



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**e Press Release: 3rd Degree**  
**TX: Tuesday 26 January at 9.30PM**

For the first time, the man who initiated the brutal practice of Falaqa to punish drug addicts, speaks out.

With drug addiction out of control on the Cape Flats, desperate and poor families turned to unregistered Muslim rehab centres for help. In a misguided attempt to cure these addicts, some of the centres started using Falaqa. This involves beating the soles of the feet with a belt, often till they are blistered and bleeding. In many cases, the victims couldn't walk for weeks. In some cases it went beyond beating just the feet – and the leaders of these centres as well as its inmates would lay into victims with whatever instrument they had at their disposal.

Now Tazliem Parker, the founder of the first rehab centre to use Falaqa, reveals what really happened behind closed doors. He now believes that the beatings do not cure addicts; they are just plain torture.

It's widely denied that Falaqa is still used in Cape Town, but 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree exposes a facility that still tortures its patients and confronts the owner.

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