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Murder rap after TV confession

LONDON: A veteran British broadcaster was arrested on suspicion of murder yesterday after admitting he had smothered to death an ex-lover who had AIDS, police said.

Ray Gosling, 70, made the confession in a television programme this week about assisted suicide and ahead of the publication of new guidelines on assisted suicide next week.

He said he killed the unnamed man as he lay seriously ill in hospital "in the early period of AIDS" — likely to be during the 1980s.

A spokesman for Nottinghamshire Police in central England said officers "this morning

arrested a 70-year-old Nottingham man on suspicion of murder following comments on BBC's *Inside Out* programme on Monday evening".

Gosling's confession comes amid a fierce debate in Britain about so-called mercy killings and whether people with terminal illnesses should be allowed to commit assisted suicide.

New, fuller guidelines on when prosecutions in such cases should be brought will be published next week, the Crown Prosecution Service said.

In the programme, Gosling told of how he had taken his lover's life after they agreed on

a pact.

"In a hospital one hot afternoon, the doctor said: 'There's nothing we can do', and he was in terrible, terrible pain," he told viewers.

"I said to the doctor: 'Leave me just for a bit', and he went away.

"I picked up the pillow and smothered him until he was dead."

Gosling's lawyer Digby Johnson told reporters after visiting him at the police station where he is being held that the TV host was in "good spirits" but the investigation was still at a "early stage".

The law in this field has come into sharp focus after two recent cases of mothers

who killed their seriously ill children, one of whom was jailed and another who was not. — AFP



Ray Gosling says he smothered his gay lover with a pillow until he died