

Family attacks mob that urged suicidal office worker to leap

Sonia Elks

A man who was goaded into jumping to his death was identified yesterday as a married finance worker. Ian Lam, 42, died after he leapt from a multi-storey car park at a shopping centre in Telford, Shropshire, on Saturday afternoon.

Witnesses described how some onlookers shouted "Get on with it" and "Go on, jump" as police negotiators tried to talk down Mr Lam, a financial services worker, from the top of the car



Ian Lam: "A kind, gentle man who wouldn't hurt a fly"

park. Others are said to have shouted "How far can you bounce?" and took photographs.

Nearly 1,000 people have signed a petition calling for those involved to be prosecuted, while police have confirmed that they are looking into the behaviour of members of the crowd.

Yesterday, Mr Lam's wife and family issued a statement speaking of their deep sorrow at their "overwhelming" loss. They paid tribute to a "kind, caring

and loving young man". Several of Mr Lam's colleagues have expressed their shock and sadness on the petition, which says: "The family deserve this justice and the people of Telford want these people to be held accountable for their vile behaviour and complete lack of compassion."

Antonia Ireland, one of those who signed, posted a note, saying: "I worked with this gentle, kind man who wouldn't hurt a fly, and it's beyond belief that 'human beings' would treat anyone with such cruelty and lack of compassion. God bless you, Ian."

Another colleague, Melissa Rice, suggested that "horrible people" in the crowd might have changed the course of the incident and sealed the tragedy. "No one deserves to be treated in that way, especially someone in such a vulnerable position," she wrote.

Witness Chelsea Jones said "it has been replaying in my head since the incident", adding: "I think if it was not for those selfish people egging him on to jump, he could still be alive today."

West Mercia police have warned that those who urged Mr Lam to jump could be prosecuted and have told anyone with footage of the incident to delete it.

Mr Lam's death has also been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission.