Sometime mi tink mi co-workah crazy
di way Kristeen woodeh gwaan jokey-jokey
den a nex time now a no-nonsense stance
di way she wine-dung di place laas krismus dance
di way she love fi taak bout conspirahcy

mi an Kristeen inna di canteen a taak
bout did det a black people inna custidy
how nat a cat mek meow ar a dyam daak
how nobuddy high-up inna society

chen Kristeen nit-up her brow
like seh a rhow shi agoh rhow
screw-up her face
like seh a trace shi agoh trace
hear her now;

yu tink a jus hem-high-five an James Ban
an police an solja owevah nawt highalan wan
wen it come to black people Winstan
some police inna Inglan got liesense fi kill
well notn Kristeen seh suprize mi still
but hear mi now;

whe yu mean Kristeen
a who tell yu dat
a mussi waan idiat
yu cyan prove dat
Kristeen kiss her teet
an shi cut mi wid her yeye
an shi seh yu waan proof

yu cyaa ask Clinton McCurbin bout him haxfيخىشان
an yu cyaa ask Joy Gardner bout her sufficaeshan
yu cyaa ask Colin Roach if him really shoot himself
an yu cyaa ask Vincent Graham if a him stab himself,
but yu can ask di Commishinah bout di liesense fi kill
awsk Sir Paul Condon
bout di liesense fi kill

yu cyaa ask di Douglas dem bout new style batan
an yu cyaa ask Tunay Hassan bout him det by niglect
yu cyaa ask Marlon Downes if him hav any regret
an yu cyaa ask El Gammal bout di misteri a him det

but yu can ask Dame Barbara bout di liesense fi kill
awsk di DPP
bout di liesense fi kill

yu cyaa ask Ibrahima bout di CS gas attack
an yu cyaa ask Missis Jarrett ow shi get her awt-attack
yu cyaa ask Oliver Price bout di grip roun him nek
an yu cyaa ask Steve Boyce bout him det by niglec
but yu can ask di PCA bout di liesense fi kill
awsk di ACPO bout di liesense fi kill

yu fi ask Maggi Tatcha bout di liesense fi kill
yu can ask Jan Mayja bout di liesense fi kill
yu fi ask Mykal Howad bout di liesense fi kill
an yu can ask Jak Straw bout di rule af law

yu fi ask Tony Blare
if him is aware ar if him care
bout di liesense fi kill
dat plenty police feel dem gat

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LIESENCE
FI KILL
by Linton Kwesi Johnson

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1. Died in police custody in 1987 whilst being restrained.
2. Died in chains in police custody in 1993 during deportation proceedings.
9. Dame Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions, 1992–8. Left her post early before what was seen as an unfavourable inquiry into the Crown Prosecution Service.
10. Ibrahima Say, died in police custody in 1996.
11. Cynthia Jamret, who died in a heart attack in 1985 as a result of a police raid on her home.
12. Died in police custody.