

**Statement from Ronald S. Sullivan Jr. and Intisar A. Rabb on behalf of the
Rahim Family Regarding the Video Surveillance Tape Released by the Suffolk
County District Attorney's Office**

The video showing the homicide of Usaamah Rahim is an important piece of evidence. It is as important for what it does not show, as for what it shows.

The video does not show Mr. Rahim possessing, holding, or brandishing a weapon of any sort, much less a knife. The video does not show Mr. Rahim plotting, scheming, or planning an attack on law enforcement officers. To the contrary, the video depicts Mr. Rahim walking toward a bus stop on the way to work.

The video does not show Mr. Rahim as the initial aggressor. Instead, it shows that at least five law enforcement officers approach and surround Mr. Rahim in what looks to be a military formation approaching an unsuspecting man. The video does not show Mr. Rahim first approaching law enforcement in a combative or otherwise inappropriate manner.

The family is disappointed that public officials chose to publish only the very end of the contact between law enforcement and Mr. Rahim. Had they shown the entire video, the public would have seen the military-like approach of law enforcement as Mr. Rahim casually strolled toward the bus stop. The entire video is evidence that Mr. Rahim was breaking no laws when law enforcement attempted to restrain his liberty.

The family is also disappointed that some media outlets have attempted to call into question whether Mr. Rahim made a telephone call to his father the morning of his death. He did, and telephone records confirm this. It is important that the public have all facts before reaching conclusions.

Neither the federal government nor the Commonwealth has suggested that a judge had issued a warrant prior to law enforcement's attempt to execute a warrantless arrest of Mr. Rahim. As the public knows, in the United States of America, citizens cannot have their freedom of movement significantly restrained without prior authorization from a judge. Moreover, the video does not show that Mr. Rahim was engaged in a criminal act at that moment, providing law enforcement with cause to detain Mr. Rahim without the benefit of a warrant. Finally, since the video does not show Mr. Rahim wielding a knife, the District Attorney must fully investigate, using all available evidence, to determine whether deadly force was appropriate. Many unanswered questions remain.

The family asks that the public keep an open mind. The video reveals part of the story, but not the entire story. The video shows that Mr. Rahim was shot by law enforcement, but there is no visual evidence of Mr. Rahim wielding a knife.

It is also important that whatever the public, law enforcement, or the courts ultimately conclude about Mr. Rahim's alleged involvement with illegal activity, important questions central to our democratic traditions remain. We do not live in a police state or totalitarian country. We are blessed to live in a free and open society. Accordingly, separate and apart from Mr. Rahim's alleged conduct, the government and the Commonwealth must fully and fairly investigate whether five armed law enforcement agents approaching Mr. Rahim in a military or military-like formation, without benefit of a warrant, constituted an attempted illegal arrest. The United States is a country of laws and not individuals. Police and everyday citizens alike must abide by the law.

The Suffolk County District Attorney's office has treated the Rahim family with dignity and respect. Indeed, the District Attorney, Dan Conley, personally showed the family the video in advance of its release today. The office has been thus far open and transparent in its investigation. The family remains prayerful that the District Attorney's office will continue to conduct an open, fair, honest, complete and transparent investigation.