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BARRISTERS AT LAW

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## PRESS ADVISORY

### FAMILY OF SAMMY YATIM GREETES APPOINTMENT OF FRANK IACOBUCCI WITH CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

**August 30, 2013**

The Family of Sammy Yatim responded today to the appointment of Frank Iacobucci by Chief Bill Blair to lead the Toronto Police Service's review of use of force policies.

Dr. Sahar Bahadi, the mother of Sammy Yatim, commented: **"No family should have to lose a loved one this way. Sammy didn't have to die. Something went very wrong. I really hope that the Toronto Police Chief understands this, and that the review will save lives. It's too early to know whether this will be the case."**

Trial lawyer Julian Falconer, who acts for Dr. Sahar Bahadi and Sarah Yatim, stated, **"Frank Iacobucci has a proven track record as an honourable jurist and fair man. We look forward to understanding the details of this review process. We are cautiously optimistic that it will give a real voice to families and will proceed with real independence, transparency and accountability. Given the G20 experience, I do worry that this review will be used as a pretext to avoid fully cooperating with the Ombudsman's review. In the meantime, there is no reason to wait for the review before we implement full time mobile crisis units, partnerships of trained police negotiators and mental health workers, all over the city. There is no reason to spend money on a review before we provide proper de-escalation training for all frontline police officers. We already know that these things work. They save lives. It would be unforgivable if more lives are lost while we wait around for another inquiry to report its findings."**

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