



**PRESS ADVISORY
FORCILLO TRIAL VERDICT
JURY CONVICTS TORONTO POLICE OFFICER IN SAMMY YATIM SHOOTING**

January 25, 2016

A jury has found Police Constable James Forcillo guilty of attempted murder in relation to the shooting of Sammy Yatim on July 27, 2013. Sammy was shot eight times by Constable Forcillo while confined within a TTC streetcar and surrounded by numerous Toronto police officers. The jury rejected Constable Forcillo's testimony that Sammy presented a real threat to the officer at the time that he discharged his firearm a further six times while Sammy lay mortally wounded on the floor of the streetcar. The jury was not satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that Constable Forcillo was guilty of murder.

Sahar Bahadi, the mother of Sammy Yatim, commented: **"I am very thankful for what the jury did. But it will not bring my son back. My only hope is that no other family will have to go through what we have gone through. Sammy was a young man who had his whole future ahead of him. Because of what the police did, we lost him forever."**

Trial lawyer Julian Falconer, who acts for the Sahar Bahadi and Sarah Yatim in their civil lawsuit, stated, **"The jury's verdict is a condemnation not just of Constable Forcillo, but of the entire approach of the Toronto Police Service to the use of force. The Toronto Police training gives officers a blank cheque to use deadly force in circumstances that are frankly shocking. No right thinking member of the public would accept that Sammy represented a realistic threat to anyone after he had been shot and was lying helpless on the floor of the streetcar. Constable Forcillo testified that his training allowed him to do just this. We hope that this verdict sparks a rethink about how police in this City, and across the country, do their work. It's time for the Toronto Police Service to commit to fully implementing the recommendations that Justice Frank Iacobucci made. The police leadership has simply run out of excuses."**

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