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TOP STORY

Family laments 'senseless' death of 33-year-old Madison man

LEXY BRODT and BILL NOVAK Wisconsin State Journal 14 hrs ago



AMBER ARNOLD, STATE JOURNAL

Family members, of a man killed on Madison's North Side Tuesday afternoon, including his fiancée, Jessica Marias, with 3-year-Jamichael, and the man's father, Frank, speak to the media from the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County offices Wednesday. Th so far identified the victim only as Mike.

The family of a man who was fatally shot Tuesday on Madison's North Side was described by his family members as a hard worker and a beloved man.

“He was a great man and a great father to his kids,” Jessica Marias said of her fiance, whom the family would identify only as Mike. “He was so loving and caring ... We’ll miss him so much.”

Authorities had not released the name of the victim.

At a press conference at the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County headquarters on the South Side, Marias comforted the victim’s 3-year-old son, Jamichael, as family members spoke about the 33-year-old Madison man who worked as a cook at a local Italian restaurant and had five children.

“He has always been around me, he’s always supporting me,” the victim’s mother, Raychelle Scott, said. “I just want to say he did not deserve this.”

Scott, of Chicago, said she will stay in town until she finds out what happened to her son. She and Marias asked anyone who has information about the homicide to contact the Madison Police Department.

“Michael was always well-dressed, even when he was young he always had the nicest things,” she said. “Somebody didn’t like his ‘get-up,’ and that’s wrong. I know that’s what it is, because Mike had never been in a gang.”



The 33-year-old Madison man killed in a shooting Tuesday's on the North Side is shown in a photo provided by his family, who would identify him only as Mike.

FAMILY PHOTO

As Madison police search for the three or four assailants, residents on the city's North Side are anxious about the rise in gun violence and what it portends for the summer, said Michael Johnson, president of the Boys & Girls Club.

"People are worried," Johnson said. "I hope (Madison Police Chief) Mike Koval gets the support he needs and can come up with the resources to respond to these issues."

As of Wednesday night, no arrests had been made in the shooting, police said.

Police said they had little information to go on but were poring through surveillance video at the apartment complex to see if they could identify the assailants.

DeSpain also said officers were talking to lots of people and had a number of leads. The Dane County Medical Examiner's Office will release the victim's name, DeSpain said.

Mike died at UW Hospital after being shot in his residence at Ridgewood Apartments on Northport Drive. At least one of his children was in the apartment at the time, Johnson said.

Johnson, who met with the family Tuesday night, called the homicide "ugly and unfortunate."

"I prayed with the family and the neighbors, both inside and outside of their homes," Johnson said.

At a news conference Wednesday led by members of the nonprofit Focused Interruption Coalition, Pastor Larry Jackson, from True Worshipper Community Church in Fitchburg, accompanied the family and pleaded for justice for the family.

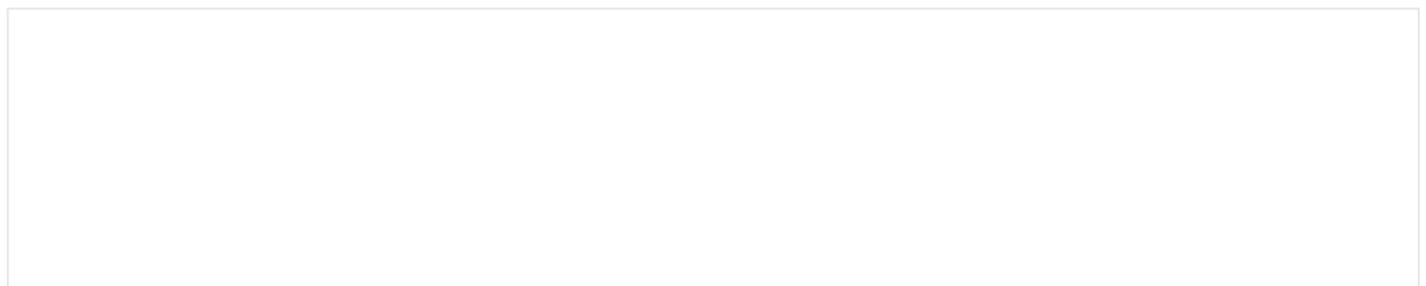
"We have to stop the senseless killing," Jackson said. "Now it's getting to the point where people are doing it in broad daylight, and it's unacceptable."

Scott remembered the last time she saw her son, on Mother's Day. Mike's father, Frank, who also declined to give his last name, wept as he said his son will not be alive for Father's Day.

"He came and surprised me on Mother's Day and that's the last time I saw him," Scott said. "Who would've ever thought that the last time you see your child would be Mother's Day. And he will not make it for Father's Day."

State Journal reporter Chris Aadland contributed to this report.

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