



Toronto Police Association Calls for Immediate Scrutiny of our Bail System Amidst the release of Neelkanth Shah - Charged with Robbing a Bank and Attempted Murder of a Police Officer

(TORONTO, ONTARIO, April 10, 2021) The Toronto Police Association (“TPA”) is calling for the urgent need for a fulsome review of how our bail laws are being applied and interpreted. The release of Neelkanth Shah – charged with the attempted murder of a police officer – can only be characterized as eroding public confidence in the administration of justice.

The Toronto Police Association represents approximately 8,000 full-time and part-time uniform and civilian members of the Toronto Police Service.

On March 26, 2021, two Toronto police officers responded to a Mimico bank robbery involving two masked men armed with knives. During a violent struggle to arrest the suspects, one officer was stabbed in the abdomen, and the other suffered lacerations to both hands. Both officers were transported to a hospital for treatment.

On April 9th, 18-year-old Neelkanth Shah was released on bail. Shah is charged with the attempted murder of a Toronto Police officer, aggravated assault, four counts of robbery, robbery with an offensive weapon and five counts of disguise with intent. The second man, Nathaniel Mohabir, was released on bail less than 24-hours after the violent robbery. Mohabir was charged with robbery with an offensive weapon, disguise with intent and assault with intent to resist arrest.

With an unwavering dedication, Toronto Police officers remain committed to upholding the safety of Toronto’s residents on a daily basis, often under the most dangerous and life threatening of circumstances. The release of Neelkanth Shah and Nathaniel Mohabir not only erodes public confidence in Canada’s judicial system but is an affront to the heroic efforts of the men and women who come to work each day and often put their safety on the line to protect others.

“This case, and so many before it, set the stage for what is urgently needed – a hard look at whether public confidence remains in the administration of justice with respect to our bail laws,” said Jon Reid, President of the Toronto Police Association. “We are incredibly proud of our members’ heroism and professionalism that they demonstrated that day and we remain committed to advocating on issues of public safety and legislation affecting our members and the public. We urge policy and decision makers to take a hard look at these issues and implement change. If our system is designed to grant bail in these circumstances, we must question that system.”

Progress is already underway as The Toronto Police Association has taken steps with the Canadian Police Association to bring this issue to the top of the agenda of the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

The Toronto Police Association represents approximately 8,000 full-time and part-time uniform and civilian members of the Toronto Police Service. Our members include frontline police officers, criminal investigators, community response officers, parking enforcement officers, communications operators, court officers, civilian specialists and support staff.

Please visit our website for more information.

<https://www.tpa.ca>

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