



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEDIA RELEASE

A Sunday Express report points to the existence of a video recording of the initial arrest of Andrew Morris. It describes the brutal interrogation of Mr. Morris by heavily armed members of SORT who kicked him over his head and body while he lay on the ground, with one officer striking him on his back with a flat object.

An autopsy report prepared by Prof. Hubert Daisley, the Express also reported, records that "there were multiple injuries of blunt force trauma covering most of the anterior chest wall, the abdomen and posterior chest/back, both upper limbs and lower limbs." Prof. Daisley is said to have concluded that Mr. Morris died "from severe blunt force trauma to his chest, abdomen, limbs and skull", and that the injuries sustained to his skull were fatal.

These reports put into question the accuracy of the explanation given by the police for Mr. Morris' death in police custody, that he fell off a chair, and give rise to the obvious need for the institution of a prompt, thorough and independent criminal investigation into the possible homicide of Mr. Morris.

These reports also give rise to concern over the circumstances in which Joel Balcon met his death in police custody.

The Association has noted the involvement of foreign police personnel in the recently concluded investigation into the DSS fiasco. Seeking outside help in those circumstances was no doubt appropriate given the alleged involvement of police officers in the scheme.

The circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Morris also call for outside, regional assistance in order that any concerns of a cover up may be avoided.

The Association calls upon the Minister of National Security and the Director of Public Prosecutions to do all within the remit of their respective offices to ensure that a thorough and independent investigation is promptly carried out into the deaths of Mr. Morris and Mr. Balcon.

14th February 2021

Shankar Bidaisee

Secretary of the

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