

**OPEN LETTER OF CONCERN regarding the  
TREATMENT OF THE DALDE FAMILY by the RCMP after the DEATH OF A FAMILY MEMBER**

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Mr. William J.S. Elliott , Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and;  
Mr. Gary Bass , Deputy Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Pacific Region  
RCMP Headquarters Bldg. , 1200 Vanier Parkway, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0R2

Dear Sirs,

We, the undersigned, express our grave concern regarding the Richmond Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) treatment of Cezar Dalde, Harlyn Dalde, and Cehar Dalde on the night of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 when Charle Dalde, son of Cezar and Harlyn, and brother of Cehar, was fatally stabbed:

- On the night of the attack Harlyn received a phone call from Richmond Hospital advising the family of Charle's critical condition.
- Minutes later, while frantically gathering his family, Harlyn received a phone call from the RCMP with the instructions; "Get out of your unit without weapons. The police are waiting for you in the hallway."
- When leaving their apartment the family was confronted in the hallway outside of their door by four RCMP officers, three with handguns drawn and one blocking the family's way. When Cezar asked the officers what was going on the family was told to step forward and follow instructions. Cezar stated that they would not resist, and again asked what was going on, but received no answer. The family was then instructed to kneel, after which they were pushed to the floor and handcuffed. Harlyn, a mother of two, requested that her handcuffs be repositioned as they were aggravating her injured shoulder, but was ignored.
- Three RCMP officers then raided their apartment without a warrant.
- After 15 minutes, the Daldes were released without explanation.
- Upon arrival at the hospital the Daldes were met by a social worker and a doctor and were told of Charle's death. Further, they were told that the RCMP had barred the family from seeing Charle's body and identifying him as the victim.

A few days later the RCMP sent a Filipino-Canadian plainclothes officer from another Lower-Mainland detachment to the Dalde family home to make a private apology. The Daldes felt this was a token and insincere attempt to placate the family, and was made only after the family went public about their complaints of RCMP mishandling.

As the undersigned, the experience of the Dalde family raises some serious questions about the RCMP's actions, which include:

- Why did the RCMP assume that the Dalde family were criminals and were in possession of weapons?
- Why did the RCMP forcibly restrain the family?
- Why did the RCMP search their apartment without explanation or warrant?
- Why did the RCMP deny their request to identify the victim?

We are concerned that the Dalde family's experience is a manifestation of the systemic racism and racial profiling within the Canadian political and legal systems, in this case the RCMP. As evidence of this phenomenon it is noted that Statistics Canada reports that 81% of visible minorities who felt they had experienced discrimination believed that it was because of their race or ethnic origin. Several field studies in Canada have uncovered evidence that some minority groups, especially black youth, are far more likely to report "involuntary police contact." Statistics from 1997-98 found that black people were stopped and searched at a rate of 142 per 1,000, while whites were stopped and searched at a rate of just 19 per 1,000.

**In support of the Dalde family, we call on you to immediately do the following:**

- **Issue a full and unconditional public apology to the Dalde family for the RCMP's actions on the night of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and thereafter.**
- **Clearly outline the RCMP's standard operating procedures in situations similar to those of the Dalde family on the night of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**
- **Publicly declare the RCMP's anti-racism and anti-racial profiling policy and officer training in order to be held accountable, transparent, and respectful of the rights of all citizens regardless of racial background.**

Sincerely, The Undersigned

Name	Mailing Address	Postal Code, City	Email	Signature