



Scandal leaves Basi struggling

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A government lobbyist has shed light on the stress facing David Basi, a former aide to Finance Minister Gary Collins whose office was searched by police as part of a raid on the legislature last month.

Mike **Geoghegan** said he had a brief telephone conversation with Basi last week in which it was clear Basi was having a hard time with losing his job and the media scrutiny on his work as a provincial aide and federal Liberal organizer.

"The exact words he used for me is that, 'He prays he has a heart attack and dies,' " said **Geoghegan**. "It's not the kind of thing you want to hear from someone but at the same time you understand it."

So far, Basi has only communicated with the media through written statements issued by his lawyer, Chris Considine. In those statements, he has said he expects to be vindicated.

Geoghegan said Basi is feeling very badly about media coverage of his family as well as political activities of the Indo-Canadian community.

"He feels, regardless of whether or not he's charged, [that] his whole life and passion which has been politics has been destroyed," said **Geoghegan**.

Police have linked the raid to a 20-month investigation that has touched on drugs, commercial crime and organized crime. However, they have refused to be more specific about their interest in the legislature except to say that no elected politicians or political parties are among their targets.

No charges have been laid against Basi, who was fired from the job he has held since the Liberals were elected in 2001.

Considine yesterday declined comment except to say, "I think Mr. Basi is certainly very upset at what has taken place."

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