



# Black Legal Action Centre

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## Statement of Solidarity and Condemnation of Police Brutality

Statement By:

THE BLACK LEGAL ACTION CENTRE (BLAC)

December 18, 2020

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of D’Andre Campbell and Soleiman Faqiri as we process the incredibly difficult, but unsurprising news that their killers will not be held accountable for egregious abuses of power. The experiences of both point to a disturbing trend of the mishandling of matters involving individuals struggling with mental health by police and other actors within the criminal justice system.

The report put forth by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) on December 3, 2020<sup>1</sup> underscored their decision to clear officers of any criminal responsibility on the killing of D’Andre Campbell. Decisions like this prove, over and over again, that the existing police oversight system is broken and an immediate and complete overhaul of these bodies are needed to restore confidence between the communities and law enforcement agencies.

These SIU decisions also point to a disturbing trend in Ontario’s policing, where it appears overwhelmingly more likely for police to be cleared of culpability in instances where deadly force is used or a Black person killed, than it is that they are punished. We know from reports that nearly all of the police officers disciplined in cases before disciplinary tribunals, over the span of a decade, were able to keep their jobs despite convictions for crimes.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “SIU Finds No Basis to Proceed with Criminal Charges in Relation to Shooting Death of D’Andre Campbell”. Siu.On.Ca, 2020, [https://www.siu.on.ca/en/news\\_template.php?nrid=6201](https://www.siu.on.ca/en/news_template.php?nrid=6201) Accessed 14 December 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Brockbank, N., 2020. Only 1% Of Public Complaints Against Toronto Cops Led To A Disciplinary Hearing In Past 5 Years | CBC News. [online] CBC. Available at: <<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/public-complaints-police-disciplinary-hearings-1.5778459>> [Accessed 15 December 2020].



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And as we hear more details on the circumstances around the death of Soleiman Faqiri<sup>3</sup>, it once again tragically demonstrated the failure and racism in the criminal justice system, and everyday danger of the existing white supremacist system for racialized communities and people experiencing mental health distress. We stand in solidarity with Mr. Faqiri's family to seek answers about the circumstances surrounding his death.

We join the families of D'Andre Campbell and Soleiman Faqiri to battle these latest grave injustices and [demand police accountability](#) and criminal justice overhaul. We demand and need justice for countless individuals who lose their lives to negligent and misguided police practices, and all other families who have been traumatized by Police violence. Until developments are made, the Black Legal Action Centre will continue in our efforts to advocate, litigate and educate with a view to playing our part towards ending Anti-Black Racism and police brutality while also protecting the Human Rights of all.

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<sup>3</sup> "Jail guards violated use-of-force policies in fatal restraint of Soleiman Faqiri, court documents suggest | CBC News". CBC, 2020, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/soleiman-faqiri-spit-hood-force-violated-policies-1.5836961>. Accessed 14 December 2020.