

Kray twins

Ronnie and Reggie Kray

Reggie Kray, second left

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| Born | 24 October 1933 |
| | Haggerston , London, England |
| Died | Ronnie: 17 March 1995 (aged 61) |
| | Wexham Park Hospital , Slough , England |
| Occupation(s) | Reggie: 1 October 2000 (aged 66) |
| | Norwich , Norfolk, England |
| Organization | Gangsters, nightclub owners |
| Spouses | The Firm |
| | Reggie: Frances Shea (m. 1965; died 1967) |
| Relatives | Roberta Jones (m. 1997) ^{[1][2]} |
| | Ronnie: Elaine Mildener (m. 1985; div. 1989) ^[3] Kate Howard (m. 1989; div. 1994) ^[3] |

Ronald "Ronnie" Kray (24 October 1933 – 17 March 1995) and **Reginald "Reggie" Kray** (24 October 1933 – 1 October 2000), were [identical twin](#) brothers, [gangsters](#) and convicted criminals from [Haggerston](#). They led [organised crime](#) from [Bethnal Green](#) in the [East End](#) of London, from the late 1950s to 1967.

Their gang, "the Firm", committed [murder](#), [armed robbery](#), [arson](#), [protection rackets](#) and [assaults](#).

The Krays, who were [homosexual](#), were protected by two leading homosexuals in [Parliament](#): [Robert Boothby](#) (later Lord Boothby), a leading [Conservative](#) member, and [Tom Driberg](#), a leading [Labour Party](#) member.^[4] This was at a time when sex between men was still a criminal offence in the UK. The facts were printed in the *Sunday Mirror*.^[5]

Although no names were printed, the twins threatened investigating journalists. Boothby threatened to sue the newspaper with the help of [Labour Party](#) leader [Harold Wilson](#)'s solicitor, [Arnold Goodman](#). In the face of this, the *Sunday Mirror* backed down, sacking its editor, printing an apology and paying Boothby £40,000 in an out-of-court settlement.^[6]

Because of this, other newspapers were unwilling to expose the Krays' connections and criminal activities. Decades later, [Channel 4](#) established the truth of the allegations and released a documentary on the subject called *The Gangster and the Pervert Peer* (2009).^[7]

Eventually, [Scotland Yard](#) decided to arrest the Krays, hoping other witnesses would speak once the Krays were in custody. On 8 May 1968, the Krays and 15 other members of the Firm were arrested.^[8]

It was the longest murder hearing in the history of British criminal justice. Justice Melford Stevenson said of the sentences "I recommend [they] should not be less than thirty years".^{[9][10]} In March 1969, both were sentenced to [life imprisonment](#), with a non-parole period of 30 years for the murders. Their right hand man was Ray Linley, well known as the big 1

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