

Yatim's dad 'relieved' by Forcillo verdict

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TORONTO - "Today is a shameful day."

That's how Julian Falconer, the lawyer for Sammy Yatim's mother, reacted after a jury found Const. James Forcillo guilty of attempted murder.

"I feel like a gerbil on a wheel for 25 years, acting on these cases," an exasperated Falconer said Monday outside the courthouse at 361 University Ave.

"Time after time, what I see are needless deaths when people who are mentally ill or emotionally disturbed occur, and we're told the same thing every time — 'I have to use my gun to end the threat.' ... It makes no sense."

Wearing dark sunglasses and standing beside Falconer, Sahar Bahadi solemnly read a statement, saying she would now like to be part of the discussion to change police training policies when dealing with people in crisis.

"Nothing in the world will compensate me for the loss of my son, nor will anything bring him back to me, but I would like, for the sake of this great country, for the police to remain a source of confidence, security and respect for all people," Yatim's mother said.

In his own statement, Bill Yatim, the teen's father, said he was "relieved" Forcillo was found guilty.

He described his son as being troubled on the night he was killed on an empty streetcar and wondered what would have happened if he had been able to connect with his son on the phone and if the police response had been different.

"There are no words to describe the pain I have endured as a father, losing my only son at the hands of a police officer," he said. "The murder trial of Const. Forcillo has been a taxing and emotional journey for me with many days where the evidence being presented was just unbearable ... This simply cannot happen again."

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