

BRIEF: Trooper's fatal shooting of Berks man ruled justified

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FULL TEXT

May 09--A state trooper was justified when he fatally shot a Mertztown man, 26, after he tried to shoplift at a Walmart near Trexlertown, Lehigh County District Attorney Jim Martin said Wednesday.

Martin said Trooper Brian Bird acted within the law when he mortally wounded Aaron Ibrahim shortly after 9 p.m. March 28 in the parking lot of the store in Lower Macungie Township, a few miles from the Berks line.

Martin, whose office investigated the incident, said that Bird fired at Ibrahim only after Ibrahim had pointed and tried to fire a semi-automatic gun at the trooper during a foot chase. During the chase, Martin said, Ibrahim failed to comply with commands to stop.

According to state police:

Ibrahim abandoned a full cart after seeing a trooper had entered the store. He ran from the trooper and pulled a semi-automatic pistol out of his waistband, firing it once without hitting anyone.

Ibrahim got into his van and again pointed the gun at Bird about 45 feet away. Bird fired nine times at Ibrahim through the door and window, striking him seven times. Troopers said witnesses and surveillance videos from the parking lot supported the trooper's account. No one else was hurt.

DETAILS

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