

Arab Canadian Lawyers Association

June 4, 2020 - Toronto, Ontario

The Arab Canadian Lawyers Association (ACLA) stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and the movements calling for justice and an end to racist police violence.

ACLA joins movements around the world and North America in calling for justice for George Floyd, a 46-year old Black man killed by police in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We call for an end to anti-Blackness and police brutality, in the United States, in Canada, and everywhere. Instead of police budgets that grow year after year, we call for an investment in communities to foster racial, social and economic justice and an end to the criminalization of poverty and disabilities. Moreover, as an organization of Arab-Canadians, we cannot ignore that racism and anti-Blackness is endemic to our Arab communities and Canada generally.

Non-Black Arabs need to do better. It is reported that the store whose employee called the police on George Floyd is owned by a non-Black Arab-American. We are dismayed that a member of the Arab-American community played a part in events that led to George Floyd's killing.

ACLA recognizes that it is not enough to simply call for an end to racist police violence. We must resist complicity in racist structures, and recognize that the police do not bring safety to Black communities. We must divest ourselves of harmful institutions. We must join the fight for resources directed to healthier and equitable communities. We must have difficult conversations with family, friends, colleagues and actively confront racism. ACLA is committed to the necessary work of ending anti-Blackness in our own communities.

Systemic racism, anti-Indigenous violence, anti-Blackness, and police violence continue to claim lives in Canada, despite the numerous reports, investigations, inquests and recommendations from other racially motivated killings. In just the last few months, four Black and Indigenous young people have died after interactions with police.

We call for justice for D'Andre Campbell, 26, shot and killed inside of his home by police in Brampton; for Eishia Husdon, 16, shot and killed by Winnipeg police; Jason Collins, 36, shot and killed by police at his home in Winnipeg; and for Regis Korchinski-Paquet, 29, who died under suspicious circumstances after an interaction with Toronto police.

Rest in power.
We fight for you.