



COUNCIL OF
ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES
OF ONTARIO

September 1, 2021

Dear Faqiri Family,

We - The Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario (CEFOSO) the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) - stand with you in mourning the death of your beloved family member, Soleiman, as his death is recognized by Ontario's chief forensic pathologist as having been caused by the injuries he sustained from correctional officers while at the Central East Correctional Facility. We add our names to the chorus of organizations and individuals who stand with you in this time of pain.

We continue to be outraged at the violence experienced by incarcerated people, many of whom suffer from mental illness. So many families with loved ones inside prison experience feelings of powerlessness – powerlessness in their inability to have their concerns and the humanity of their loved ones acknowledged and respected. When a prisoner experiences egregious violence and - in the case of Soleiman, egregious harm leading to death - we have seen time and time again that the carceral system is not interested nor is it equipped to take accountability for the harm caused. In the case of Soleiman's death, we saw the failing of multiple different systems that were (ostensibly) designed to keep him and the public safe.

As a result, families are left having to fight for justice – while grieving. This pursuit for accountability is work that should be embedded within any system that claims to enact 'justice'. Not every family is able to do what you have done to seek accountability for your loved one, and no family should have to. That being said, we are in your debt for all of the awareness raising you have undertaken over the last five years.

As you know all too well, prisons cannot and do not keep us safe nor are they places of treatment or healing. Soleiman should never have been incarcerated and neither should anyone with mental illness. We continue to call for responses to mental health crises that are not rooted in control and punishment, but compassion and care.

We remain with you in your ongoing journey toward the truth.

In solidarity,

Emilie Coyle on behalf of CAEFS

Cory Roslyn on behalf of CEFOSO