

Case is just bare allegations, says lawyer

THE case against four men charged over a brawl at Sydney Airport that left one man dead was full of "bare allegations" from police who were yet to view security footage of the incident, a court has been told.

The men have been charged with affray after the incident at Qantas Terminal 3 on Sunday that resulted in the death of 29-year-old **Anthony Zervas**.

The four are Ismail Erdem, 25, of Kingsford; Maher Aouli, 22, of Casula; Pomare Pirini, 21, of Georges Hall; and Zoran Kisacanin, 22, of Ingleburn.

Aouli was on bail for other matters at the time of the brawl.

Security was tight for the appearance of the men at Central Local Court yesterday as about 20 friends and family members of the accused entered.

According to a police fact sheet tendered to the court, the airport fight began with yelling and shoving between two groups of men who were leaving flight QF430, which had touched down from Melbourne at about 1.30pm.

The court heard that a security officer at the airport saw a number of males running through the terminal and recog-



One of four men charged with affray after the clash in Sydney Airport that led to the death of Anthony Zervas is led into court yesterday. Photo: James Brickwood

nised tattoos on their arms. Three or four of the men were seen leaving in a taxi with the other six men shouting "go, go, go", the court heard.

The lawyer who represented the men, John Korn, told magistrate Alan Moore the case against his clients was at this stage not strong.

"This is as bare an allegation as you can get," he said, because security camera footage was yet to be viewed by police because it had to be obtained from several different systems, including in the Qantas terminal, taxi rank and car park.

Thirty staff were working to

download the footage and no police involved in the case were in court to provide an explanation for the delay.

A police source said the camera system at the domestic terminal was "older than expected" and this had led to some difficulties in downloading footage.

Mr Korn said that although 27 witnesses had gone to Mascot police station last night police had told him they did not know whether they had a case yet.

Contrary to reports of a planned attack, his clients did not instigate the violence but were confronted by a group of men armed with knives and knuckledusters, he told the court.

Mr Korn would not confirm if his clients were members of the Comanchero bikie gang.

Police said Peter Zervas, 32, the brother of the dead man, was arrested at the scene wearing a singlet with a Hells Angels motif on it. He also had a number of Hells Angels tattoos.

Mr Moore refused bail for Kisacanin until tomorrow, by which time the prosecution was expected to review the footage from the airport.

None of the other men applied for bail. The case will resume tomorrow.

*Bellinda Kontominas
Article from the Sydney
Morning Herald*



BLIND GOLFERS ON COURSE FOR SUCCESS

Golf Australia has announced it will be working with the Australian Blind Golf Association to ensure more people with a vision impairment get into golf.

The initiative is part of the Australian Sports Commission's Sports CONNECT program which has been specifically designed to assist sport to create inclusive development, participation and competition opportunities for people with a disability.

The formal memorandum of understanding sets out that the two parties will co-operate in the provision and development of services and golf opportunities for blind and vision impaired people at all levels. This includes the joint development of coaching opportunities and the provision of education materials relating to the needs of blind golfers. Specifically, these services include the development of inclusive coach training modules (in conjunction with the PGA of Australia), guidelines to assist clubs to meet the needs of blind golfers and providing assistance through training of caddies and rules officials.

Golf Australia CEO Stephen Pitt said the agreement would reaffirm golf as a truly inclusive sport.

"There are many benefits to this agreement but most importantly it heightens our ability to ensure we can assist blind or vision impaired people to get involved in golf," Pitt said. "By working with the Australian Blind Golf Association, we can use their knowledge and ensure any new programs are effective."

Australian Blind Golf Association President David Blyth AO said the memorandum of understanding would provide enhanced opportunities for blind golfers in Australia to participate in the sport at all levels.

This follows the establishment of a similar memorandum of understanding between Golf Australia, Deaf Sport Australia and Deaf Golf Australia.



GREEK ORGANISATIONS WIN \$27,300 REES GOVERNMENT GRANT

Minister for Citizenship Virginia Judge announced that Greek community organisations will receive \$27,300 from the Rees Government towards bilingual support workers for mature aged Greek speakers.

The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Ltd and the Greek Welfare Centre received the funding under the 2008/09 Community Development Grants Program.

"The Grants Program is designed to enhance community engagement and the creation of social networks by supporting projects that address issues of cultural diversity," Ms Judge said.

- The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Ltd will receive \$9,100 towards the employment of a worker to assist the Greek community with access to support services for the mature aged.

- Greek Welfare Centre will receive \$18,200 towards their Western Sydney Community Development Project to promote a bilingual outreach service aimed at implementing community education programs.

"These grants will assist the organisations to

provide the Greek speaking community with access to bilingual support services through partnership with local and regional service providers," Ms Judge said.

Ms Judge said that more than 75 one-off grants across 30 language groups will fund local projects that provide opportunities and services for people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

"The grants program offers organisations an opportunity to address issues of cultural diversity within the local community," Ms Judge said.

"These grants will help facilitate projects that encourage cultural diversity at a local level and develop mutual understanding between and within ethnic communities.

"Promoting understanding and awareness of diverse cultures through workshops, exhibitions, festivals and support services will help us build stronger communities."

*Minister for Fair Trading Virginia Judge MP
Minister for Citizenship
Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts*

