



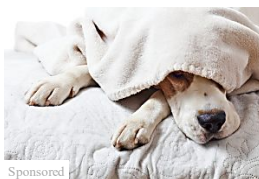
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July 28, 2016 4:32 am
Updated: July 28, 2016 11:32 am

Const. James Forcillo sentenced to 6 years in prison for shooting death of Sammy Yatim



By David Shum Web Producer
Global News

LIVE COVERAGE: Const. James Forcillo sentencing in shooting death of Sammy Yatim



A Toronto police officer convicted of attempted murder in the 2013 shooting death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim on an empty streetcar was sentenced to six years in prison on Thursday.

Const. James Forcillo was acquitted in January of second-degree murder, but found guilty of attempted murder for continuing to fire after the dying teen had fallen to the floor.

Justice Edward F. Then said in a Toronto courtroom that Forcillo's actions were "unjustified, unnecessary, unreasonable" and constituted "a high level of moral blame-worthiness."

The judge further said the officer had "ample opportunity" to engage with Yatim after the first three shots were fired.

The defence had been seeking a house arrest sentence, while the Crown had asked for the officer to spend eight to 10 years behind bars.

Prior to the ruling, Justice Then had earlier rejected a constitutional challenge to the mandatory minimum sentence against Forcillo.

"I have no choice but to sentence Const. Forcillo to at least the mandatory minimum 5 years," Then said.

Forcillo's lawyers had argued the mandatory minimum was never intended to apply to peace officers who legitimately carry a gun in order to protect society.

More to come.



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