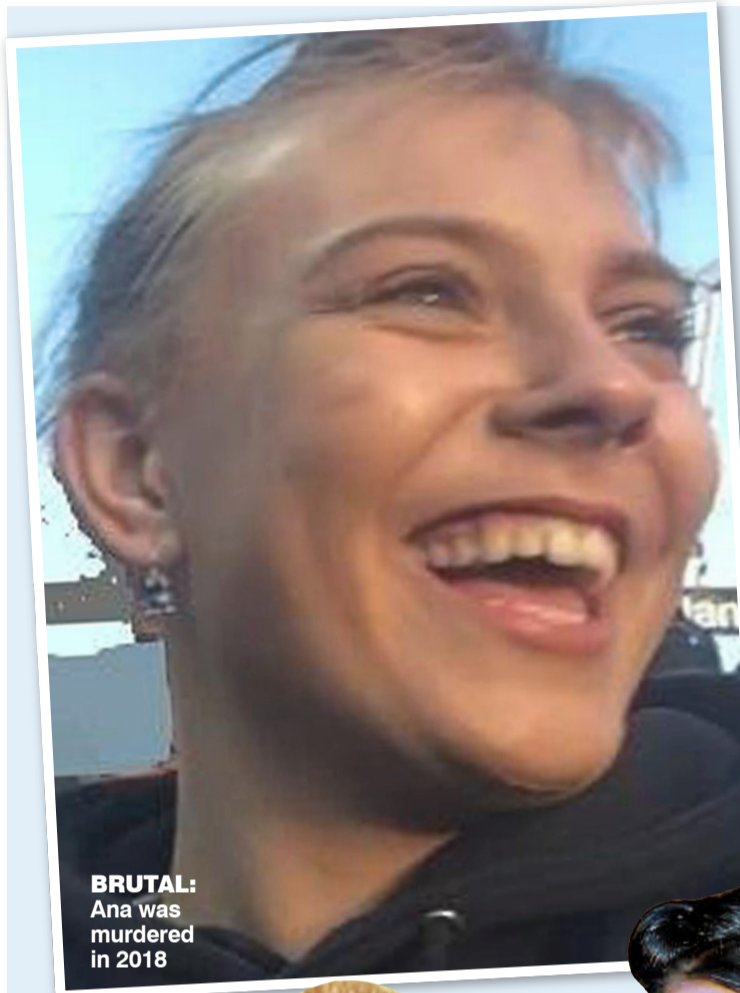
During the trial, Boy B gave evidence that Ana was regarded as a

'weirdo' and someone 'you didn't want to hang out with'.

He described how she wore 'slutty' tops and was 'desperate' for boys to give her attention.

For the jury, Boy B's words seemed to confirm that he knew exactly what would happen to Ana when he 'handed her over' to Boy A.

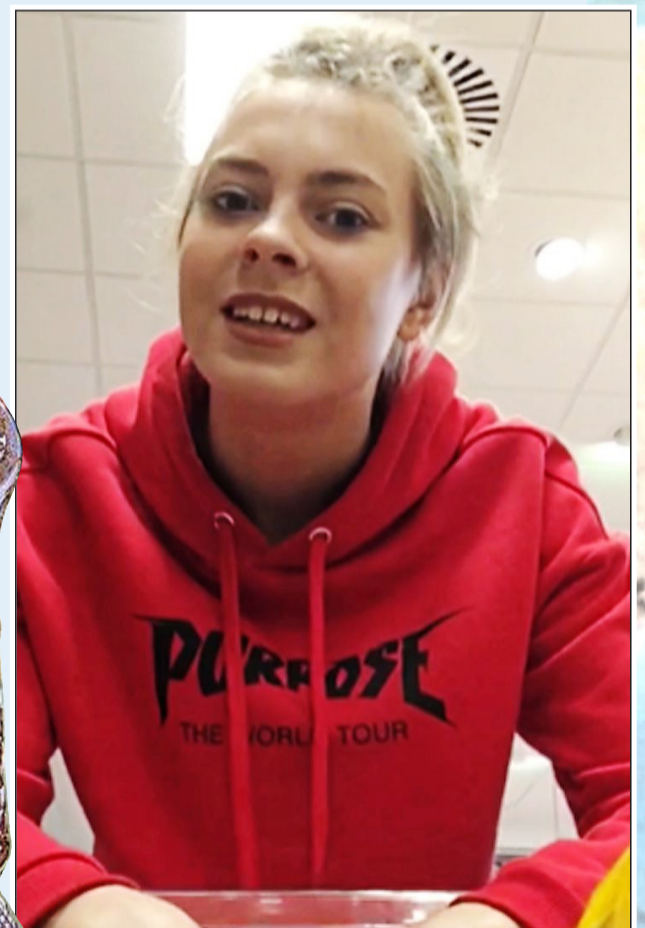
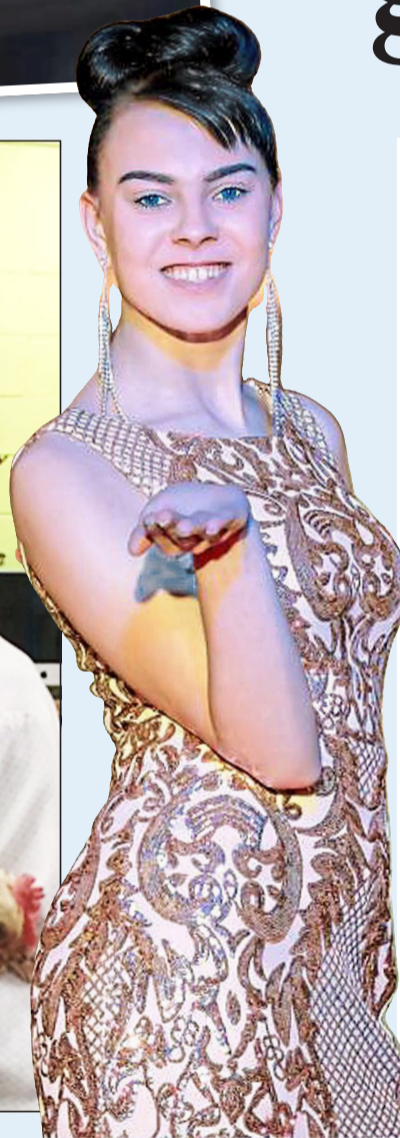
However, Boy B and his parents have always insisted he did not know Boy A was waiting in the derelict house to kill Ana.



BRUTAL:
Ana was
murdered
in 2018

'She was like air to her parents and now the air is gone...'

BOY B'S MOTHER



SO MUCH PROMISE: Boy B's parents admit their suffering pales in comparison to the Kriégels'

ked 'am I guilty?'



LIFE LOST:
A family photo issued by the gardaí. Ana's killers were found guilty of murder by unanimous jury verdict

This was the basis of Boy B's appeals against his sentence in the courts, which were ultimately all unsuccessful.

Notwithstanding their own pain at their son's actions and life sentence for his part in the killing of the innocent schoolgirl, Boy B's parents stress their suffering pales in comparison to the agony endured by Ana's family.

Her heartbroken father, Patrick Kriégel, died in June last year. His funeral heard he could not stand the

pain of 'losing his little girl'.

Boy B's mother described Ana's family as 'great people', adding: 'They were looking after her, raising her in the best possible way. All teenagers have their problems. She had hers, but they were trying to help.

'Then that's it. Life is gone, and they are lost. She was like air to them. They were breathing her and now the air is blocked and gone.

'They lost her... it's horrendous.'

By **Debbie McCann**

CRIME CORRESPONDENT

JOAN Deane's 'gentle son' was brutally beaten to death 20 years ago, but the heartbroken mother said a 'juggernaut of grief' still hits her every single day.

'I can speak from my own experience; it has been 20 years and the pain never gets any less. There are times when it gets less raw and there are still moments of every day when that juggernaut of grief just hits you and floors you completely,' she told the Irish Mail on Sunday.

Her son Russell Deane, 28, was beaten to death in February 2003 when three men entered his house in Drogheda, Co. Louth, with a pickaxe, a wooden pole and the top end of a golf shaft.

While watching a film at home, he was brutally killed over a complicated love triangle, which resulted in the brother of his ex-girlfriend and two other men breaking into his home following a heated text message exchange.

Two men were later convicted of the 28-year-old's manslaughter, while a third man was acquitted.

Describing the harrowing on the entire family impact of losing a son, Ms Deane explained: 'It changes the whole dynamic of your family life, because every member of your family is dealing with the same trauma, but in their own way.

'It is very, very hard to find that natural, normal communion that you had in a family previously because everything is changed by it. It has changed me as a person, and it has changed every member of my family. And all of that because of a moment of whatever.'

Ms Deane said Russell is 'hugely missed', and she often wonders what he would be like if he were still alive today.

'Russell was just a normal young man. He had a great sense of humour. He was gentle,' she explained.

'He was in a difficult situation, something that was so far outside his experience. He was just a normal young man who was completely loveable and very affectionate and generous and is still hugely missed.

'I look at his friends and in the 20 years they have become engaged, got married, had children, and you look at that and I often think, "What would he be like now as a 49-year-old man?" It's hard to imagine, because he will always be a 28-year-old young man.'

Ms Deane said young men in particular need to be educated about the 'consequences and impact of their actions and the trauma they put people through.

'It's an everyday occurrence; there isn't a day that goes by where there isn't a murder somewhere. It's such a waste of a life,' she added.

'I think the important message to get across is, young men in particular need to really learn that when they carry a knife, or



TRAUMA: Joan Deane's agony over her son's manslaughter never ends

Entire family is changed by juggernaut of eternal grief

they get in a fight or they take things to the extreme and take somebody's life, they are creating a future of trauma for at least two families.'

Ms Deane said AdVIC, a rights group for families affected by homicide, is developing an education programme for schools and colleges.

'Education is going to be key,' she stresses. 'There seems to be no awareness in them of the consequences of their actions, and also I wonder if they are a bit desensitised on what they are watching on social media.

'When we were growing up we had Tom and Jerry, but now they're watching real violence in films. I really think it must have some effect.'

The grieving mother said there are 'no winners' when a killing happens.

'I do not believe anybody sends their son out to kill somebody else. I really feel there are two families, or more, and the extended families of both sides

deeply affected. I can imagine it can't be an easy journey either for the family of the perpetrator.

'I can tell you what it is like for the mother of the victim of homicide, but I cannot imagine what it is like to be the mother of someone who took someone's life and created that future of trauma. I don't think I could live with that awfulness.'

AdVIC holds a memorial day for families affected by homicide every second year and this year's event is due to take place in St Ann's Church on Dawson Street in Dublin on September 30.

IF you or a loved one are affected by any of the issues raised in today's coverage, you can contact AdVIC at the following numbers:
General information: 1800 852 000 / (01) 518 0815 / (086) 127 2156
Counselling: (01) 518 0816 / (087) 314 8363
E-mail: info@advic.ie

Four years after two teenage boys were found guilty of murdering a

Our son 'Boy B' should have tried to help Ana but he is not a monster

THE parents of one of the boys convicted of Ana Kriégel's murder have recalled the moment they learned their son was in the derelict house when the 14-year-old school-girl was brutally sexually assaulted and beaten to death.

They had suspected their son – referred to as Boy B during the murder trial – had known more about the shocking murder after Ana's naked body was discovered in the abandoned Glenwood House in Lucan, Co. Dublin.

But when it emerged from gardaí that he was present when the murder occurred, his parents confronted their son with the awful truth.

Boy B's father recalled: 'I asked him; "why didn't you help her?" He said: "I couldn't because I froze." He said: "I was scared, I was shocked... I didn't know what to do."'

Boy B became the youngest convicted murderer in the history of the State when he and co-accused, Boy A, were found guilty by unanimous jury verdict on June 18, 2019, exactly four years ago today.

Boy A, who was found guilty of murder and aggravated sexual assault, was later sentenced to life with a review after 12 years.

Boy B was sentenced to 15 years for murder, with a review after eight years.

His family immediately appealed the sentence, but this and successive appeals were ultimately unsuccessful.

Boy B withdrew his final attempt to be released from detention in

Both parents cry when Ana's name is mentioned

October last year.

In their first-ever interview, which took place in the family home just days after their son's guilty verdict but which could not be published until their son's appeals had been exhausted, Boy B's family insist that while he should have intervened to save Ana, he is no murderer.

They also want to stress their own pain pales in comparison to the suffering Ana's family have endured.

During the murder trial, snapshots emerged of the lives of the two boys found guilty of the killing that shocked the nation.

The trial was held in camera, meaning members of the public were barred from entering. Only authorised people, including journalists, were allowed to attend.

The first sight I got of Boy A and Boy B was of the two of them sitting by their parents, wearing clothes that wouldn't have been out of place at a confirmation.

Boy A sat upright, staring down at his feet. Boy B was nestled close to his mother, not looking at anyone, just holding her hand.

Sitting in the kitchen of their home just days after their son's sentence, Boy B's family come across as a typical middle-class family who work hard to provide the best possible lives for their children.

Boy B's younger sister sat watching cartoons as her parents showed me around the house. A small dog wandered around the house barking for attention. Boy B's older brother came in and out of the room throughout the three-hour interview; looking for his iPhone charger, asking where his clothes were.

His mother showed us Boy B's bedroom; with bunk beds and games consoles and colourful bed coverings, showing the youngster's interest in cartoons. She showed me a

INTERVIEW

By **GARRETH McNAMEE**

wooden box he had crafted while in Oberstown detention centre awaiting his sentence to keep his 'Digimon cards safe'. He liked anime, Marvel superheroes, video games and making homemade weapons out of lollipop sticks.

As the interview began, both parents cry when Ana's name is mentioned, and their pain for the Kriégel family appears genuine.

Recalling the moment the 'nightmare' began, Boy B's mother told how uniformed gardaí called to their door shortly after 9.30pm on Monday, May 14, 2018, as part of their inquiries into the then-missing

teenager. She was just back from work and busy putting their youngest child to bed when she heard the knock on the door.

'I opened the door and there were two gardaí outside and they asked to speak to [Boy B],' she recalls.

Her son told them, 'I was with her in the park', but nothing else.

'When they closed the door and I said: "Who is Ana?" and he said: "Oh, Mum, it's the girl from school, you remember?," and I said: "No, I don't."'

Boy B was not on Instagram, so his mother asked her older son to show her a picture of Ana's face on

the social media platform. 'I knew I wouldn't be able to help [unless she knew what Ana looked like]. I wanted to have a look to see if I saw her somewhere.

'So [her older child] went to Instagram and found her. He found a couple of videos where she was singing, so I was like: "Ok, now I am

'I can't imagine what her parents were feeling'

familiar with her face, I saw her around the village before. Because the name didn't mean anything. Once I saw her face, I knew who the guards were talking about.'

Three days later, Ana's body was found.

Sergeant Declan Birchall was in charge of the search. Later, giving evidence at the murder trial, Sgt

Birchall said four gardaí were searching derelict buildings when one officer shouted he may have found something.

Garda Seán White was the first to enter the abandoned house, where he saw what he thought was a mannequin. He told the court he turned to Sgt Birchall, saying: 'It's either a mannequin or something terrible.'

It was Ana. Her naked body had lain on what was described as a 'filthy floor' for three days.

There was tape wrapped around her neck. Her left hand was found under the tape, indicating she tried to rip it from her neck as she took her final breaths.

Recalling the moment they learned the missing girl was dead, Boy B's father said: 'When we found out the girl was found dead in the house, that was actually shocking.'

Boy B's mother added: 'I was at work. I got a phone call. I was crying, hysterical.'



AGONY: The late Patrick Kriégel and wife Geraldine

Geraldine: 'We are a broken

ANA Kriégel's family have maintained a dignified silence in the wake of her brutal murder, which shocked the entire nation.

But their utter devastation at Ana's brutal murder was vividly encapsulated in a harrowing victim impact statement read out at the murder trial.

Ana's mother, Geraldine

Kriégel, told the Central Criminal Court life without Ana is 'a misery that we must endure for the rest of our lives'.

She said: 'The saddest day of our lives was 17 May 2018 – three days later we heard those dreaded words that no parent wants to hear. We are so sorry... our precious little girl's body had been found.

'The depth of pain and haunting nightmares that we live with following the formal identification of Ana in such traumatic and horrific circumstances. There is no way to describe how that feels.'

Ms Kriégel said her family's 'lives are destroyed by what happened to Ana'.

'We lie awake at night

14-year-old schoolgirl, the parents of one of her killers speak out

CHILLING: Glenwood House, where Ana was murdered, and tributes left outside



hours deliberating. The forewoman's hand shook as she passed the piece of paper containing the verdicts to the court registrar.

The jury of eight men and four women had unanimously come to three guilty verdicts.

At the back of the courtroom, Boy B turned to his mother and asked: 'I'm guilty?'

The mother recalled: 'It was shock. I was numb, completely. Shocked. I couldn't say... He turned to me and said: "Am I guilty?" and I said: "Yes, they found you guilty."'

As she hugged her son before he was led away, his father became noticeably upset. At times, he shouted expletives at gardaí and the court.

The father admitted he did not know how to react: 'I was the one who blew up. I mean, I've never been in this situation before. I don't know how to take care of my feelings. But I was really, really shocked. There was another child's destiny on the line, another life of the child and that could be gone.'

Recalling the harrowing evidence given by Ana's devastated mother, Geraldine Kriégel, Boy B's mother said: 'It was shocking. I felt so sorry for the Kriégels, really sorry for them.'

'The worst nightmare that anybody could experience [is] losing a child. To lose a child is the worst nightmare.'

'When Ana's mum was at the stand talking about her, I couldn't stop crying. I was crying and crying and

'He was too much of a coward to tell me'

crying. A little girl lost her life in such a brutal way and now she will never experience her first kiss, she will never go to the prom. She will never, never, never do anything.

'They brought her here to bring her the best life they could. I have to say they are great people. They were looking after her. They were raising her in the best possible way.'

'All teenagers have their problems. She had hers, but they were trying to help her. Then that's it. Life is gone and they are lost. She was like air to them. They were breathing her and now the air is blocked and gone. They lost her. No, it's horrendous.'

While they are disgusted at their own son's actions, and his failure to intervene and save Ana, they clearly believe Boy A is responsible for the schoolgirl's murder.

'One life was taken, another life was ruined at the hands of one person,' the mother said.

As the boys were to be led from the courtroom after their sentences were handed down, Boy B's mother said her son turned to her and said: 'Will I have to share a room with him [Boy A]? I don't want to be near him. I don't want to see him.'

Boy B will remain in custody until at least June 2027 when his sentencing review is due to be heard.

His parents understand their son is a convicted killer, found guilty by a jury, but they have always maintained he is not cold-blooded murderer.

'He is being punished because he was too much of a coward to tell me what happened,' his father said.

'He was too weak and afraid to be able to say what happened on that day. I know this boy. He is not what they say he is.'

'He is not this monster.'

news@mailonsunday.ie

The boy's father said: 'She rang me screaming and crying and saying: "Can you imagine that poor girl was killed in the house" – it was completely shocking.'

'I can't even imagine what the par-

ents were feeling when they lost their kid.'

The parents said it was about this time when they began to suspect there was more to the story than their son was letting on.

Boy B's mother said: 'He was saying: "Mum, I was with her in the park and then she was with [Boy A] – I was not the last person who saw her.'

'He wasn't saying at that point that

he was in the house.'

But it wasn't long before they discovered the truth their son was indeed in the house while Ana was being brutally assaulted and murdered.

His father recalled: 'That's another shock, when they [gardaí] told me he was in the house and that's when we had a conversation.'

'I said: "Jesus – can you just understand. I mean if you're afraid of [Boy A] so much or if you are afraid of anyone, seek help. You should have spoken first to your family, tell us.'

'He said: "I was scared. I was shocked." I asked: "Why didn't you help her?" He said: "I couldn't because I froze. My brain completely froze and I couldn't do it. What [Boy A] was doing to her..."'

'He said: "I didn't know what to do."

The jury in the murder trial delivered its verdict on June 18, 2019, after spending just over 14

family, our hearts ache for you Ana'

thinking about the fear she felt when she realised she was going to be killed. We pace the house at night agonising about the torture she went through, the horrendous pain she suffered, the sadistic violation of her beautiful pure and innocent body.

'To think that she was left to rot in that squalid hell-hole, for over three days. It is unbearable. It's inhuman.'

The grieving mother added: 'The whole family and friends suffer so terribly, every day and every night, with the agony of knowing now, in the most explicit detail, what Ana was subjected to.'

'Never, ever, again will we share the beautiful life we had with Ana. We have lost our child and the children she dreamed of having. Our grandchildren.'

'There are no words.'

'Life without Ana is no longer nor is it even an existence – it is a misery that we must endure for rest of our lives.'

'We have lost our precious daughter and every family occasion without her is entrenched with pain and sorrow.'

'We are a broken family. Our hearts ache for you Ana. So many of the people in Ana's life are traumatised and suffer

nightmares, stress and anxiety, not just adults, but children, who are not only traumatised but in fear for their own lives.'

'Ana is lost to all of those people that loved her. Remember how much she loved you and hold on to that love in your hearts.'

'Thank you Ana for giving us all of that precious love. We miss you. We love you. No one can ever take that away from us.'