



**TAKING ACTION:** MP Fabian Hamilton has tabled an Early Day Motion

# Campaign to get justice for murdered Leeds United fans gets MPs' support

**BY PAUL ROBINSON**

A CAMPAIGN to win justice for murdered Leeds United fans Chris Loftus and Kevin Speight is gaining growing support at Westminster.

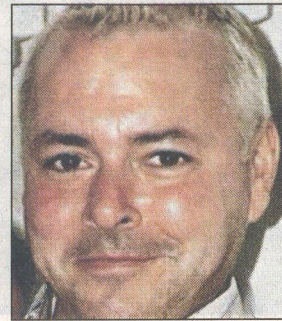
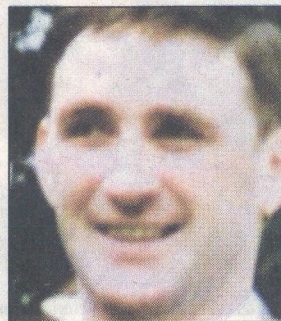
Fabian Hamilton, MP for Leeds North East, tabled an Early Day Motion (EDM) in the House of Commons in May urging the Government to put pressure on Turkey to sort out the controversial case.

The EDM had only been signed by 15 of Mr Hamilton's fellow MPs by the start of last month – but, since then, a further 29 have added their names to it.

## Victory

Today that surge in support was hailed as a victory for fan power, with many of the MPs having been contacted direct during a letter and email campaign mounted by users of United internet messageboard Wacoe.

Mr Hamilton said: "I was very disappointed by the initial response so to see what has happened in recent weeks is encouraging.



**MURDERED:** Leeds United fans Chris Loftus, left, and Kevin Speight

"The fans should be proud of their part in giving this fresh momentum."

Mr Loftus, 35, from Burmantofts, and Mr Speight, 40, from Farsley, were fatally stabbed in the Turkish city of Istanbul in April 2000, on the eve of a Uefa Cup tie between Leeds and local side Galatasaray.

Four Turkish men were found guilty in 2007 of involvement in the murders but were released pending appeals.

A district judge is thought to have made a ruling on the case in Istanbul

over the summer but details of what, if anything, was decided have yet to be made public.

Mr Hamilton has asked the newly-appointed Turkish ambassador to the UK to find out the full facts about the reported hearing as a matter of urgency.

Local MPs who have backed the EDM include Greg Mulholland (Leeds North West), Hilary Benn (Leeds Central), Stuart Andrew (Pudsey), Rachel Reeves (Leeds West), Simon Reeve (Dewsbury), Alec Shelbrooke (Elmet & Rothwell) and Jon Trickett (Hemsworth).