



# **TORONTO POLICE ASSOCIATION**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Date: June 1, 2010

### ***A TROUBLING LACK OF INFORMATION***

Once again, President Mike McCormack and the Board of Directors of the Toronto Police Association are strongly urging Mr. Ian Scott, the director of the S.I.U., to release the preliminary findings of the autopsy into the death of Junior Alexander Manon. This action is urgently needed to stem the growing and disturbing frenzy of speculation and false rumours on the Internet about this tragic death, some of which are calling for violent action against the police.

For instance, postings on the social networking website Facebook are accusing the police of brutality in his death. One videotaped message alleges that “seven cops were stepping on his face. . . . breaking his neck.” Another unsigned posting on Facebook is advocating violence towards police officers stationed at 31 Division. The disturbing message in part reads: “Everyman wishes de had a bazooka or sumting to blow dat place up right now man. (sic)” This has to stop. The Toronto Police Association is urging Mr. Scott to reveal the initial results of the autopsy which may help to quell what could develop into a serious incident.

The power of the Internet is that it allows for public debate on issues, but the danger of it in this case is that it is promoting lies about the tragic death of the teenager in early May. A partial disclosure by Mr. Scott of the autopsy may help to slow this dangerous spread of misinformation and rumours on the worldwide web. More importantly, a disclosure of some of these vital facts may help to curb the alarming trend on at least one social networking website that is encouraging violence against the police.

While the spreading of lies on the unregulated Internet goes unchecked we would like to thank the traditional media for their restraint and accuracy in reporting on this story. The media has an important job to do and in this case they are handling a difficult story in a very responsible manner.

**TPA Board of Directors**

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