

# Diana

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lence at St. James's — ordinary people with special places in their hearts for the young princess.

"Actually, I think the royal family should be done away with," said Irene Treble, 85. "But Diana was amazing as she had a real common touch that appealed to so many people."

The circumstances of her death — a high-speed chase by celebrity-hunting photographers on motorcycles, an alcohol-loaded driver who may have been pushing the armored Mercedes-Benz sedan over 100 mph as it roared through a Paris tunnel — have outraged people worldwide.

An American businessman who said he happened on the scene just after the crash called the photographers "disgusting."

"I mean (they were) all over the car," said Jack Firestone, of Hewlett Harbor, N.Y., "climbing all over the car as if they were mosquitoes... clicking away like mad. It was obvious these paparazzi knew they had struck gold."

Some witnesses said photographers even pushed aside rescuers and policemen, saying they were ruining their pictures.

Police accused Romuald Rat, of the Gamma photo agency, of obstructing the work of the first officers on the scene. Rat's lawyer, Philippe Benamou, said in defense that his client merely took Diana's

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— William Bourdon  
lawyer for one of the accused

pulse when he was taking pictures of the wreckage.

"He wanted to see if she was dead or alive," the lawyer said.

The other paparazzi under investigation are Nikola Arsov, of the Sipa agency; Jacques Langevin of Sygma; Laslo Veres, a freelancer; Stephane Darmon, a motorcyclist for Gamma; Serge Arnal of the Stills agency; and Christian Martinez of Angeli; and Romuald Rat of Gamma.

Rat and Martinez were the only ones who had to post bond — the equivalent of \$16,000 — and were forbidden from working as journalists pending resolution of the case.

"This is theater justice, aimed at satisfying the expectations of the public," said William Bourdon, a lawyer for Arsov.

"There is no crime here, the file is empty," he said. "I will demand that the case be dismissed immediately."

The driver, Paul, No. 2 security

chief at the Fayed-owned Ritz Hotel, where Diana and Fayed dined before their fatal ride, was already reported by authorities to have been legally drunk at the time of the crash.

The newspaper Le Monde reported yesterday that a second police toxicology analysis on Paul's body came up with a level of 1.87 grams of alcohol per liter of blood — even higher than the initially reported 1.75 figure. If confirmed, that would give the driver a blood-alcohol level nearly four times the 0.5 grams per liter legal limit in France.

A 1.75 level is the equivalent of drinking about 11 ounces of whiskey in rapid succession.

Police sources say the wrecked car's speedometer was found stuck at 196 kilometers per hour — 121 mph — a strong indication of its speed at impact.

Despite these damning reports, George Kiejman, a lawyer representing the elder Fayed, made it clear his aim is to establish the fault of the photographers in the case.

"There is a causality between the pursuit (by paparazzi) and the accident," he said.

Prosecutors had formally asked the judge to jail two of the photographers — Rat and Martinez — indicating they felt evidence against them was most serious. But the judge refused.



AP Photo

## Peace anniversary

President Fidel Ramos, center, releases a dove together with former Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari, left, and Senator Leticia Shahani during ceremonies yesterday marking the first anniversary of the peace agreement between the government and Misuari's Moro National Liberation Front.

# USG

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Desmond agreed the only function performed by PIA that will not be addressed is the representation at the Model United Nations Conference.

This event does not directly associate to USG's mission statement, she said.

Some senators did not see the overlapping of duties

as an appropriate reason to dissolve PIA.

"It compliments the duties and tasks of the other departments," said former PIA member and Town Senator Andy Nagypal. "The notion that the duties of PIA are overlapping and inefficient is dubious. The reasons that have been given to justify the elimination of PIA are unwarranted."

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