



**-For Immediate Release-**

## **Ontario's Solicitor General refuses to respond to queries into Soleiman Faqiri's death during questioning in provincial legislature.**

*Jail guards at an Ontario jail violated use-of-force policies in restraint of mentally ill man but report into their actions has never been released nor has anyone been charged for his death*

(Toronto, May 14, 2021) Ontario's Solicitor General Sylvia Jones refused to answer questions from the Official Opposition yesterday regarding an investigation into the death of Soleiman Faqiri inside a provincial jail in 2016.

Gurratan Singh, the NDP critic of the Attorney General and Deputy Opposition House Leader, called on Jones to commit to making public a report into the actions of guards that led to the firing of two corrections officials.

"In December of 2016, Mr. Soleiman Faqiri died struggling to breathe as he lay on the ground of his jail cell in Lindsay as he was waiting for a mental health assessment," said Mr. Singh in the legislature this morning. "He was shackled and pepper-sprayed after guards placed a spit hood over his head. The details of this case are well known and some of the guards involved or in question admitted wrongdoing, but no charges have been laid.

"And the Conservative government continues to sit on the Correctional Services Oversight and Investigations Report regarding Mr. Faqiri's death. Will the Solicitor General do the right thing

and make this report public and take a step closer towards justice for Mr. Faqiri's family?" asked Singh.

Jones refused to answer the question directly and instead spoke in general terms about government investments in training and staffing in Ontario's jails.

"The Solicitor General's response is a further slap in the face to our family," said Yusuf Faqiri, the eldest brother of Soleiman Faqiri and the spokesperson for the family.

"Here was an opportunity for the government to commit to transparency in the tragic death of my brother inside that jail cell. Not only do we have a right to know what went wrong but all Ontarians deserve to understand why no one has ever been fully held accountable for the death of a man suffering from mental health issues in the care of the government that should have protected him. We are all left wondering what the government is hiding."

A coroner's inquest is set to take place sometime in the coming year. A civil suit against the government is ongoing.

Video of yesterday's exchange in the legislature can be found here;

[Solicitor General refuses to respond to queries into Soleiman Faqiri's death](#)

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