



Press Release

August 24, 2020. Calgary, AB

The OPP decision to not press charges against the guards who killed Soleiman Faqiri who was mentally-ill, fell victim to fatal discrimination with the justice Department.

Soleiman Faqiri, both mentally-ill, and Muslim, fell victim to fatal discrimination. On December 16th of 2016, Faqiri's family did not know that they would be receiving the news that Faqiri was no more. Having evidence of more than fifty fatal injuries, authorities have not arrested, charged, or held accountable those who viciously murdered Soleiman Faqiri and claim all physical trauma was due to Faqiri not cooperating when being placed into a jail cell. It is alarming and very much suspicious that one man (Faqiri), needed to be held by a total of six guards and all were unable to control Faqiri's resistance to the point where physical assault was involved.

John Thibeault, a former inmate who witnessed from across the scene says the guards "[kicked] his head" into the corner of the bed repetitively. Thibeault recalls that the guards were "punching him (Faqiri), kicking him, beating him, just whatever shots they could get in" before leaving Faqiri lifeless. Thibeault referred to the event as "horrible". Thibeault states that one of the guards had his knee placed on Faqiri's neck and upon noticing other inmates "freaking out" repetitively yelled out "stop resisting" when Faqiri "wasn't [actually] moving at all". Recently we have seen an almost identical occurrence in the US that caused an uproar for black rights after many believe the death of George Floyd to be a murder, as he too was not resisting but yet had an officer's knee placed on his neck up until his death.

Was it that Faqiri was a visible minority? Or was it that Faqiri's name made evident his religious identity? It is demanded that the guards be arrested, charged for murder as that is what they committed. To allow figures in law enforcement walk free with zero consequence forwards and proves racism not only exists in the Canadian justice system, but that it is also supported. It is demanded that Soleiman Faqiri and his family receive the justice they deserve.

For further comments and questions please contact:

Dr. Mukarram Zaidi, Canadian Muslim Research Think Tank,
587 890 8321, chairman@thinkforactions.com