



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Muslim Community Center, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MCC Offers Condolences and Prayers for Murdered Virginia Teen

June 19, 2017

The Muslim Community Center (MCC) of Silver Spring, Maryland, one of the oldest Muslim faith-based organizations in the Washington, DC area, extends its condolences and prayers to the family of Nabra Hassanen, 17, of Reston, VA, who was brutally murdered this weekend while walking near her mosque.

Police said Hassanen and a group of friends were walking and biking on a road back to the ADAMS Center in Sterling, VA, after their suhoor (morning meal) at a nearby IHOP early Sunday morning, when they were confronted by a man driving a car. The man, identified as Darwin Martinez Torres, 22, of Sterling, was reported to have shouted at them and thrown glass beer bottles at them. The group of teens ran back to ADAMS, but it appears that Hassanen, who had tripped on her dress and fallen, had been left behind and was kidnapped. She was reported missing immediately, and Loudoun and Fairfax County police began an hours-long search for her, which ended Sunday afternoon when they found what were believed to be her remains in a pond nearby. Police were reported to have said she was attacked with a metal bat. Torres was found and arrested later on Sunday afternoon, and has been charged with murder.

The brutality of this horrific murder has sent shock waves throughout area Muslim communities. Police announced Monday they are investigating it as a road rage incident, although in the wake of other recent attacks on Muslims, many in the community were concerned it may have been a hate crime. MCC is devastated by this sudden and tragic loss, and horrified by the senselessness of the attack on what could have been any of our youth. We stand with the ADAMS community in their grief and pray that God grants them patience and strength in coping with this situation, and we express our appreciation to the Loudoun and Fairfax County police departments for their swift apprehension of the murderer.

We understand that many in our own community are shaken by this news, particularly combined with other recent local events, including the murder of Montgomery County high school student Shadi Najjar, and MCC will provide counseling to any parents or youth that feel the need to reach out for this purpose. Please contact us at 301-384-3454 or at youth@mccmd.org.

MCC's mission is to promote brotherhood and human dignity among all by developing an environment of understanding, compassion, and justice in our personal and professional lives. We strive to serve the needs of the Muslim community and community at large in a manner that promotes its positive image and standing in a changing environment. We aim to represent the

Muslim community in interfaith circles, in government, public and media relations, and in the society at large.

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For more information, please email info@mccmd.org or call 301-384-3454