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*BOARD CERTIFIED CIVIL TRIAL LAWYER

**PRESS CONFERENCE
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
ATTORNEY SANFORD RUBENSTEIN: (917) 922-9619**

TOPIC: Filing on February 20, 2020 of a Notice of Claim for Ten Million Dollars in damages for the wrongful death on January 15, 2020 of Mubarak Soulemane against the State of Connecticut, The Connecticut State Police, The City of West Haven and the West Haven Police Department

DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2020

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Law Offices of Miller & Rosnick
1087 Broad Street
1st flr.
Bridgeport, CT 06604

PRESENT: Mother of Mubarak Soulemane, Omo Klusum Mohammed,
Attorney Sanford Rubenstein, New York Civil Rights Counsel, for the
family of Mubarak Soulemane
Attorney Mark Arons, Partner, Law Firm of Miller & Rosnick, Connecticut
Counsel for the family of Mubarak Soulemane
Hawk Newsome, Chairman - Black Lives Matter Greater New York
Rev. Kevin McCall, Civil Rights Leader

ATTORNEY SANFORD RUBENSTEIN STATES:

The filing of these notice of claims is the first step required to file a civil lawsuit for the wrongful death of Mubarak Soulemane.

What is most important to the family of Mubarak Soulemane, is to get justice for his wrongful death. The family of Mubarak Soulemane is calling on the office of the Connecticut State's Attorney to convene a grand jury in the matter with regard to the criminal culpability of Connecticut State Trooper Brian North.

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Draft – to be filed 2/20/20

Hand Delivered

February 19, 2020 *ALSO ADMITTED IN MA
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Claims Commissioner Christy Scott

Office of the Claims Commissioner
450 Columbus Boulevard - Suite 203
Hartford, CT 06103

Pursuant to Connecticut general statutes section 4 – 147, this is a notice of claim to the State of Connecticut, advising that a lawsuit is being contemplated based upon the circumstances as set forth below.

Decedent: Mubarak Soulemene, of 189 Blatchley Avenue, New Haven, CT

Claimant: Omo Klusum Mohammed, Proposed Administrator of the Estate of Mubarak Soulemene, 189 Blatchley Avenue, New Haven, CT

Date and Time: 1/15/20 at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Location: On or near the exit 43 offramp of I-95 northbound, in West Haven, CT

Attorney for claimant:
Mark D Arons
Miller Rosnick D'Amico, 1087 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Description of occurrence:

Mubarak Soulemene was operating a car in West Haven after a lengthy police chase, which began in Norwalk. The vehicle is stopped, surrounded by police, and rendered immovable and not dangerous. A West Haven police officer repeatedly strikes the passenger side window of the vehicle operated by Mubarak Soulemene until it breaks. Thereafter, Connecticut State Trooper Brian North fired approximately seven rounds at Mubarak Soulemene through the closed driver side window, causing his death. Trooper Joshua Jackson was a

participant, as well as other officers whose identity is as yet unknown.

The West Haven police officer failed to take reasonable and appropriate action to prevent the death of Mubarak Soulemane, and participated in the events that led to his death. The officer did not act as a reasonably prudent police officer would or should act under the circumstances.

The State Trooper, acting within the scope or under the color of state or local law, violated Connecticut general statutes section 53a -22, unreasonable use of force; 42 USC Sections 1983, 1988, acting in his personal or individual capacity; the suspect did not pose any immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and he was not actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight; there was an official policy or custom within the State Police and Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection that caused Mr. Soulemane to be subjected to a denial of constitutional rights; failure to implement guidelines and procedures to prevent the use of deadly force in such circumstances; excessive force was tolerated; violation of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution; the acts of the Trooper were reckless, intentional, malicious and/or intentionally excessive; inadequate training of police officers amounts to deliberate indifference or reckless disregard for the consequences. Trooper Joshua Jackson, who was present and participated, failed to take appropriate and reasonable measures to prevent the death of Mr. Soulemane. There existed a policy or custom that resulted in the death of the decedent.

Claimant intends to pursue a claim for wrongful death, pursuant to CGS Section 52-555.

In addition, claims will be made for negligence, emotional distress, negligent and intentional infliction of emotional distress, assault and battery.

In addition, the following claims will be made against Department of Emergency Services and public Protection and Conn. State Police employees, Troopers and supervisors, including Commissioner James Rovella, Colonel Stavros Mellekas and Lt. Colonel David Montini:

- a. failing to properly train and supervise State Police Department Supervisors;
- b. failing to properly train and supervise Troopers;
- c. failing to properly enact and enforce rules, regulations and policies which would have prevented Mr. Soulemane's death;
- d. failing to properly evaluate and assign Troopers in light of previous incidents;
- e. failing to provide proper, non-lethal equipment to Troopers;
- f. failing to use proper, non-lethal equipment and techniques while attempting to detain and arrest Mr. Soulemane;

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- i. failing to properly supervise Troopers and police on the scene prior to and during the events described above;
- j. improperly discharging a firearm and shooting Mr. Soulemane

Amount requested: Ten Million (\$10,000,000) Dollars

The claimant hereby requests permission to sue the State of Connecticut and those individuals and entities associated with the above described event that resulted in the death of Mubarak Soulemane.

The claimant requests an extension of time to amend this Notice, or refile this Notice, once the Estate is opened and the Administrator is appointed by the Probate Court.

Dated at Bridgeport, CT this 19th day of February, 2020.

The Claimant,



By Mark D. Arons

Miller, Rosnick, D'Amico, August & Butler, PC
Attorney for Omo Klusum Mohammed, Proposed
Administrator of the Estate of Mubarak Soulemane

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Draft- to be hand delivered 2/20/20

Hand Delivered

*ALSO ADMITTED IN MA
**ALSO ADMITTED IN NY
*BOARD CERTIFIED CIVIL TRIAL LAWYER

February 19, 2020

Clerk
City of West Haven
City Hall
355 Main Street, 1st Fl
West Haven, CT 06516

Dear Sir/Madam:

In accordance with Sections 7-465, 7-101a, and 52-557n of the Conn. General Statutes, notice of intention to commence an action based upon the following claim is hereby filed:

Claimant: Omo Klusum Mohammed, Proposed Administrator of the Estate of Mubarak Soulemane, 189 Blatchley Avenue, New Haven, CT

Decedent: Mubarak Soulemane, of 189 Blatchley Avenue, New Haven, CT

Date and Time: 1/15/20 at approximately 5 p.m.

Location: On or near the exit 43 offramp of I-95 northbound, in West Haven, CT

Description of occurrence:

Mubarak Soulemane was operating a car in West Haven after a lengthy police chase, which began in Norwalk. The vehicle is stopped, surrounded by police, and rendered immovable and not dangerous. A West Haven police officer repeatedly strikes the passenger side window of the vehicle operated by Mubarak Soulemane until it breaks. Thereafter, Connecticut State Trooper Brian North fired approximately seven rounds at Mubarak Soulemane through the closed driver side window, causing his death. Trooper Joshua Jackson was a participant, as well as other officers whose identity is as yet unknown. The West Haven police officer failed to take reasonable and appropriate action to prevent the death of Mubarak Soulemane, and participated in the events that led

to his death. The officer did not act as a reasonably prudent police officer would or should act under the circumstances.

The West Haven police officer, acting within the scope or under the color of state or local law, violated Connecticut General Statutes Section 53a-22, unreasonable use of force; 42 USC Sections 1983, 1988, acting in his personal or individual capacity, the suspect did not pose any immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and he was not actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight; there was an official policy or custom within the West Haven Police Department that caused Mr. Soulemane to be subjected to a denial of constitutional rights; failure to implement guidelines and procedures to prevent the use of deadly force in such circumstances; excessive force was tolerated; violation of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution; the acts of the West Haven police officer were reckless, intentional, malicious and/or intentionally excessive; inadequate training of police officers amounts to deliberate indifference or reckless disregard for the consequences.

There existed a policy or custom that resulted in the death of the decedent.

Claimant intends to pursue a claim for wrongful death, pursuant to CGS Section 52-555.

In addition, claims will be made for negligence, emotional distress, negligent and intentional infliction of emotional distress, assault and battery.

In addition, the following claims will be made City police department personnel, officers and supervisors, including Chief John Karajanis:

- a. failing to properly train Police Department Supervisors, including Chief John Karajanis;
- b. failing to properly train Police officers;
- c. failing to properly enact and enforce rules, regulations and policies which would have prevented Mr. Soulemane's death;
- d. failing to properly evaluate and assign officers in light of previous incidents;
- e. failing to provide proper, working and functional non-lethal equipment to Police Department officers;
- f. failing to use proper, functioning non-lethal equipment and techniques while attempting to detain and arrest Mr. Soulemane;
- h. failing to use proper, non-lethal methods when approaching, attempting to question, and attempting to detain and arrest Mr. Soulemane;

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- i. failing to properly supervise police officers on the scene prior to and during the events described above;
- j. improperly discharging a firearm and shooting Mr. Soulemane

Dated at Bridgeport, CT this 19th day of February, 2020.



Mark D. Arons
Miller, Rosnick, D'Amico, August & Butler, PC
Attorney for Omo Klusum Mohammed, Proposed
Administrator of the Estate of Mubarak Soulemane

LIVE

Health officials in Nebraska give an update on evacuees from a cruise ship that was quarantined in Japan

Family of Connecticut man fatally shot by state police demands trooper's prosecution

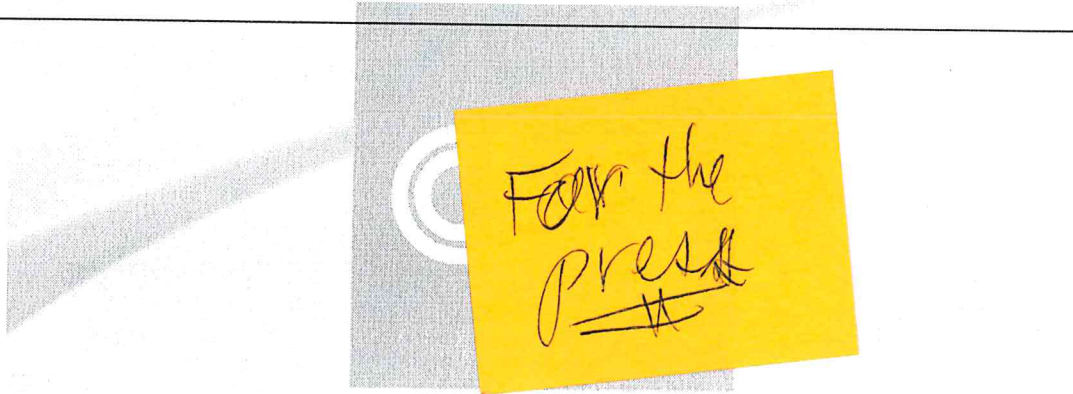
By Ray Sanchez and Mirna Alsharif, CNN

🕒 Updated 11:25 AM ET, Sat January 25, 2020

Police trooper fatally shoots teen. His family wants officer charged.
CNN

CNN US

• LIVE TV



Police trooper fatally shoots teen. His family wants officer charged. 02:10

(CNN) — The family of a Connecticut man fatally shot by a state trooper is calling for the officer to be fired and criminally prosecuted.

Mubarak Soulemane, 19, was shot and killed January 15 after a reported carjacking and high-speed chase that ended near Interstate 95 in West Haven, according to the Connecticut State Police.

Family and friends of the young man, who say he'd been diagnosed with schizophrenia, held a protest this week following the state police's release of video of the shooting from the body cameras and the in-car cameras of officers involved in the incident.

Police said a white Hyundai was carjacked in Norwalk by Soulemane armed with a knife. He led police on a high-speed chase on I-95 into New Haven, police said. He struck two cruisers and a civilian vehicle before he was boxed in by troopers shortly after exiting the interstate, according to police.

Police camera footage shows a trooper breaking the passenger side window while other officers shout at the driver to exit the car. An attempt to use a stun gun on Soulemane proved "ineffective," police said in a statement.

"When the driver displayed a weapon (later determined to be a knife), a Trooper on scene discharged his assigned duty pistol, striking the driver," the statement said.

The trooper, identified as Brian North, fired about seven shots through the window at Soulemane in the driver's seat, according to the footage.

"Drop the knife!" a trooper is heard shouting. "It's out of his hands. It's on his lap."

North, a state police veteran of 4½ years, has been placed on administrative assignment pending an investigation, the statement said. He was the only officer who fired his weapon.

It's unclear whether North, who has not been charged with a crime, has an attorney. He did not respond to calls seeking comment.

Mubarak Soulemane died of his wounds at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Mother says Soulemane had schizophrenia

Soulemane's mother, Omo Klusum Mohammed, told CNN Friday that her son was diagnosed with schizophrenia four years ago. She believes he stopped taking his medication while she was away in Ghana, she said.

"They should have used a proper procedure to stop him," Mohammed said. "They're telling him to get out of the car, but the car is blocked, how can he get out? The cop shot him seven times, as if he was an animal. This is murder. They murdered my son."

Soulemane, a New Haven resident, died at Yale-New Haven Hospital, police said.

The Middlesex State's Attorney's office and the state Division of Criminal Justice are investigating the incident.

When asked about state police reports that her son was armed with a knife, Mohammed said she has to see it to believe it.

"They have to prove it to us if they say he had a knife," said Mohammed. "Still if he had a knife and he was in the car, then he is not a risk."

Soulemane's family was joined by friends and clergy members during a protest Tuesday. The family met with the head of the state Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, according to CNN affiliate WFSB.

"Our Mubarak was someone who could light up the room with his genuine smile and open heart," Soulemane's sister, Mariyann, said in a statement, according to WFSB.

"His light was craved by many because he was a respectable, thoughtful and kind human being. Mubarak was the kind of person who would provide shelter for a friend because they had no other place to stay."

His mother said the family wants the trooper who killed her son to be fired and prosecuted for murder.

"I'm waiting for justice, justice for Mubarak," his mother said. "Whoever committed this crime has to go to jail."

She said a memorial service would be held Friday night at Notre Dame High School in West Haven, which her son attended. His funeral is Sunday.

Mohammed said she had been in Ghana for four months when one of her sons called her last week.

"He was screaming, yelling and crying. I told him, 'What is it?'" she said. "He said, 'The police shot Mubarak, mommy.'"

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Iain Teen's Family Seeks Answers

by THOMAS BREEN | Jan 17, 2020 1:59 pm

(39) Comments | Commenting has been closed | E-mail the Author

Posted to: Legal Writes, Newhallville

State police shot to death a 19-year-old Fair Havener who was schizophrenic, was a second-year student at Gateway Community College, and loved playing basketball and lacrosse.

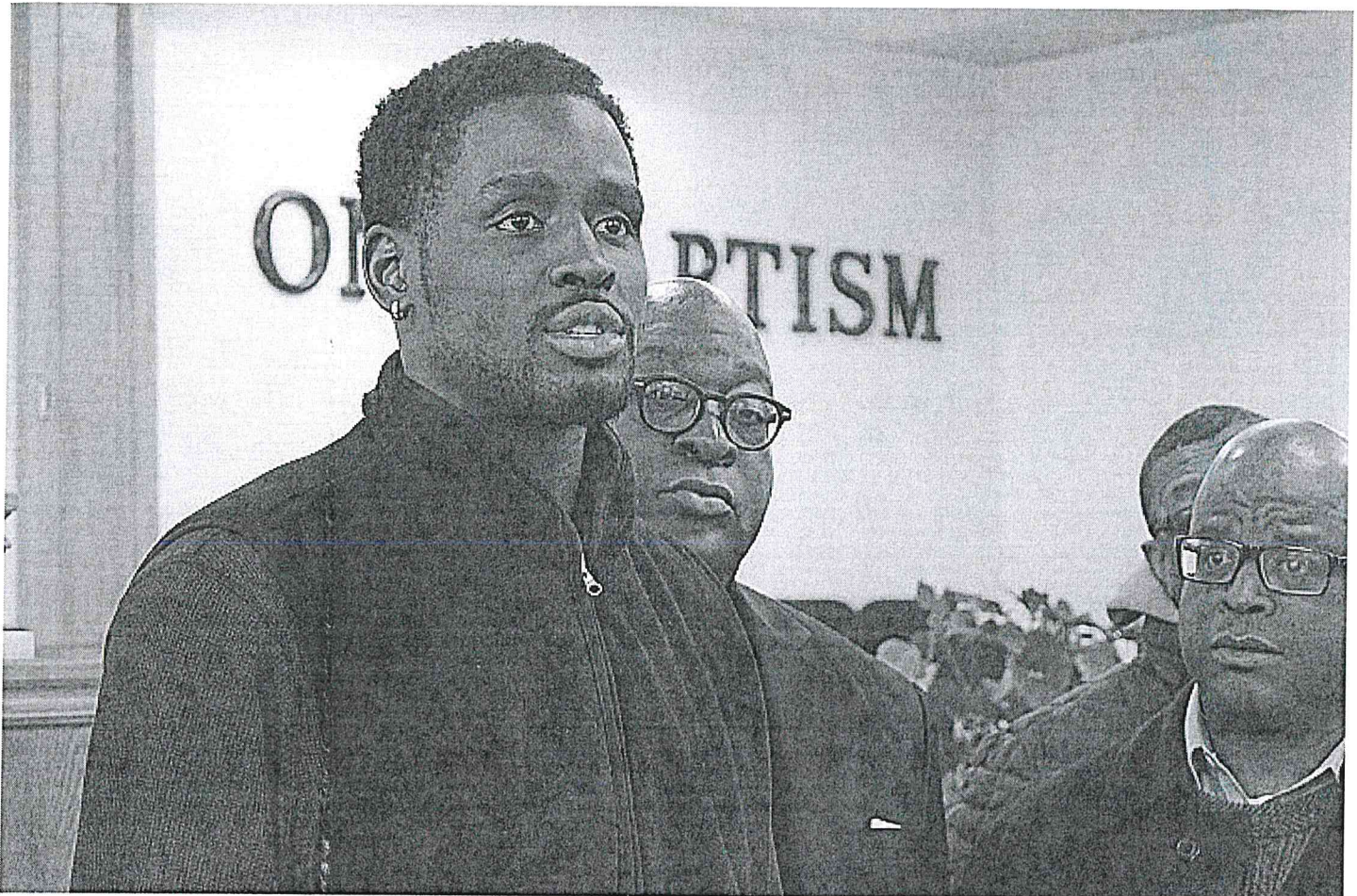
The brother and uncle of Mubarak Soulemane painted that picture Friday amid calls for a federal probe.

Hours later, state police released body cam and dash cam footage from the car chase and shooting—revealing a state trooper firing a handful of shots at Soulemane through a closed driver-side window.

The brother and uncle of the officer-involved shooting victim, Mubarak Soulemane, painted that picture of their suddenly gone family member Friday morning at a press conference convened by Rev. Boise Kimber and a half-dozen fellow local clergy at the First Calvary Baptist Church on Dixwell Avenue in Newhallville.

Soulemane was shot and killed Wednesday in West Haven after his alleged involvement in a car theft in Norwalk led to a local and state police chase. One state police trooper has been placed on administrative assignment after the fatal shooting.

His case has raised questions about why state police conducted a high-space chase that Norwalk



CT STATE POLICE VIDEO / THOMAS BREEN PHOTO

Saeed Soulemane speaks out Friday. Above: body cam and dash cam footage from the chase and shooting.

police had called off; and whether they needed to shoot when dealing with a mentally ill man who allegedly had a knife.

Update: State police released on Friday dash cam and body cam video and audio from the highway chase and shooting. Click on the video at the top of the article to watch. The shooting takes place at the 1:02:45 mark of the video.

Two state troopers can be seen rushing up to Soulemane's car with their guns drawn. One fires six or seven shots through the closed driver-side window roughly 30 seconds later. That trooper then removes an object from the car and places it on the car's hood.

Saeed Soulemane, 25, described his late brother Friday as "very outgoing" and "very loving."

"He wants to put a smile on everyone's face," he said at a press conference convened at First Calvary Baptist Church on Dixwell Avenue.

Saeed Soulemane said Mubarak (whom most reports so far have misidentified as having the first name, not the last name, Soulemane) was the youngest of five siblings. He had recently graduated from Notre Dame High School in Fairfield, and was a second-year student at Gateway Community College who aspired to attend Roger Williams University in Rhode Island.

"He was a really bright student," Saeed said. "He had his ups and downs. But he managed to pull through Notre Dame with a 3.5 GPA."



Clergy and family members at First Calvary Baptist Church press conference.

"My brother never even got to experience that college experience," he said.

"He's not violent," added Saeed's maternal uncle, Tahir Mohammad, who said he came up to New Haven from his home in New York after he found out about his nephew's death. He said his sister, Mubarak and Saeed's mother, is currently on her way back to New Haven from Ghana.

"Mubarak has no criminal record," Mohammad said. "He's never been violent to anyone outside the house and the home."

A review of the state's online judicial database showed that Mubarak Soulemame no past criminal convictions. He does have two pending criminal cases, according to the judicial database. One is for not obeying a stop sign and for driving with a suspended license. In the second case the charges have been statutorily sealed and are not visible for public view.

"I'll Never Forget You"

Saeed and Mohammad's description of Mubarak rang true with a public Facebook post made Thursday by one of Mubarak's former teachers at Notre Dame High School, Jessica Mazal.

"This was one of my very first students," she wrote. "He had the brightest smile and a beautiful but wounded heart. When they tell you he was a criminal, or just another black boy, remember he came from a broken family and had it harder than most. When they tell you he was a thug, remember he was a great lacrosse and basketball player. When they tell you that cops have to "defend themselves" remember he didn't have a gun. Like usual. Another young black boy killed by cops who can't do their job well. And if this angers you, please delete me. I'm angry too.

"Mubi, I'm so happy I taught you. I'm so happy you challenged me as a teacher. I'm happy that when I disciplined you, you apologized and treated me with kindness. I'm grateful you always asked me how I was doing, always smiled at me in the hallway, and always said hello. I'm sorry the world didn't do justice by you.

"I'm sorry you didn't always have the love and support you deserved. I'll never forget you, and I promise that now that this has hit so close to home, I'll NEVER shut my mouth in the face of injustice.

Mubarak Soulemane.

FACEBOOK

"America. Stop killing black and brown men."

"He Never Came Back"

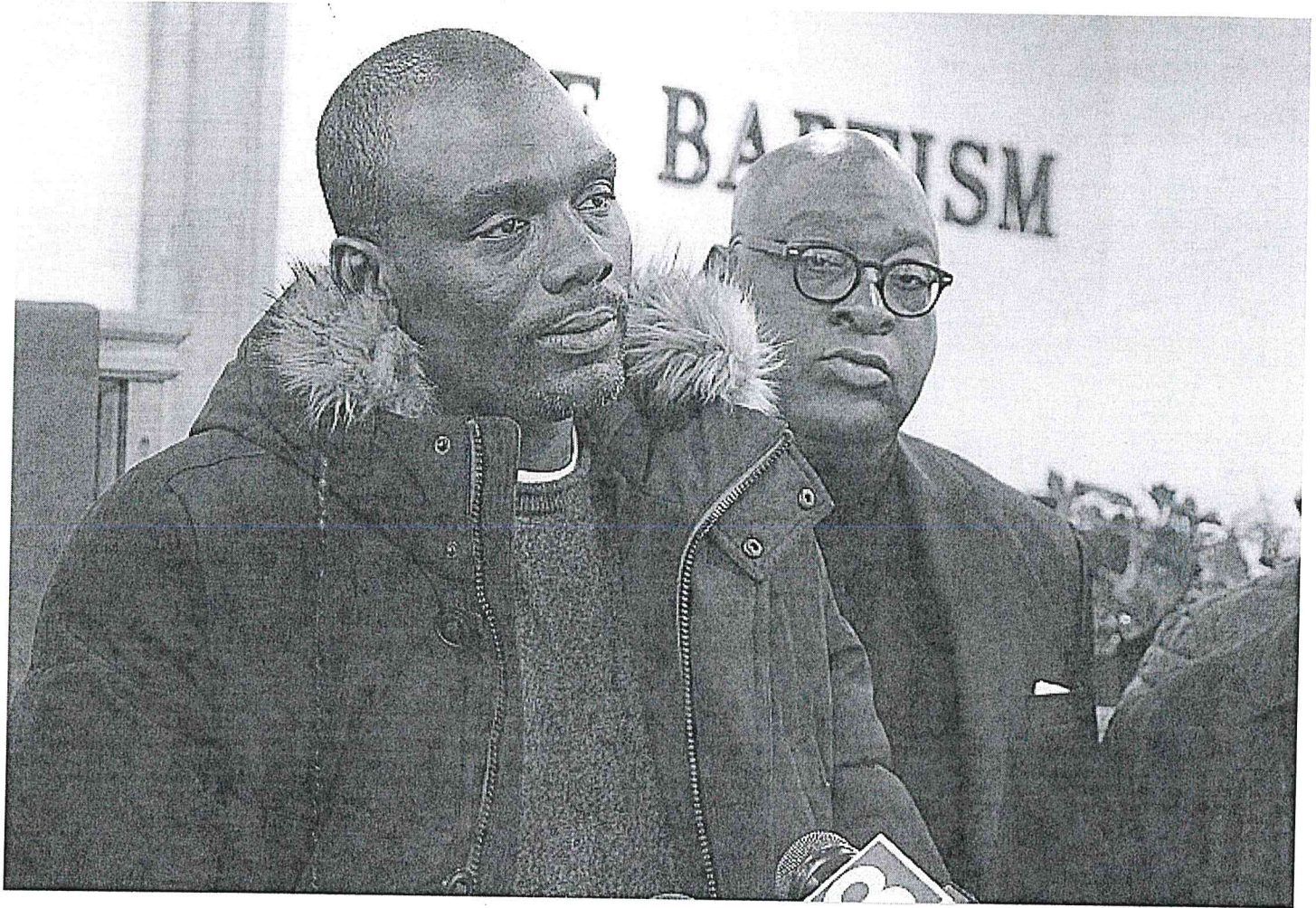
Saeed Soulemane said that he spoke with the New Haven police earlier this week about his brother. A New Haven police officer spoke on the phone with Mubarak, a day before his brother state troopers shot and killed him.

Saeed said that his brother left their house on Blatchley Avenue at around 3 p.m. Tuesday.

"I was really concerned," he said. "I was calling him, telling him to come back to the house. He never came back."

He said he called the city police to let him know that his brother had gone missing, and that a local officer came to his house Wednesday morning to ask about Mubarak.

Saeed said he told the officer that Mubarak has schizophrenia. He said that officer went back to his car, called Mubarak, and that the officer and Mubarak spoke briefly. He said the officer told Mubarak



Mubarak's uncle, Tahir Mohammad.

that his brother, Saeed, was concerned about his whereabouts.

"My brother hung up on" the officer, Saeed said.

Saeed said the officer came back to the house, promised to put Mubarak's name and info into a missing persons report, and asked Saeed to stay calm and to try to cool down his brother when he found his way home.

At 1 a.m. Thursday, Saeed said, he heard a pounding on his front door.

"I wake up. I'm scared. I'm thinking this is my brother." Instead, he found three state troopers. He let them in, and they told him that his brother had been shot and killed.

"I don't know how to feel at this moment," Saeed said. "There's definitely an injustice. Something's gotta give. This can't keep happening."

Mohammad said that his nephew's mental illness was well known to Norwalk police, West Haven police, and New Haven police. "Mubarak has a mental health issue," he said.

"Norwalk cops knew of him. West Haven cops knew of him. New Haven cops are aware of this."

"All the family wants is, we want some answers," he said. "That's all we want. Cause they're not telling



TV news at the press conference.

us enough. He was in the car. He was shot sitting down in the car. That doesn't make sense to us. So we want some answers. That's all we want."

"Deadly Pandemic"

The Rev. Boise Kimber and the fellow pastors who organized the press conference Friday called on the U.S. Attorney's Office to investigate the shooting. This shouldn't be left to the state to investigate, Kimber said, because that would mean that one state agency would be investigating another.

"Car pursuits by police are a dangerous and deadly pandemic in Connecticut," the state American Civil Liberties Union said in a statement (which can be read in full [here](#)). "It is deeply concerning that despite the legislature taking action to try to rein in these deadly police decisions, 2020 has begun with policing chasing and killing another person. When police choose to chase someone in a car, they are escalating a situation and endangering the lives of police, pedestrians, and all motorists on that road."

Some of the outstanding questions about the killing may be addressed in coming days when the state police release video footage of the incident.

"Transparency and accountability in law enforcement has been our most critical goal since my appointment," state public safety Commissioner James Rovella is quoted as saying in press release Thursday. "Never is this more crucial than during the period immediately following a police involved shooting, especially when there is a loss of life. Governor Ned Lamont signed into a law a measure



Rev. Boise Kimber.

that ensures the public has body camera and dash cam video within 96 hours of the use of deadly force, a measure I supported in my role as Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP). DESPP staff is working to get the video and much more info out to the community well ahead of the 96 hour mandate. We hope that the release of the information provides the transparency and some of the answers our community deserves."

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BREAKING NEWS

'Something ... doesn't smell right': Rev. Al Sharpton offers support as community seeks justice in police killing of New Haven teen Mubarak Soulemane



By **NICHOLAS RONDINONE**
HARTFORD COURANT | JAN 26, 2020



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The Rev. Al Sharpton, center, civil rights activist and founder of the National Action Network, hugs Suhnoon Adams, left, great uncle of 19-year-old fatal shooting victim Mubarak Soulemane, as Soulemane's mother Omo Muhammed, right, looks on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, during ceremonies to honor Mubarak's life, at the First Calvary Baptist Church, in New Haven, Conn. The Jan. 15, 2020 shooting by a Connecticut State Police trooper took Soulemane's life following a high-speed car chase, in West Haven, Conn. (Steven Senne/AP)

The Rev. Al Sharpton, the noted civil rights activist, vowed enduring support to family and community leaders as they seek justice for Mubarak Soulemane, a New Haven teen fatally shot this month by a Connecticut state trooper.

Sharpton joined dozens of family, friends, community leaders and local politicians at a memorial for the slain teen Sunday afternoon in New Haven.

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[Three shot dead by police in three weeks in Connecticut fuel questions of accountability amid new transparency requirements, protests »](#)

Soulemane, 19, was shot and killed by state police Trooper Brian North after what officials described as a lengthy, high-speed car chase from Norwalk to West Haven.

“You don’t have a right to take away his life, and if you do we have an obligation to stand up and question what happened,” Sharpton said.

[\[Breaking News\] Hartford police ID man killed in South End night club shooting early Sunday »](#)

Sharpton said he has looked into the shooting and spoken with community leaders. “Something about this doesn’t smell right to me,” he said.

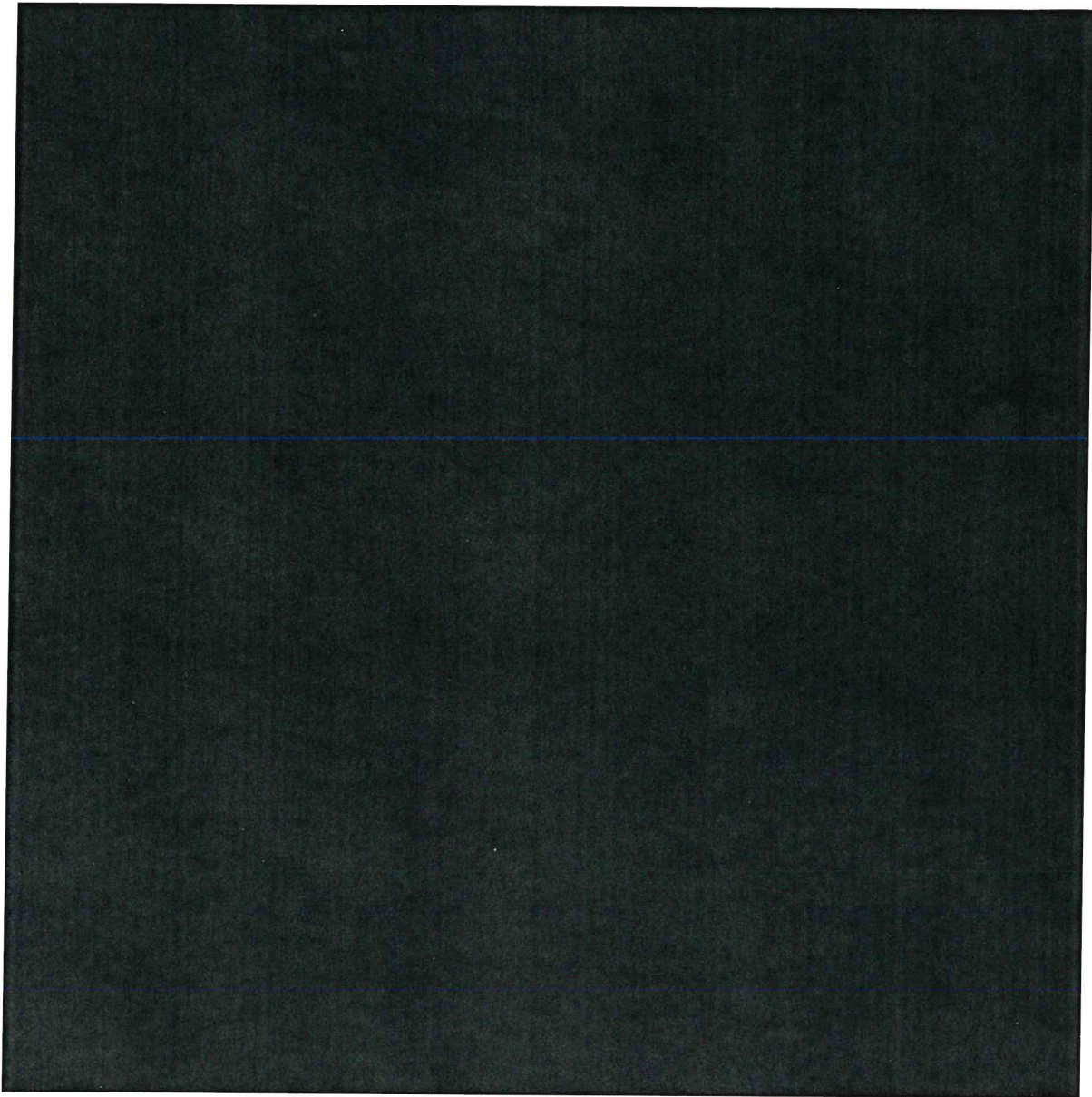
Sharpton said he intends to stand with Soulemane’s family “until we get the stench of injustice out of the nostrils” of the community.

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Charles Clemans, left, is overcome while delivering remarks about Mubarak Soulemene, and is comforted by Joshua Reaves. The young men were both friends and classmates of Soulemene, who was killed by police on Jan. 15 after a high-speed chase. The service was at First Calvary Baptist Church in New Haven. (Jonathan Olson / Special to the Courant)

Officials said the teen had stolen a car in Norwalk following an incident at an AT&T store in Norwalk. His family did not condone the crime, but said Souelmane, who was struggling with mental health issues, did not deserve to die.

Echoing the family, Sharpton said he knows the city has a courthouse.

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[~~TRIAL OFFER~~ One dead, two airlifted with injuries from two-car crash in
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Burlington »

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"If Mubarak committed a crime, he should have been in a courthouse," Sharpton said.

Gwen Carr, the mother of Eric Garner, who was killed by New York police in 2014, joined Sharpton Sunday to say the nation should pay attention to Soulemane's death.

"We must not let America get comfortable with the killing of our children," Carr said before the crowd erupted in applause.

State police released body camera footage from Jan. 15 that shows a trooper firing multiple shots, killing a teenager behind the wheel of a stolen car in West Haven after a lengthy high-speed chase. Mubarak Soulemane, 19 of New Haven, was shot after he displayed a knife, state police said. He was taken to Yale New Haven Hospital, where he died. The video shows troopers and a West Haven police officer descend on the car after it was stopped off Exit 43 off I-95 northbound. After Trooper Joshua Jackson yells for the teen to get out of the vehicle, a West Haven officer repeatedly bashes the passenger's side window until it breaks. As the officer tries to break the window, Trooper Brian North calls from the driver's side of the Hyundai to Trooper Joshua Jackson to use his Taser. State police officials said the Taser did not work. Jackson's body camera shows the teen move in the driver's seat and someone yells: "He's reaching." North, from feet away, then fires about seven shots at the teen through the closed driver's side window. At 3:07 in the video, dash camera footage shows troopers moving fast down I-95, following the stolen car as it weaves through rush-hour traffic. The ACLU has claimed that one of the officers involved "was recorded calling [Soulemane] a racial slur." State police officials have denied this and insisted that the trooper has been "falsely accused." They insist the officer was using the word "mirror," in reference to the damage that happened to his police cruiser. (The part of the video in question is at 2:09.) An investigation is underway. For the full-length police video, [click here](#).



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Initially assigned to state police Central District Major Crime Squad detectives, the chief state's attorney made the rare decision to remove state police from the investigation and assign inspectors working for the Division of Criminal Justice to investigate the shooting. They will report their findings to Middlesex State's Attorney Michael Gailor, who will then rule if North was justified in firing the fatal shots.

[\[Breaking News\] Massachusetts man arrested after stabbing at Foxwoods »](#)

North, who has been with the state police for more than four years, was given an administrative assignment while the shooting is investigated.

Tahir Muhammad, Soulemane's uncle, said Sunday that North shot his nephew four times in the chest, once in the hand and another time in the arm.

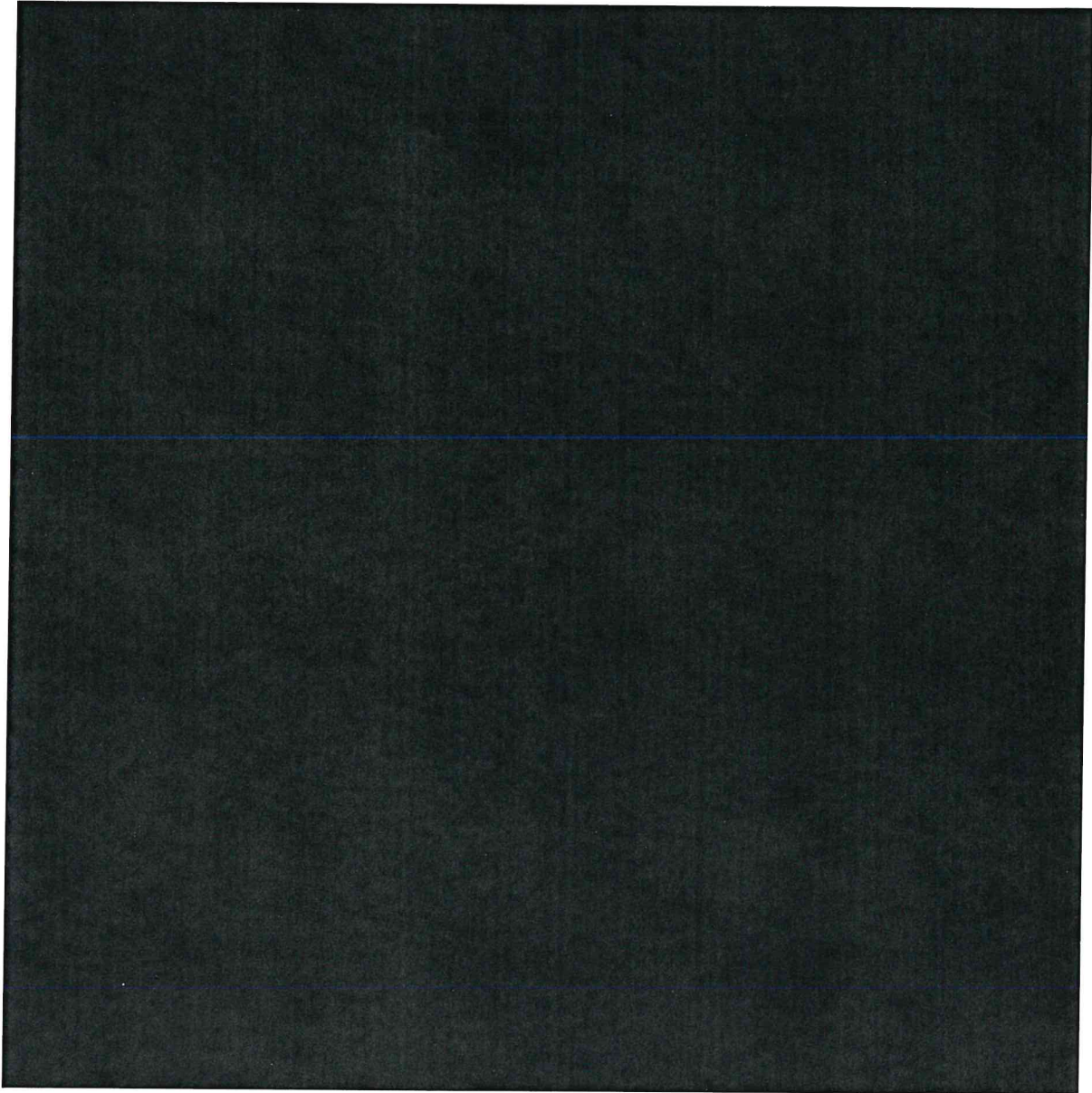
Muhammad acknowledged that the state police were responding to reports of a crime, but he said "they never took the time investigate that he was a son, brother, uncle ... a human being."

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Gwen Carr, the mother of Eric Garner, speaks at a memorial service for Mubarak Soulemane at First Calvary Baptist Church in New Haven. Soulemane was killed by police on Jan. 15 after a high-speed chase. (Jonathan Olson / Special to the Courant)

The incident was captured on police body cameras and dash cameras, stoking further questions about the trooper's actions. During the 90 minutes of footage, North is seen firing as many as nine shots into the driver's side window, smashing the glass and striking Soulemane.

[Breaking News] Multi-car crash shuts down I-91 south for almost an hour in

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Not long after the footage was released, the ACLU of Connecticut questioned whether one of the officers pursuing Soulemane along I-95 said a racial slur. The state police responded that they are absolutely confident no slur was said.



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The state police union last week asked for an apology, which the ACLU quickly denied. "The ACLU of Connecticut was not the first, only, or last entity to hear what we heard," said Executive Director David McGuire.

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Massachusetts man arrested after stabbing at Foxwoods

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Soulemane was the third person killed by police officer in Connecticut in 2020 – a frequency of deadly shootings not seen in recent years. On Jan. 2, 30-year-old Michael Gregory was fatally shot by Ansonia police. Ed Gendron, 57, was killed by a Waterbury police officer on Jan. 20.

Sharpton said this is a problem for Connecticut.

”Everyone needs to stop to figure out what is going on,” he said.

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Nicholas Rondinone



Nicholas Rondinone is a general assignment reporter focused on crime for the Hartford Courant. Prior to coming to the Courant in early 2013, he was assistant digital editor of The Press-Citizen in Iowa City, Iowa. He graduated from the University of Connecticut and remains a loyal Huskies fan.

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