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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday, June 21th 2017

Our hearts and Prayers go out to the family of Nabra Hassanen in their time of mourning. WNY Muslims is condemns and is sadden by the recent murder of Hassanen in Virginia this past Sunday. Hassanen was 17 and was attacked while she walked home from her Mosque with several friends when Darwin Martinez Torres, a 22-year-old from El Salvador suspected of being in the U.S. illegally, got out of his car and attacked them. The group of friends scattered, but Hassanen was left behind. She was later found in a pond after being beaten to death with a baseball bat near Torres' apartment.

Torres has been charged with murder and faces a maximum punishment of life in prison.

Currently the murder is still being investigated, law enforcement officials are unclear wither it was a possible hate crime act or act of road rage. Police are also investigating the possibility that the teen was sexually assaulted.

Many have said it is hard to dismiss the attack and murder as a hate crime when Torres alone drove up on a group of about 15 clearly Muslim teens, some wearing hijabs and abayas, and attacked them. Virginia's Fairfax County police said if they find any evidence the slaying was a hate crime, they will pursue appropriate charges.

WNY Muslims stand with the victims of all Anti-Islamic attacks and will continue to speak out on these intolerant acts of violence. We support the message of Hassanen's mosque, the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, to encouraged people to come together and "respond to bad with good."

For all those wishing to attend her funeral service it will be held at the All

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Hassanen in despairing time of loss. We pray it does not break or alter your spirit.

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