

The AHA Foundation Honor Violence Symposium

Monday, June 6th, 2011

OPENING AND WELCOME INTRODUCTION

Executive Director: Good morning, I am the Executive Director of the AHA Foundation. The AHA Foundation, in Partnership with The John Jay College of Criminal Justice is hosting today's conference.

Thank you all for coming.

The AHA Foundation believes that women and girls everywhere merit access to education and basic human rights, regardless of their religion. We are a non-profit organization committed to protecting the rights and freedoms of women in the West against oppression in the name of religion and culture.

Through research, the dissemination of knowledge, and outreach, the AHA Foundation combats crimes against women such as female genital mutilation, forced marriages, honor violence, and honor killings.

Recent incidents around the country highlight the urgency with which we must address these crimes. In October 2009, Faleh Almaleki murdered his 20-year-old daughter, Noor, by running her down with his car. He believed that she had shamed the family by becoming too Western and refusing to marry a man he had selected for her in Iraq. I am honored that the lead prosecutor of that case, Laura Reckart, and her case detective, Detective Chris Boughey are here today to speak about the prosecution of this case.

Just last month, Rahim Alfetlawi drove from his home in Minnesota to Michigan to track down his step-daughter, 20-year-old Jessica Mokdad, who had recently moved away from Alfetlawi and her mother. After a confrontation, Alfetlawi shot Mokdad in the head, killing her. Investigators believe that Alfetlawi was angry with Mokdad for not strictly adhering to Muslim customs. He has been apprehended by police and is awaiting trial in Macomb County Michigan.

These are shocking but all too common examples of honor killings that occurred right here in the United States. Unfortunately, because no law enforcement or government agency tracks incidents of honor violence and honor killings, we have no way of knowing the true scope of the problem in the U.S. The AHA Foundation is encouraging law enforcement agencies to begin tracking these crimes separately from traditional domestic violence and homicides so that we can all better understand the scope of the issue.

That's why we are thrilled to have all of you here today. By informing the first responders in our community about these crimes, we hope to raise the profile of this type of violence against women. By identifying honor violence when it occurs in our community, we will be better equipped to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators and provide targeted, appropriate services to the victims.

The AHA Foundation engages in four primary activities in its efforts to combat this type of violence.

The AHA Foundation investigates acts of violence against women and girls in the United States that are committed in the name of religion and culture and compile data on these crimes. We have recently partnered with an elite college to begin a data collection study of the number of honor killings, forced marriages and female genital mutilation that occur in the US – beginning with NYC. We hope to present the results of this study at next year's conference.

The AHA Foundation informs the public about the fact that some of these violent practices are currently being carried out in the U.S. and other Western countries.

The AHA Foundation works to influence key politicians and policy-makers to prioritize enforcing existing laws that protect women's rights and, where necessary, write new legislation to protect women in the United States. For example, only 19 states in the US currently have a law against female genital mutilation. Those that do, like NY have very weak sentencing guidelines. In NY if you cut off your daughters genitals under the FGM statute you would get probation to four years in prison. There is a Federal FGM law but that law does not currently make it a crime to take your US citizen daughter abroad to undergo the procedure and then bring her back to the US – a common practice during summer vacation. In your packet that you have received today we have included a power point on the current FGM laws in the US and the U.K..

Finally, The AHA Foundation intervenes on behalf of each girl or woman in need that contacts us by referring her to appropriate law enforcement and service providers. In your packet today you have also received the AHA Foundation's resource directory. Please use it and pass it along.

We have a very exciting conference to share with you today.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, the Founder of the AHA Foundation will give us an Honor Violence 101, so that we can recognize it in all its forms.

We will show a short video entitled "Blood in the Name of Honor" which highlights the extent of problem of honor violence in the U.K..

Our first keynote speaker is Nazir Afzal, Crown Prosecution Services Director of the United Kingdom, will discuss the U.K. response to honor crimes, forced marriage and FGM, the necessity of international co-operation and the challenges and the communities involved in breaking the silence so that victims can be protected and persecutors prosecuted.

Our second keynote speaker, Laura Reckart, Lead prosecutor in Arizona v. Almaleki and her case Detective Chris Boughey, Detective, Violent Crimes Unit, Arizona PD will discuss the first case in the US in which an honor violence theory was successfully used to obtain a conviction in the case of a father who murdered his daughter.

Sabatina James, a Pakistani woman raised in Austria will detail the horrors of being the victim of an arranged marriage.

Finally, we will invite all of our speakers back on stage to answer questions and hear feedback from the audience. We would love to hear any stories or experiences you may be able to share on these issues. Ric Curtis, Professor

and Chair of the Anthropology Department at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, will lead the discussion.

Honor Violence, Forced Marriages and female genital mutilation are happening here in NYC, across the country, and around the world. It is a growing problem and not only must we be aware of it, we must have the tools to recognize and prevent these crimes.

The turnout we have here today has been beyond our expectations. We have over 100 people here today. We have representatives from FBI, NYPD (over 30 officers - homicide and DV), Each NY District Attorney's Office, U.S. Attorneys Office (EDNY), Judges, Queens Family Court, NYC Mayor's Office, The Administration for Children's Services (ACS), Center for Court Innovation, NYC Department of Probation, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, law professors as well as several charities and other non profits.

Each of you is a vital defense against honor crimes in your communities. Our hope is that after attending this conference, you go back to your offices and share what you have learned here. Please use this opportunity to network with your colleagues so that if you do encounter a case of honor violence, FGM or forced marriage you have the resources to help. We hope that you will also see the AHA Foundation as a resource for all of these issues in case you are not sure how to handle a situation.

We have provided each of you with a USB drive containing the conference materials. After the conference we will also provide you with a video's of today's presentations, a transcript of the event, and contact information for the speakers and attendees.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the people that made today possible:

- Professor Ric Curtis, from John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Dean Karen Terry from John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- The Singer Foundation and Anne Dickerson for making this event possible
- ADA Joan Illuzzi-Orbon and ADA Katie Doran of the District Attorney's Office of New York
- We would like to thank all of our speakers for traveling from all over the world to be here today – U.K., Germany, Arizona...
- I would also like to thank Chelsea Chaffee and Amanda Parker from the AHA foundation for all of their hard work and dedication to our foundation.
- And finally I would like to thank Ed Sullivan, the chairman of the board of the AHA Foundation for leading us to today's and tomorrows successes

I am now pleased to introduce you all to Ayaan Hirsi Ali, the founder of The AHA Foundation and the inspiration for our work. Unfortunately, due to medical reasons she was unable to join us in person and will be speaking to us through skype.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali was born in Somalia in 1969. She was a devout Muslim but at a young age, questioned her religion's disparate treatment of boys and girls. As a girl, she was subjected to female genital mutilation. In her 20s, she fled to the Netherlands to avoid a forced marriage. There, she worked her way up from cleaning toilets to being elected to the Dutch parliament. She campaigned to raise awareness of violence against women

justified in the name of Islam. In 2004 Ayaan gained international attention following the murder of Theo van Gogh. Van Gogh had directed her film Submission, a film about the oppression of women under Islam. The assassin, a radical Muslim, left a death threat for her pinned to Van Gogh's chest. Ayaan has since moved to the United States and must live with 24 hour a day armed security as her willingness to speak out and her abandonment of the Muslim faith have made her a target by Islamic extremists.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali was named one of TIME Magazine's "100 Most Influential People" of 2005. She has published a collection of essays, The Caged Virgin (2006), a memoir, Infidel (2007), and has written and delivered many speeches and articles. She has just completed Nomad, the second volume of her autobiography. Ayaan is currently a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC.

She has committed her life, and even risked it, for the emancipation of other women and girls. She once famously said, "Women everywhere, of all cultures, merit access to education and basic human rights."

Ayaan is not only a mentor and a brave and powerful woman she is also my friend.

Now let's hope this works....

KEYNOTE LECTURE: HONOR VIOLENCE 101: AYAAN HIRSI ALI

Ayaan Hirsi Ali: Thank you to the AHA Foundation, and thank you to the service providers, judges, professors and to my friends. We are thankful for the John Jay College for partnering with us at the AHA Foundation for this event.

Today, I want to take the opportunity to answer 3 questions that pertain to honor violence and discuss 6 cases of spousal honor killings in Queens. Thank you to the DA's office for giving these cases to us to discuss.

First, I want to address the unique circumstances facing women and girls in an honor-based culture.

Secondly, what are the challenges facing law professional when they are confronted with these cases?

Third, are there crucial differences between honor violence and honor killings elsewhere and that in the West? Is there a crucial difference between honor violence in the West and domestic violence in the West as well?

First, at the AHA Foundation we put emphasis on Muslim women. In honor violence's unique circumstances I don't want to imply that this violence is limited to Muslim households or Islamic culture. There are other cultures that engage in honor violence and killings as well. Honor violence includes coercion, beatings and sometimes murder. In these cultures, these individuals are killed due to interpretations of religious scripture. There are also examples of honor violence in the Hindu and Sikh cultures in India and Latin America.

Why the emphasis on Muslim women? Our expertise lies in this group and their unique circumstances. The violence towards these women needs special attention. Muslim women, more than other groups, suffer violence in their communities.

Our resources are limited as well, and because of this we must choose a focus. In radical Islam there are justifications for this behavior and at the moment we don't see that in other cultures. There is no doubt that all women's violence should be emphasized and addressed.

Back to the question, what are the unique circumstances facing these Muslim women?

First, I want to show you the code of honor and shame in families, communities and even civilizations. Acts of honor are rewarded and those acts perceived as shameful are severely punished. These are unique to women in certain cultures. It has to do with their sexuality - virginity, chastity, fidelity and purity are emblems of honor. Sex before marriage is considered infidelity. These are sources of shame for the family or tribe. The women in these cultures don't own their bodies. Their sexuality is a commodity and it's of high value which is owned by their families. These sexual commodities are seen to lose value once they are believed to be tainted.

It's normal for a father to select a husband of his choice for his daughter at any time. Refusal to comply with his choice is an act that strips the father of his honor. If a woman refuses him, she is filthy or seen as damaged goods. Fathers will kill their daughters over this. This is a way of hiding the shame brought onto the family via the insubordinate daughter. A father creates his daughter and she carries the shame. She has the consequences.

Committing adultery is the worst offense. Some husbands will punish this disobedience. We see forms of violence and even murder against females for less such as a female wearing makeup, or driving a car. Having a boyfriend that's not a Muslim is also considered an offense.

There is a third aspect that's special towards Muslim women, and that is a great fear of reporting the violence or even just talking about it with friends or teachers. There are a few fears I have heard from these women. One is a fear of losing family. Two, is shaming your family. Then there's fear of the physical punishment, like beating or murder. Then there's an enduring punishment in hell.

With this background, we come to the second part. What are the challenges facing law enforcement when confronting these cases? There are many challenges and each case is unique. First, with the challenges in the U.S. and New York City, the police and other service providers in the West are unfamiliar with the cultures and the women in these cultures. An example is the story of Banaz Mahmud in 2006 in the U.K. She had sought help by going to the police. Her father and uncle wanted her death to look like a suicide. They forced poison down her throat. The first person she spoke to within the police department didn't believe her. That person said she was a drunk. Just three weeks later she was dead.

The second challenge to professionals is the factions within these cultures. Pressure groups from the community insist that there is no violence in these cultures. Any attribution to these cultures they claim is racism or anti-Islam. They condemn the perpetrators, yet then they will provide them with legal aid.

Another issue is that these victims feel guilty when they are rescued. For example, they tell their family members where they are after rescue and they seek out their family, or they give their families information on the shelters where they are protected.

The fourth challenge, that is only relevant in cases of honor violence, is the conflicts in the system. For example, in my experience in the Netherlands there was a policy where Turkish victims were attended by church professionals. We had a case where a woman was in a shelter but after the shelter personnel disclosed her location, she was found by her husband and shot dead. This crisis reveals a conflict within the professionals of the religious groups and their work. The lesson that it brought up is that in many experiences, unless you are 100% certain of the professionals of the culture, or the village or of the victim, please do not involve professionals from the culture/religion/background of the victim. You need to have the victim's best interests in mind. The victims may succumb to the loyalties in their community. These are matters of life and death.

The third question for today is, what are the differences between honor violence and killings and Western domestic violence? Domestic violence can happen across all cultures and social classes, groups and age groups even. Men are more likely to commit any violence. Often their victims are women and children. But it's a myth to think that women don't engage in domestic violence too. It may be true that women will engage in domestic violence more than men. The violence and extreme nature of it is very serious. That's the common picture.

But people who commit domestic violence in the West know they are doing something wrong. Domestic violence is recognized as a crime in most Western countries.

The governments of the West have shelters and programs for the victims of domestic violence, but not necessarily for the victims of honor violence. And the implications of these two kinds of violence are different.

The typical abuser in a case of domestic violence knows that when he hits his wife or child, he's doing something wrong. The wife knows she should not be taking the abuse. Clearly there's an element of shame. The shame is that you're too weak to seek help. Often the violent behavior is blamed on substance abuse. Service providers say that where abuse is common, oftentimes substance abuse accompanies it. Domestic violence, even though it occurs a lot in the West, is morally unacceptable and socially wrong.

Things are different in cultures governed in shame however. In these cultures, people commit domestic violence and use physical punishment. In most of the shame cultures, people in the system don't necessarily know that this abuse is wrong.

Unlike the West, there's no medal for helping. There are shelters set up by Westerners and they are often over crowded. In some countries, like Germany and Turkey, the process to obtain help can take up to 6 months. The abuser and all his victims share the belief that the punishment is justified. The shame is the interaction of the victim and perpetrator. Often there is no history of substance abuse, he may have no criminal record. Most people in shame countries grow up in violent homes, where abuse is common. So while education is helpful, it doesn't prevent it. Domestic violence is a punishment for the family and is considered to be morally, legally and socially right.

I come across Americans almost every day. The subject of honor violence comes up and most Americans think it does not happen in America. I'll show you six cases now. These all happened in Queens. The first case is of Sherif Elkady. In June 1996, -- he told the police that they were fighting because she was out late. He said that the fight got worse when he accused her of being an inappropriate Muslim woman. He found a love note in her purse. And then he stabbed her

repeatedly. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Then there is the case of Abraham Amin, a 26 year old Egyptian. In 1998 he stabbed his fiance 15 times because she was disobedient. He pleaded first degree manslaughter and was sentenced to up to 25 years in prison. He argued he was mentally unstable.

The third case happened in 2007. A man stabbed his wife 251 times, killing her. The police were called to the home. The man pleaded guilty to manslaughter. Manslaughter!

The fourth case is of a 45 year old Pakistani. He strangled his girlfriend with an extension cord. She had previously criticized him for being unemployed.

The fifth case is about an Indian national of 40 years old. On December 15, 1998 he strangled his wife. The case of her murder dragged on for 9 years. Finally, in October 2007 he pleaded to manslaughter and was sentenced to 15 years.

Our final case is of a 36 year old. In 1999, Samiya Haquqi was burned and dismembered by her husband. The brother supposedly helped and was also convicted of manslaughter. On the day of her disappearance she was accused of having a boyfriend. The husband told a friend, "in Afghanistan, due to her behavior she would be considered a whore and killed." Her husband was convicted and sentenced to 26 years in prison.

If you Google "honor violence" you will find the definition as follows:

Many family members may kill female family members. The reasons are refusal of arranged marriage, seeking a divorce, or the perception that the woman has behaved in a way that's inappropriate.

Before the honor killings, however there is a history of beatings and lacerations to the woman.

What is happening in these honor killings? We at the AHA Foundation want to raise awareness especially in the professional fields to see how these stages of honor violence progress and to keep these women safe and intervene at the right time.

I have come to the end of my presentation. I am happy to take questions if the technology allows us. Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE.]

Executive Director: Hello? I'm sorry if you couldn't hear the speech. These cases were Queens homicides. We'll send these cases to you. Any questions?

Female Speaker: Thank you so much for that talk. Can you hear me?

Ayaan Hirsi Ali: Yes.

Female Speaker: My question is that all these examples in Queens seem to come from large immigrant communities. These people involved live with the people from their original cultures. I wonder if these things happen in other parts of the U.S. where there's not these networks in place already. Does that make sense?

Ayaan Hirsi Ali: Yes. The answer is that we don't know yet. There's a lack of

evidence but the evidence I just gave from the DA's office or the media, that's what we have. Depending on the family if you come from a background where you attach a lot of importance of the sexuality of the families in that case you will continue to carry on that tradition. So, logically I think these places with concentrations of ethnic groups these happen but I wouldn't rule out just two families living close to one another committing these acts as well as committing acts against their own families.

Executive Director: Any questions?

Female Speaker: The question is what will you do to reach out to these immigrant communities?

Ayaan Hirsi Ali: There's a website - www.theAHAfoundation.org. These communities and the potential victims reach to us. When I give speeches across the country to different communities, some girls will push notes into my hands while I sign books. We are seeing that the more the AHA Foundation is out there, then the more change we can do. And this is in America and other places outside America.

Male Speaker: In your studies do you see cultural assimilation of women. For example there's cases in Omaha where you have conditions of statutory rape. I spoke with a Somali cab driver. He said, "well they say I can't beat my wife so I don't." He's listening to the culture of the U.S. and tying it back to domestic violence. Do you see that in your work? And the studies you have done so far?

Executive Director: What is the question?

Male Speaker: Is there much cultural assimilation concerning this problem in the U.S.? I heard this statement from a Somali cab driver that he can't beat his wife anymore in the U.S. This idea of cultural assimilation becomes internalized. Or does it?

Ayaan Hirsi Ali: With cultural assimilation in the U.S. I see three types. One is the type of assimilation like people from cultures of honor and shame taking the Western culture, or American culture, and relinquishing and saying I don't care about my sister's or my daughter's lifestyle.

There's a basic understanding of the American legal system by the family of the perpetrator. The culture of honor and shame exists at home and then there are the lenient forms of punishment. In the Netherlands the youngest son molests the daughter because there is mild punishment. The punishment is 2-3 years in a prison of youth. Then we also see modern young women taking on a Western lifestyle and enjoying their lifestyles and that is what gets them in trouble with their families.

Executive Director: Other questions?

We will take a short coffee break. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE.]

[END: HONOR VIOLENCE 101: AYAAN HIRSI ALI.]

[COFFEE BREAK.]

Executive Director: We'll now show a 20 minute video on forced marriages in the U.K. Nazir Afzal who is also here with us today is featured in the video. He will be a speaker for us later in the day.

[BEGIN VIDEO: BLOOD IN THE NAME OF HONOR: NARRATED BY DAN RATHER.]

<http://www.clicker.com/tv/dan-rather-reports/blood-in-the-name-of-honor-1348704/>

[END VIDEO.]

[BREAK.]

Female Speaker: Hello. I'm Amanda Parker, Communications Director of the AHA Foundation. Ladies and Gentlemen, as you may know, the U.K. has extensive experience combatting honor violence and forced marriage. Their success is in large part due to our next speaker, Nazir Afzal OBE.

Nazir is the Director of the Crown Prosecution Service and since organizing the first CPS conference on honor violence in 2004 has become the U.K.'s foremost criminal justice practitioner in this field. He is also the person responsible for persuading the British government to implement the Forced Marriage Act.

To Nazir, taking on honor violence is more than just a part of his job, it is a personal mission. He tirelessly attacks complacency and is a champion of victims' rights. For all of these reasons, I am honored to introduce to you, Mr. Nazir Afzal.

[APPLAUSE.]

KEYNOTE LECTURE: NAZIR AFZAL

Nazir Afzal: Thank you very much. Good afternoon. I'm delighted to be here. Those were kind words. Thank you for making me very welcome in the 36 hours I'm in NYC. When I was asked to be here I said initially I had to be here by video. So actually, right now I am a hologram. [Joke/joking.]

Some people know it's my daughter's birthday today. I had to leave her in London to attend this conference today. She expressed, "why are you coming to NY? We gave them Shakespeare and the Queen and they give us Charlie Sheen!" I'll be back in her good graces in 24 hours when I'm home.

I'm delighted to be here. This subject is close to my heart. My journey is not what you would anticipate because of the color of my skin, and where I'm originally from and the fact that I'm a man. It needs to be said that we're merely touching the top of the surface here. You're merely skimming the surface. If anyone thinks that this hasn't affected you, it's not true. We have to come to terms with it. We're at the beginning.

In my personal journey, I'm a lawyer. Most people don't like lawyers. My father

said, "You only need lawyers to protect you from other lawyers." He was right. I became a prosecutor 20 years ago and I work in London. I've worked on high profile cases, and you can read about them later.

About 7- 8 years ago, I was organizing conferences on criminal justice issues, like gang crimes, etc. Victims and witnesses came to me and asked me to talk about this subject of honor violence. So I organized a conference. I was blown away by the reaction to that conference. That same day I had 31 interviews on international television.

[Knocking sound/construction work going on.]

Is that clapping? Why thank you! [Joking.]

I had a tremendous amount of interest. I got a lot of, "this is exotic, isn't it? This doesn't happen here!" But it DOES happen here.

This is an area that I feel passionate about. Many women in the work field say there are few men speaking about this issue.

I want to do something about it, it's not enough to talk, we need to try to do something about it. In my family, they came from Pakistan before I was born. They're from a town you would not know. They moved to the U.K. right before I was born. But in my community, the men in my family never experienced this issue. I've been married 3 times. So I will admit some failure there. My first wife was Catholic. My second was Hindu and my third was Sikh. In every situation, my former wife would say, "there he goes again."

But seriously, the reality is that in some marriages, women will experience honor violence on a day-to-day basis. It's important to raise the profile of these issues. You heard the international definition of violence. But when I speak, what I tend to say is that this is simple. This is about male power. This is about men thinking they can control every aspect of women's behavior. The women bear the consequences of the shame of the family. It may be the man is responsible, but "it is your fault." When you talk about power and control, this is what you reflect upon. These are behaviors and crimes in the name of the father and son and the blessed male members of the family. This is about men and their power.

When you appreciate that, you get a better feel of what we're talking about.

Victims tell you what they need. This is how we'll make a difference.

Our police forces flag this on their cases. We flag it in our systems. In the U.K. there are 12 honor killings a year. That's once every month. Is that shocking?

People are taken abroad and killed abroad too. That's a headline for you. If you want to look at it in your districts, like in Queens, you don't know how frequently this is happening until you start looking.

Then, with the other types of behavior that are honor related there's forced marriage and forced imprisonments, forced assaults and sexual assaults, etc. Now there are thousands of these! You are talking about thousands of victims and these people are being harmed by the people who are supposed to love them. So that's the picture about your communities. This is not isolated. It's in greater numbers than you anticipate. Then there's the BBC survey five years ago. There were young Indian, or Pakistani, or Afghani, etc. men surveyed and all lived in England. They were asked, would they do this? A large number said yes! 1/10!

That's 80,000-100,000 men in the U.K alone! Think about that wide support in the communities.

It's necessary as I indicated to have a perspective about your safety. I have had death threats and there was even a petition out for MY death! I signed it!

[Audience laughing.]

I think they are a minority but they are an allowed minority. Recognize if you are involved in this area there's personal cost. The women in this field suffer already. In the U.K. there's abuse, violence, threats, etc. and that's just because they are the victims! So you are just touching the subject. There's a cost. It's not just about women's rights but it's about human rights. You agree? It's about if you have the right to live your life as you want and choose. It's in that context we should address our failings.

I didn't know it was so huge. These victims are usually between 15-24. The youngest protection we have done from a forced marriage was 8 years old but the oldest was 55. So it's beyond that 15-24 span. Then 80% of the perpetrators were men. These fathers, or husbands harm or kill their own daughters or wives. Then others murders and abuses were carried out by hit-men. These people do this without money! They do it for kudos or statements. I mentioned two individuals were celebrated for what they did. Honor killings are a big issue.

We also recognize that 1/3 of our killings we could have prevented. A 3rd of those people who died could have been saved.

Then there's the hidden nature: Suicide. That's the "get-out" for the women who think that's the only way to prevent the suffering and the shaming of their families.

In one year in 2007, there were 240 rail suicides. That is where women jump in front of moving trains. These were mostly from the South Asian communities. Some of these women were ALSO holding their children when they jumped. This suicide rate was 3 times more likely to occur with South Asian women than with their white counterparts.

There were people who returned from war in our country with the same suicide rate. That's the only comparison that we have in terms of statistics.

Also, if you force someone to commit suicide then that's manslaughter. That's new. That's just an act passed of 5 years ago. So that's a small thing to tackle this issue.

Forced marriage is recognized. And it's where the violence is applied, or where emotional blackmail is applied. That's probably the most common. You are made to think that you must do what the family says. There's instances of the women who run away then the families communicate for example, that their mother had a heart attack! Come back! But it's a lie. They did what they had to do to get you back and into the marriage. There's all these pressures and delusions. Like they will show you a picture of Tom Cruise that you are to marry, then the guy actually looks like me! [Joke/joking.]

But the forced marriage is the beginning of something. After that, you have suicide, self-harm, you have children protection issues, and abuse. There's the forced marriage that's the earthquake, then after that is the tsunami. We know how harmful the tsunami is. So we must prevent the forced marriage in the first

place.

There are triggers. There are school girls just disappearing. These children must go to school until the age of 16 in the U.K. But then they just disappear! That was what was happening. There was a survey and hundreds of girls were just gone. So now they are treated as slaves awaiting the forced marriage but others are already suffering harm.

There were two people murdered. There was a Turkish girl in North London. She wanted her own partner then we never heard from her again. We managed to convict her father years later but we still didn't find her body!

When a child goes missing who reports it!? The family! So if the family is responsible, they won't report it! So that's where the local people come into play. Everyone should ask questions. You are not just being a busybody when you do it. If you don't ask questions, then young girls will continue to disappear. For these homicides, it took years to get answers. We have these police going in and making these investigations. It took the mother coming forth to even say what happened. We managed to get her justice on the backs of the loyalties of her family. So we must go back years later and see if people can eventually change their view.

Then there was a murder of Sergei Hathwell. She wanted a divorce in the U.K. But she was persuaded to go to a different country for a family member's wedding. Then she disappeared.

Do you really think she would just run off like that? It took us a decade to find out what happened to her. A daughter-in-law was finally able to disclose what happened. They never found her body however.

In that case, a year after the murder, I went to a prison where the victim's mother was being held. She made a point of blaming me. She's now 74 years old! She now will spend the rest of her life in prison. When people talk about honor, surely someone of my mother's age in that position is the most dishonorable person.

Then you need to look at disability and forced marriage. This is another subject. We are talking particularly about children with learning disabilities. There's a case of a woman who was 24, and we had a call. The person who called was concerned because she was on her 4th marriage. When we investigated, we found that each marriage was costing the husband several thousand dollars! This woman was mentally disabled and she was being treated as the family's cash cow. Be aware of people who are disabled, because they are often forced into marriage.

We also have gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people who are abused. This is when a child comes out as gay, lesbian or bisexual to their families. Then his or her family says, "We're glad you came out. Now you are getting married tomorrow." Homosexuality and forced marriage is a trigger.

I say that all assumptions need to be left at the door. Let's say a young lady walks in and says, "my mom and dad want to kill me." Don't start with disbelief. No matter the situation, and especially if she's at a police station, you need to believe her. Believe what they say. If you start with a lack of belief, you're putting the woman at risk.

Take Samara's case for example: She's a graduate. Her family was wealthy, they owned property in London. At 10 AM she was taken to her boyfriend by her

mother. She was taken to him and asked to let her go. He said, "I will not let her go. I love her." At 12 PM, just 2 hours later she was stabbed 18 times. From my perspective, it was easy to prosecute her 16 year old cousin. I authorized listening devices. I would use these mafia types of devices. I also built a case against her brother and father. No one spoke, but they WERE speaking to each other.

Another area is the organized nature of it. I can't even think, in the 20 odd cases, I can't think of a case that wasn't organized, or didn't involve planning. It's important to be aware of all the techniques out there. We don't want ANYONE to think they can get away with it.

Another case to consider: A woman was forced into a marriage. She came to us battered and abused. She was seen on a subway kissing her boyfriend outside of her marriage. A member of the community saw them kissing, and told her father. The father told her uncle, and 6 men of the family decided the girl must die. One of the men raped her, and then she was killed and buried in a suitcase 100 miles away. We built a strong case and prosecuted the father and uncle. They both received long sentences.

[APPLAUSE.]

The other men who committed this crime came back to England from other countries to which they fled and they were also prosecuted. We now have 2 men in prison for the rest of their lives. It's terrible that they think they can get away with it. Anyone involved, even on the fringes, in our opinion needs to be brought to justice. The women were saying, "I have been told that I'll be the next to die." These women were being told this by the men in their own family!

So when it came to the media, we make sure there's a lot of media, mass communication, so that we send out the message, "if you're involved you'll pay the penalty." Don't just go for the easy target, it's too easy. Everyone needs to be brought to justice.

The youngest victim in a case I dealt with was 6 years old. Her name was Alicia and we'll never know why she was burned to death. 12 members in the house fire did escape. The home was set alight because her older brother was SMSing a girl from a different family. That's enough to kill a 6 year old girl I guess. That's just to show you how far these people will go.

A Sikh man's daughter had run away with her boyfriend. He wanted to kill the boyfriend's father to flush out his daughter and her boyfriend in order to murder them too. He showed up to the boyfriend's father's funeral to confront his daughter's boyfriend. He got an undercover police officer instead. But that's how far he tried to go to kill his daughter and her boyfriend. Logic doesn't apply to these people. They go down these routes that you can't even imagine, let alone understand why.

There are male victims. Back in 2004 these all revolved around the perceived behavior of a daughter. So this still goes around the perception of a woman's behavior.

Two more examples. There was a murder of a woman from Pakistan. She was content to be married to a family in Europe but didn't speak the language. She was beaten everyday by her husband so severely that years later when she finally did die from the abuse, the coroner thought she had been in a car accident.

I don't know about U.S. law but with the U.K. we used the legislation to

prosecute the WHOLE family for just standing by. Mother in law, sister in law, AND the brother in law are all in prison now. It's a message. You must prevent these tragic deaths from happening.

The most recent murder I dealt with was 3 months ago. A woman named Gita wanted a divorce. She was on her way to pick up her two children and as she walked she was attacked by a man with a machete. Her arm was chopped off and she died. These men escaped. But we found out it was the husband. He was in a pub to watch television. That was his "alibi." But we built a case against him and the 16 year old boy who committed the actual act in addition to a few other people who were conspirators.

Why didn't these people just allow the divorce? These are about weak individuals. This husband couldn't be seen to lose face with the community because she wanted to let him go. This 16 year old was only in the country a few months before the murder and was hired by this husband to kill his wife. The 16 year old brought all these old views and culture to his home in the U.K. to commit this crime. People use faith as a justification. You learn faith from parents. You just believe them! Unless there is more information to tell you differently.

There's a Muslim actress in the Harry Potter films and her brother discovered her talking on the phone to her boyfriend. He attacked her! Her brother said he "didn't remember anything," as he was drunk. What part of his faith allows him to do that!? They use whatever they can to justify behavior. This is gender terrorism. It's about creating a climate of fear to make others conform. You must know that's what we are dealing with. It's not dying out. I thought it would die out with my generation but I spoke with a 40 year old man recently. He said man is a piece of gold. Woman is a piece of silk. If you drop silk in mud it's stained forever, unlike gold. You could talk to him about dry cleaning but that attitude about women belongs to him.

Education is at the heart of this, and you must get education early. When you are 18, you are set in your views and ways. It's a lot to change after that. But in kindergarten, and early school years, that's when you talk about the rights of men and women and human rights. That's when you share these things.

Last time I talked about *Oliver*, a school production in London -- do you know it? -- Nancy gets murdered, but in this newer production, it didn't happen! The view was that we don't want to talk to the children about this! But 1/4 children will experience this at home! Use that as an opportunity! Hope that there's something that needs to be done about it! Don't pretend it doesn't happen! That *Oliver* production won't go anywhere anytime soon. I think Nancy must die. That's my view.

We work with all agencies and we must do that, with the NGO,s and the Women's Sector and our role is in prevention with education, and national police guidance.

If you look at the U.K. website of the police you will see that we have the first standards in the world. The Forced Marriage Act is the first of its kind in the world. I have 30 prosecutors around the world and they were trained by the NGO sector. There's a national hotline and it's not just a call center. It's a specific thing. These people are available on a rotary system and they support individuals. We find this hotline had 3000 calls in just the first month! Think like that in order to proceed.

People will say it is all in place now, so why do people still die?! You are right.

It's a journey. That means we'll make mistakes. Some will get away with it. Internationally we get support and prospects and evidence but that's just the beginning. We work across Europe and what you are doing is great with raising awareness for the first time in the U.S. And that's a testament. You are doing something that will save lives! I save lives every day and that's reason to get optimistic.

However you also get people who pay lip-service or who are two faced. I can't tell you how many hours I've wasted, by people saying they believe in what I do, and then seconds after talking to me they turn around and are not supportive.

Children don't listen to adults anymore. But young people listen to young people. Build champions of young people. Then you raise the expectations. People will then listen. You have to identify those champions and challenge people. You have to challenge day in and day out.

They are the silent majority. You have to win them over. You do that by support, by giving awareness. We have a large group of people who speak out about the subject. We have many challenges. We have a satellite generation, the iPod generation, who listens to other people of that generation and we have to reach these people. You have to give them messages they will listen to. You have to give young people the opportunity to speak out.

We have governments who need to do something about this subject. Once you have the laws in place, and you can do this easily by building a business case. The business is that you save lives on a daily basis. There is no left wing or right wing. There are only open minds and closed minds. We work with children, with communities. We know our people are properly trained. I give my respect to every one who works in this field, and especially the women who work in this field. They have taught me everything I know!

We have women who are valued less, who are subjected to violence on a daily basis. The potential of our society will never be realized as long as this goes on. I say this: I know that individuals make the world better. Each one of you is now tasked to make this better. Thank you very much!

[APPLAUSE.]

Executive Director: We can open the floor for questions. I want to ask, can you speak a little more about the hotline and the statistics and how you go about rescuing a girl if she calls your hotline?

Nazir Afzal: There is a national hotline and there are on average 4,000 calls to it a year. You can do this yourself. There are county police forces and they -- for example, in the northwest of England there's a hotline, and there were 350 calls to that hotline in the first month alone.

In terms of how we rescue people: A decade ago, the government of the state department decided there was a need for a forced marriage unit to be staffed by case workers. There's a hotline that's dedicated to this. This is for women who are in danger.

In some cases, they'll alert the officials in the country they're going to. They will give you a password, for example. If I ring you up, and I ask if you're ok, and you say you are, how do I know there's not someone on the other end holding a gun to your head? So we give victims passwords.

We also have a dedicated rescue team. When you become aware that someone's in risk we'll rescue that person. This involves the police going into the village, taking you out of the house, and getting you back to the U.K. as soon as possible. We do this 450 times a year, so that's a lot of people. It's the nearest thing to James Bond that we have. [Joke/joking.] The coordination of the response is crucial.

If people are doing good work for us, I don't care if the agenda is financial, or political, as long as we save lives. We use people abroad to take on the responsibility of helping people in forced marriage. Questions?

Female Speaker: Thank you so much for coming. With the families that are a threat, do many women say they want to go to another country entirely that's separate from their family?

Nazir Afzal: If they're at great risk, then we can give them a new identity, take them to a new part of the country. Rarely do we take these victims abroad. If we take them to Germany, how do you get back? We sent one lady to Scotland and she wanted to come back. She didn't like it there. So we find someplace that's safe for them. There are officials and we will have police officers who have access to databases. We also have nationals come in. We have bounty hunters who trace activity. So we have databases in these cases. If you don't have databases then you're at risk.

Police put them in taxis to get them to the shelters. But then the taxi drivers give the families information as if on a plate. So sometimes we give these people new identities or just whatever protection they need.

Female Speaker: Hi. I was involved in New York City in sex trafficking. There was a parallel that the training is scattered of the police officers with how to identify people and what to do. So I was trying to enforce information on this. Do you have suggestions to get more active enforcement?

Nazir Afzal: The first contact is the most important. That person needs it. In the U.K. I ask if the person on reception knows what they are looking at. The women will go to somewhere as long as they look authoritative. But if a woman were to just walk in here, they don't know how to help her. It's about contact. What the police do in the U.K. is show DVDs for training. There's a association of the police officers in 2008, a 20 minute DVD where all the police officers must view in the first week. The reality is if they see it, and it's based on a case scenario, they get that information.

They all must have this in development.

Then there's more surreptitious means. There's case studies that we give as training to the police officers and we are sure one of those cases is a forced marriage case. So all these police officers are trained in this field. There's all these means, for example there's a documentary on the BBC that's going to be broadcast in August. We'll do joint training and it's important with all these that they involve the mental sector and get these people to collaborate and raise awareness. It's relentless and persistent. You need everyone to get it, but I hope those that don't are in the minority.

Female Speaker: With the men as gold and women as silk, what do you say to statements like that? How do you get people to question their values?

Nazir Afzal: I just laughed at that man. He's not gold. [laughing.]

I spoke with a father who said his son went to prison for 6 years for dealing crack, but he was hung up on his daughter for marrying a person who was not in their religion! You must expose these people! I would go to where they work, or just see what they think is important and tell them what you think. It's ignorance. You must tell them that you can't say that. You must have that conversation on a one-to-one basis. If you do that every day with just 1 person it adds up at the end of the year!

Female Speaker: You mentioned that about the shooter, then you target the family too for the crime --

Nazir Afzal: In Sergei's case, and you will hear from a victim later. There was a murder of a girl because she had a boyfriend. The judge actually said to the father, I feel for you. I should give you life but I won't. There was an outcry. It's not mitigating circumstances! Who was the child supposed to turn to if not her parents!?! Men will only go to prison for 28 years! In some cases on the periphery it depends on the involvement and how much time they get in prison. But the husband in that Sergei case, he got others to do it and tried to seem so far away.

Female Speaker: Can you talk about Sharia law. Does that come into play in the faith?

Nazir Afzal: As I said, people will justify anything they can. I can't do that! [Referring to the Sign Language Interpreters signing.] There was a lot of opinion a few years ago that we should deal with this issue. We made it clear as prosecutors that that's not an excuse. And it's a police matter. At the highest levels of the Sharia Councils they accept it, but I can't guarantee that there are places where it's enforced. If there's a child at risk, there are these people who will say anything to get her back! But once they get her back they want to harm her. We must expose this.

Any questions?

Female Speaker: I'm Indian myself. I think one of the largest barriers working in domestic violence is the idea of karma. These women feel that this forced marriage and abuse is due to karma, etc. It's like, "This is what I have to deal with in life." Do you see that as well? That it is the victim feeling that way?

Nazir Afzal: I accept that. They were taught that way. They were raised to believe there's only one way to live, and that is to be forced into marriage and to live with it.

In those cases, I think once you have a conversation with them, they realize it is wrong. They don't want to cause ill to their families. We have lots of protection available. But they don't want to get their parents into prison if it turns into a criminal case. We have many people coming to us and talking to us, and we can't let these people get away with these terrible acts. The whole community suffers. Why would you not allow your children to go to school? Why would you allow that to happen! You have to win them over in terms of getting the community on your side.

Anyone else?

Female Speaker: I wonder if you have any ideas about how to change mind sets in this country so we can have legislation? How do you begin that dialogue?

Nazir Afzal: One by one.

You need to identify representatives, people in government, who work on this. This is what we do in the U.K. Once we identify what we can do, we have government on our side. Some give them credit for it because they need to be re-elected. You can win them over sometimes. The ultimate answer is the business case. You don't want this in your area. Once you identify your champions in your community this can happen. The Forced Marriage Act, that was us! We're happy to share our practice. You don't need to start from scratch.

Female Speaker: there's a shift when citizens begin seeing this slavery. How is this comparable in the 21st century to sex trafficking?

Nazir Afzal: My experience is that it's FEAR that drives legislation. I remember when I first went to Parliament, I mentioned kids going missing from school. In the same week we had that Austrian guy that had all those bodies under his house. You put a thought in their head, that you want this impact to happen and slowly they begin to understand. One case at a time, milk it for all it's worth.

The victims need to be protected. We have to make people understand how important this is, use the media! Dan Rather, for example. This is much easier to do now. There's a film now. I'm an advisor on the show Law and Order. Just put it in people's faces. Eventually there's going to be something done about it.

I think I said to Amanda last night, sometimes you need to keep the information back. The news was running wild about a case and I kept some information back. Then I worked on the BBC, but you just keep doing it, exposing it to the public. Eventually things will happen.

[APPLAUSE.]

[END KEYNOTE LECTURE.]

Executive Director: Thank you so much. Also I want to say that in your folders there's a blank index card. If you have comments or stories you want to share anonymously then please write them down and drop them in the box provided on your way out. We will address those questions during the panel. We'll see you in the afternoon.

[LUNCH BREAK.]

Executive Director: And now I would like to introduce Laura Reckart and Detective Chris Boughey. Laura Reckart is a Deputy Maricopa County Attorney in Phoenix, Arizona, currently assigned to the Homicide Bureau. She has worked as a prosecutor for nearly her entire career, beginning with 10 years at the County Attorney's Office in various bureaus, such as juvenile, gang, homicide, and sex crimes. After a one year term as a Pro-Tem Judge for Municipal Courts and Maricopa County Superior Court, Ms. Reckart returned to prosecution as an Assistant Attorney General prosecuting Drug and Gang-related crimes (including the drug prosecution of Sammy "the Bull" Gravano) and where she also served as the Victim Services Director. Ms. Reckart returned to the County Attorney's Office in 2006, where, in addition to her current assignment, she has served the community as a Charging Attorney in the

Charging Bureau, an Assistant Bureau Chief/Mentor to attorneys in the trial group and the Assistant Bureau Chief in Gang/ROP.

Throughout her career, Ms. Reckart has tried dozens of varying felony cases, including capital and wiretap trials, and overseen and prosecuted a number of wiretap investigations, earning her a number of awards from the FBI, DEA, and the Arizona Attorney General's Office. She has also served on various Committees and presented on numerous topics to prosecutors, lawyers, public interest groups and various law enforcement communities in several different venues.

Detective Chris Boughey currently assigned to the Violent Crimes Unit/Criminal Investigations Section of the Peoria, Arizona Police Department. Chris began his career in law enforcement in 1991 and has been in his current assignment in the Violent Crimes Unit since 2004, investigating homicides, robberies, aggravated assaults, arsons, officer-involved-shootings and all death investigations occurring in the City of Peoria. Throughout his career, Chris has participated in and investigated over 150 homicide and death cases and hundreds of varying felony cases, including white collar crime, robberies, serious aggravated assaults, and arsons. He is trained in the areas of: interview/interrogation, crime scene processing and management, search and seizure, blood pattern analysis, violent death investigation cold case analysis, major crimes investigations and arson investigations.

In addition to his duties as a detective, Chris is an Arizona Peace Officer and Standards General Instructor and regularly teaches at the Phoenix Regional Police Officer Training Academy, the Peoria Police Department and the Peoria Police Department's Citizens Academy.

During his career, Chris has earned a number of awards and commendations, including Officer of the Year, Police Service Excellence Award and multiple Unit Citation Awards. He has also been recognized for his work by the FBI, ATF, Secret Service and Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

[APPLAUSE.]

KEYNOTE LECTURE: LAURA RECKART AND CHRIS BOUGHEY

Laura Reckart: So far this is such a wonderful seminar. I want to thank you for asking us to come. We're humbled to be here in NYC, it's one of my favorite cities in the world.

I was out here before we were attacked at the World Trade Center. Looking at the speakers, we're more humbled to be here to talk about the Faleh Al-Maleki case. It was an attempted murder of Amal Khalaf and Noor Almaleki, who were run down in cold blood by Noor's father in 2009. We're humbled to be here, but we're only here because a young woman lost her life, and the other woman in the case is suffering pain to this day.

When Chris and I got involved in this case, we didn't expect to be so affected by this case. We've lost many nights' sleep because of this case. We're dedicated to all our cases, but THIS case hit us to the core!

You know, when we were getting ready for this presentation, we were asked what made this case different for us? We've been around awhile and seen many cases. I don't look a day over 25 [Joke/joking.] You know, because of the number of years we've been on the force involved in crimes and investigating, it's a survival mechanism to be strong and put personal feelings aside. If you don't do that you'll go crazy. But this case really affected us. We

asked ourselves "why?" Why did it affect us so deeply? The answer that I can only give you, is to look inside the case.

Chris Boughey: to echo those sentiments, it's an honor to be here. You know, listening to the speakers from this morning, I'm telling you this can happen in your community. This case, Faleh Al-Maleki, has proved that it can. As a detective that's been around on a lot of cases, this case struck me. This is an educational thing, awareness is what we want to communicate. So, to begin. I want to tell you a little about the city of Peoria. We're a suburb of Phoenix, we're west of Phoenix. We have 200 thousand people. In the early 2000's we were growing rapidly. That's slowed down with the economy in the last 2-4 years.

We have a large population from people in Muslim countries. I think it's 50 thousand or more that immigrate from that area. Did I know that before this case? NO! I didn't know.

I've dealt with cases from these regions, but I didn't know we had that large of a segment of the population in our community. The city of Peoria is your common bedroom community. We have a wide range of socioeconomic conditions within the city. We have low-income areas. We also have million dollar homes. It's a very diverse community.

This investigation started on October 20, 2009 at about 1:08PM. The Peoria police department received a call from the security building. We call it DES. That's where you go to get public benefits. It's a busy place. Usually, the parking lot is extremely full of vehicles. There's a lot of traffic. This was after lunchtime. It was a busy place that day.

The call said there were two to three women struck. There were two young women that had been hit by a vehicle. We were lucky in this investigation with two things. There was a civilian on scene with a camera. Every one of our scenes doesn't have someone with a camera. He caught everything.

When we get to our scenes, things are often messed up. Here, we have them in their place where they were found. The first officer gets on scene. Amal is on the ground. She has some trauma to her left leg. The rotation of her ankle is visible. She had a shattered femur.

Noor was not conscious. She was barely breathing. She was very near death when the first officers arrived.

Their purses were next to them. We were able to identify them. One of the women was 20 years old.

These photos were taken by a citizen.

Noor was unconscious. She was bleeding.

Amal was conscious and talking. Amal doesn't speak English. She speaks very limited English. It was difficult for the first arriving officers and witnesses to get a description of what happened. We didn't know if this was an accident or something else. The information we got was that two people were hit. We had a vehicle description. The vehicle took off.

Our first challenge was the language barrier. We are thinking to ourselves if this wasn't an accident, then who could have done such a thing? That was our first question. We did luck out a bit. We didn't have someone standing there that actually saw this guy drive this vehicle and hit two women. But it is a very busy parking lot. We had a lot of people going about their business and they heard the sound of the engine accelerate. They saw the aftermath. They heard the collision. They didn't see it. They found the two women. They saw the vehicle as it fled.

There was a description of the vehicle, the driver and the direction the vehicle took after leaving the scene.

It was a silver or gray Jeep Cherokee. The driver was a male, possibly Hispanic.

We knew we had two fairly seriously injured victims. As normal practice, we sent a detective to the hospital. Before Amal was transported, she was able to say this was not an accident. She was able to tell us at the scene that

this was on purpose. This was something done to her on purpose. She was also able to provide us a name very quickly as to who was driving the vehicle that hit her. It was Faleh al-Maleki.

Faleh al-Maleki is here. [pointing to screen] That's Noor. She was beautiful. She was a talented and caring young woman. Amal tells us Faleh al-Maleki was Noor's father. Amal and her family had formerly been friends. They lived together at one time in the Phoenix area. Noor was very close to Amal. But there had been some friction between the two families.

Laura Reckart: We learned during the course of the case that the two families had met in Iraq. I'm sorry. That was not right. They did not meet in Iraq. They were from Iraq. They met in the United States. The defendant, Faleh al-Maleki, had been in the Iraqi army. After some time of getting out of the military, he and his family --- his wife and two children -- escaped to Basra, Iraq. In Basra the al-Maleki family applied for US asylum.

They lived in Iraq. Then they moved to the United States where they lived in Detroit. It was similar for Amal's family. They made their way to the United States through Saudi Arabia as well. The two families met in Michigan.

Now, Amal's family later moved to Arizona. And then, sometime later the defendant called Amal from Michigan. He had a trucking job. He asked if jobs were available in Arizona. The family was moved to Arizona after living with Amal's family.

On this slide, I want to mention the bottom. It's a material you have on your thumb drive about media resources regarding this case. A tabloid magazine did a drawing. You can see the drawing at the bottom.

As families move to Arizona, tensions began to rise. Amal's family was grown to be "not of their culture." The kids were getting into trouble. They wore blouses like this [On screen.] because of the heat of Arizona.

Tensions rose between the parents. During the years, Noor moved out several times. Once she lived with a friend from Pakistan. Her parents didn't like that even though the family was Muslim. She tried getting an apartment on her own, and get jobs. As we find out, her parents would harass her at her work.

We find that Noor and Amal's son had fallen in love. So some background of the families. Noor and Amal were in the hospital. The search is on for Faleh Al-Maleki. Were these accidents? Or was this intentional?

If both women survive, would we prove attempted murder? If one or both should perish from the crime, could it be manslaughter? I'll talk more about this, but 1st degree murder is the death penalty in Arizona law.

We see if there's evidence from the scene to show these acts are intentional. We have Amal saying this was intentional, she testified in a trial. But it wasn't enough to file for 1st degree murder or attempted 1st degree murder.

Chris Boughey: This investigation was different for me. Usually we see people who are shot or stabbed or beat to death. In this case, the weapon is a motor vehicle. I'm not a traffic guy, for those of you who are cops, the investigators really do the work. BUT ... I needed the traffic officer's help. I was a little out of my element in this investigation. I needed other's help.

It's hard to see [On screen.]

This is the scene. This is a driveway. Remember the first picture of the building? This driveway runs north and south of the parking lot. The circle [On screen.] is a scuff mark. You see the tree knocked down? See the stake? It's broken. This is the path of travel by the suspect. You see in this picture, the scuff mark. When you are driving on a surface and you turn the wheel, you steer, the outside of the tire will leave a rubber deposit on the ground. This doesn't happen if you go 5 miles per hour. You need speed to make that kind of a mark. So earlier on in the investigation, after only 15 minutes, we concluded this was on purpose, it's not an accident.

There's an arch in the rubber residue right where the victims are standing. You can see on the raised median, tire transfer. You can see furrowing in the gravel. Because of the soft gravel surface, it slows the vehicle down. The

vehicle knocks over the tree, and we believe Noor was standing here when she got hit. The whole vehicle hit her square in the middle. He didn't stop! He ran right over her! Amal was slightly in front of her and JUST off the curb. This was an intentional act. There's no reason in the world that anyone should be driving in this location at any time. Amal was hit first, she says she saw him coming and put her hand up and says "no father of Noor." She describes him as having a mean look on his face.

She gets thrown 25-30 feet, shattering her femur and vertebrae and also had several internal injuries. He turns, after that, as we'll look later at the damage of the vehicle. The front grill of the jeep was snapped in half. He ran her completely over and you see where she landed and was found. After he hits her, he continues through the gravel, south of the sidewalk. He drives through the parking lot and continues westbound.

Based on a couple of things now, including the statement at the hospital and the physical evidence, we don't have a lot of biological evidence. What we have is a statement of a surviving victim. So at this point, we're dealing with a crime. We are dealing with something that happened on purpose. Both victims have suffered significant injuries.

What were these ladies doing at this location on this day? We know Noor went to the DES building. This is the waiting area. [On screen.] Imagine this full of people waiting for assistance. This number 47 for the waiting line is significant. The defendant talks about this significance later on. How is this? As much as we want to say that they knew they were there, it's said it's happenstance.

Noor was there for Amal. Faleh al-Maleki was there applying for public assistance. We believe they were both there at the same time in the same place.

Laura Reckart: The question became then, if it's happenstance, did the defendant see Noor and Amal there and vice versa? We found out that Noor had seen her father. Amal said Faleh al-Maleki looked right at her. We don't know if he had seen Noor.

Noor began texting her friends. Officers went into her phone and we found that out.

Chris Boughey: We pull cell phones in cases. Cell phones are a wealth of information. People spend more time on their cell phones than talking face to face. We found some very good information. Within about 12 hours, we were able to get a hold of Noor's cell phone. We analyzed the phone. Obviously, it's clear she saw her dad.

She texts her friend, Ushie Love. [Reading text [On overhead.]

This is not a normal text that your daughter would send to her best friend. Obviously, there's some amount of fear in Noor's life.

The second one is Ushie responding back. [Reading text [On overhead.]

The next one is Noor sending a text back. [Reading text [On overhead.]

She sent a follow-up to Ushie. [Reading text [On overhead.]

Noor obviously had seen her dad. Obviously, it was very clear that these texts also show us that the relationship between Noor and her father was strained. She had some fear of her father.

These text messages lend themselves to tell us and show us this was something done on purpose. This was something thought about and carried out. It was not an accident. We are building our case. We are making our case. To anyone that would look at this case, you can see it was not an accident. It was an intentional act.

One of the first things we did at the scene, after being briefed on the incident and who Faleh al-Maleki was, we discovered Faleh al-Maleki had a 2000 Jeep registered to him. We found his home address. Some of my squad and myself went to his home in Glendale. We initiated a surveillance operation on the residence.

About 10 minutes into this investigation we saw a younger male come out of the garage to take a delivery of a number of pieces. We knew Faleh al-Maleki was there. We knocked on the door. The defendant wasn't there.

His son, Ali, was there. He answered the door. At that time, Ali was about 21-years-old. He was the oldest child of Faleh al-Maleki. He proceeded to lie to me for the next hour and a half.

Ali denied talking to his father since he had left in the morning. He did confirm that the relationship between his father and Noor was strained. Ali said she had been going out of her way to disrespect the family. She had become too westernized.

Ali also talked about Noor being sent to Iraq to marry someone. It was an arranged marriage. Every time you press Ali for more information, he would shut down and say he didn't know anything. He didn't want to get involved. He repeated that over and over again. As you know, if you have that information and we are investigating, you are involved.

This goes back and forth for a few hours. I didn't leave. I can be a pain in the butt. I stayed outside. Ali would come out and give me more information every so often. We found out that Faleh al-Maleki was a diabetic. He needed insulin. That came in handy later in the investigation. Ali would give us tidbits of information.

Ali also provided us with his father's cell phone. This tells us what he did and who he was with.

After talking to Ali for a few hours I knew Faleh al-Maleki was not at the house and we didn't know where he was. My biggest responsibility is to find Faleh al-Maleki.

In the next couple of days we are doing everything we can to locate Faleh al-Maleki. We run up on his phone. We do a traffic trace. We monitor when the phone is used and where it's being used. There was nothing for several days.

Before I left Ali, I asked him to call me if he heard from his dad. If he doesn't call, we were going to have a chat. Ali didn't choose to talk to me. He chose to talk to local Phoenix media.

[Video:

This is CBS News. We are hearing from the family of the young lady run over in a Peoria parking lot. We spoke to her brother.

Male Speaker: Ali says his father and sister have been at odds for years. This is because his sister does not follow in Muslim traditions.

Ali: I thought this couldn't happen.

Male Speaker: For days, Noor has been in the hospital.

Ali: She's still unconscious. She has moved a bit. They think it's spontaneous.

Male Speaker: Noor may never recover.

Ali: It has hurt my mom.

Male Speaker: There is tension between father and daughter.

Ali: She triggered my dad's anger.

Male Speaker: His sister is married to an Iraqi man. She moved back here. She moved in with a new man and her parents didn't approve.

Ali: She has gone out of her way to be disrespectful. I don't like Noor's boyfriend.

Male Speaker: That disrespect is the ultimate disrespect.

Ali: There are different values in different cultures.

Male Speaker: even though he doesn't know where the dad is, they did hear from him.

Ali: he called to see how she was. My mom yelled at him.

Male Speaker: he hopes his sister will be ok, and that the family can mend from this.

Ali: it's so hard when someone's so close to you.

CBS 5 News

Laura Reckart: You'll find out how close they were later on [sarcasm]

This was instigated as an honor killing. The words "disrespect" came from her brother. She was 20 years of age, an adult at this time. We'll see more evidence that this was a killing done in the name of honor. Having looked at these things, and talking to people, we know the motive was honor. The father felt disrespected. But we still needed to find evidence to bring justice.

[On screen.]

Chris Boughey: We talked about the cell phones and the investigation and how important that was. We obtained records, and they confirmed what we knew. He called his wife, other family members in the Michigan area. The thing that we saw earlier on in the phone records, we wondered if it was predetermined or if it was in the moment. The answer in my eyes, was that he was there, came back and then ran her over.

The records show that he was at the DES building at 12:53. We know that because the cell phone tower was only 1/4 mile away. We know that he comes to the DES and takes a waiting number. We know he's in the parking lot until 1:15. The next 4-5 calls he makes are processed by cell towers 5-6 miles away, so we know he was at the building and that he left. He confirmed that he drove away. BUT he comes back. We know this from the cell phone records, because the cell phone tower closest to the DES is active. He's there almost until the time of the accident. He's back at the DES at 1:30. So he has 30 minutes in the parking lot, thinking about what he's going to do. Is this evidence? Yes it is. Anyone who's worked in the cell phone industry knows there are gaps in service. But we know that the last phone call he made was processed in Nogales Mexico. Our bandits often run to Mexico, whether they're white, etc., they know they are anonymous in Mexico.

So once we know he's in Mexico, I had some choice words that I screamed. But we also know that he's diabetic. Fax Net is information that is sent out to restaurants, pharmacies, etc. Another speaker spoke about how in cases like this the whole family gets involved. We find later from a pharmacist that there was a prescription picked up the day AFTER the incident.

So his phone is not on, but we have surveillance from all the vehicles, family members, etc. We still can't find him. One thing that we do in Phoenix, is that we have relationships with officers on the other side of the border. We know he's in Mexico, Nogales. I reached out to the Tucson center who has a relationship with the Sonoran province. Within 4 hours of making a phone call, the police found in a shopping mall in Nogales, a vehicle. This vehicle was towed, and taken custody. The vehicle is taken back to Phoenix. We now have a search warrant.

We're looking for evidence. Talk about the dent in the hood. This is the location where Amal was struck. The cracked windshield, [On screen.] here. There are two areas of impact. One is on the front passenger side, where the dent is and also in the front grill area where Noor was struck.

We talked about before, he made several phone calls to his wife, and son. The last call he made before leaving the Phoenix area was to his cousins' house. He drives out of Peoria, out of the state, and out of the US to Nogales. We learned later, that he turns his phone off in Nogales. He stays in Nogales for two days.

He travels to Hermosillo by bus. At this point, we're working on a warrant for him. There was already an

American warrant for attempted murder. No one ever checked at customs. They didn't check his papers or identification. Faleh al-Maleki basically traveled freely through Mexico. He catches a plane from Mexico City and flies to London, England.

Thank goodness for British customs. If they hadn't checked his papers he would be gone. When he got off the plane in London he had to answer questions. He had very little money. His sponsor to get into the country was Noor's husband. He was living in Scotland at the time.

Faleh al-Maleki had little money. He had no business being in Great Britain. He had no job or address. They said they were going to detain him. They ran a check and found the warrant. They put him in a processing center. They called to see if I wanted him. They sent him back to the United States. They weren't sure where they would send him, but they then sent him to Atlanta, Georgia.

He was on the run for nine days. When we got to Atlanta, he got off the plane and my first concern was whether or not he spoke English. We knew he could communicate. He was a truck driver. That was a big concern. He did speak very good English. He understood the language. One thing we decided to do was interview him as quickly as we could.

Immigration let us interview him there. They didn't have the capabilities to video the interview, but we have an audio recording. The interview was long. It was frustrating. The interview was a cat and mouse game for several hours. He was not very forthcoming. He changed his story several times.

It went from being an accident. He lost control and lost his mind. Then, he said he wanted to scare them. We know that we have a sliver. We tried to run with that.

Faleh al-Maleki said some interesting things during the interview. He was always blaming Amal and her family for being out of their culture and being bad people because of that. He wanted us to look at Amal and her family's record. He never took responsibility for anything he did. He said, if he wanted to kill them he would use a gun or knife.

Then, finally, Faleh al-Maleki admitted he did mean to hurt them. That was the closest we were going to get. He also admitted to getting money from his cousin. Someone brought him money in Mexico. Not once did Faleh al-Maleki ask how his daughter was. One time, he told me to ask Noor. I told him I couldn't. He asked why. I said it was because she was almost dead. He had little response.

We had a five and a half-hour plane ride back to Phoenix. He never asked how his daughter was doing.

During the interview, it was interesting that he made an analogy saying that if you have a little fire, you have to put that fire out or that small fire will burn the whole house down. Noor was the fire. The whole house was the family. At first he agreed. Then he said that's why he was getting help from his family. The first part spoke volumes.

Laura Reckart: We got the defendant back in the Phoenix area. We had to determine if we had an intentional or accidental act. We obtained jail calls. We only need an administrative subpoena.

We found a translator. All of the calls were in Faleh al-Maleki's native language. While we were awaiting the translations, Noor passed away. Noor passed away 13 days later from cardiac arrest. This was now a homicide case. In the 13 days Noor was in the hospital, she had many surgeries. Her body was septic. Her body couldn't fight because of the brain damage. That caused cardiac arrest.

We awaited the translations. It was worth the wait. The calls confirmed the motives behind the crimes. Again, it was all about honor. This wasn't just one or two conversations. These were several conversations over various amounts of time. The defendant asks to go before the American Embassy because an Iraqi without honor is nothing.

There's the family. [On overhead.] I worry about the two females. God knows what their brother will do to

them.

[Reading quote from Faleh al-Maleki [On overhead.]

I respect the judge. He's a professional friend of mine. He missed the mark. It was the defendant who made this about honor, not the media. This wasn't enough. To classify this as an honor killing, this notion of honor went on. The police investigated the family prior to these crimes. There were two prior incidents with the defendant, Noor and Amal. Honor was the motive.

The first incident was May 6, 2008. Noor was driving a family car. She crashed and walked away from the collision. Citizens reported a scene of an accident. There was no injury. Police contacted the defendant and said Noor stole the car. Faleh al-Maleki told police Noor dishonored him by taking photos with boys who were not her husband.

Our problem on the marriage aspect, is that we couldn't establish if the marriage had actually taken place. The marriage issue came up during the trial. We couldn't contact anyone to see if it happened. The marriage supposedly took place when her parents dragged her to Iraq saying that a family member was sick.

By virtue of the marriage she would assist in gaining US citizenship. Her boyfriend claimed he saw a video of what appeared to be a marriage and that Amal was not happy in engaging in this issue. Arranged marriage was a big issue between Noor and her family.

[On screen.]

In the second report the defendant and his wife trespassed onto Amal's property to attempt to physically remove Noor and return her to his home. There was no report. It was later discovered by contacting the police, that a year and a half later the police remember that he said HIS laws were above the state. He also said he would rather go to jail than obey the laws by the state.

The judge agreed with us, all the evidence came in, establishing this is an honor killing. It was also confirmed the defendant had NO remorse for his crime. When he found out his daughter had died, he responded "oh" -- ONE word. Then asked if there were protests going on.

He said, "no one shamed our family except Noor and that she didn't take the right Path." He stated [On screen.] "What can you do? It's these bitches that are burning us ..." [On screen.]

Especially his wife, had some talk about how she wished Amal would die in the hospital. They had these conversations after Amal had passed away. The first question now is what to charge. Attempted murder, assault, and for Noor, first degree murder. With the content of the calls we thought we had enough for 1st degree murder. For Amal we have 1st degree attempt and assault. [On screen.] So now, since we decided to charge 1st degree, we have the death penalty.

We have a committee you go before, who decide to pursue the death penalty. The defense filed a motion, there's a copy on your thumb drive, they wanted the death penalty open so they could charge for political reasons. If they did the death penalty they said that it would be for religious reasons. They claimed that there were many honor killings.

I want to say a lot more than I'm able to [holding back anger.]

I do want to talk about pre-trial issues. This was an issue in the media. A month before trial, the defense desired a settlement conference. This conference is where they try to resolve the case. Victims are allowed to be there if they want to be. So for this case, we pulled in a special judge who works for the supreme court. His last name was Reinstein, he's Jewish. The defense counsel was also Jewish. We tried to keep the settlement under raps.

The state went into this making NO offer -- none at all. For the mitigation to try for first degree murder off her

charge, they had psychiatric tests done. It was an issue later if we could use those tests. One was defense, one was manslaughter. Second degree murder was flat time. First degree is 25 to life. His son, told me to give him 12 years because men in his family don't survive past 62 years old anyway. Asshole!

[Laughter]

Yasshole sorry

Chris Boughey: it's a long afternoon.

Laura Reckart: this was unsuccessful. The local news station told people to write me personally asking me not to settle the case. So pretty much this case was very much like prosecuting a gang case. There was no cooperation, they were difficult to locate.

Then he said that this was not an honor killing, that the killer was just a mean old man. He will serve 30 years. Hopefully he will pass away beforehand because of his diabetes. The most disappointing thing is that on Noor he only gave the defendant 1 more year. 15 was the maximum on Noor and he could have gone as much as 14 more years. He will serve about 30 years.

Why was this case so different?

[On screen.]

You know when you see other cases, there's jealousy, heat of passion, so Chris and I over a glass of wine asked "why is this case so different?"

We decided it's about entitlement. This makes you go crazy. He believed he was entitled to this, and that's what makes a difference.

Chris Boughey: This case threw us both through a loop. We were disappointed about the verdict. There seems to be some overwhelming political correctness here that's affecting us.

If you look at this and go "what the hell?" This wasn't our trial, we're disappointed. But we're also very excited, if that's the right word, to share this with you. This IS going on in the US. It happened in Peoria, Arizona! So I'm guessing it's happening in NYC and anywhere else. From all of this tragedy we hope that you get some help, some answers. Contact us, we're not experts, but we hopefully can be a resource. We're so honored to be here. You probably need water, etc. But I want to close with a saying ...

As an officer it's for me to understand the principles of homicide investigation. Your own commitment is to see that final justice is done not only for the deceased but for the family as well.

Chris will talk more about that.

Chris Boughey: Are we doing okay?

One thing we found out in investigating this case was that there is a lot of fear in these communities, especially from the young women. They are fearful to come forward. I had to call non-stop to get a statement. Noor's friends were fearful that either the defendant or someone within the community was going to pay them back for talking to us. We had decisions to make.

Noor's best friend, from the text messages, we didn't call her. We felt her safety might be at stake. Greater good is keeping her safe.

My FBI linguist is from Basra. They did all of this work for us. When we started doing the interviews, she said she wasn't testifying. She works for the FBI. She was scared to death that he would get her. Again, we had to make a decision on whether or not to compel this person to testify with a subpoena or figure something else out.

We got someone who worked in Noor's office.

Laura Reckart: By a stroke of luck, a legal assistant was born in Iraq. She is Christian. She is in my office and speaks fluent Arabic. She can write and speak it. Two months before trial, she translated those discussions. The defense agreed because we had another translator. It was a stroke of luck.

The other issues were with Amal. They wouldn't return phone calls. We couldn't find her for weeks. I didn't know until the day of the trial if I would have the live victim testifying.

There were numerous pre-trial issues. This is a pictorial from the Web. This is from Noor's senior yearbook. That's Ali next to her. [Reading quote from Ali [On overhead.]

Isn't that sweet?

Noor's mother had a restraining order on Noor at the time of her murder. We did not dispute, but when the mother visited Noor and touched her, her heart rate would escalate. The mother never testified.

I provided the jury questionnaire for you.

The trial. There were opening statements. That's a quote from Thomas Jefferson. [On overhead.]

Are there defense attorneys here? I may offend you. I don't care. [Laughter]

The defense was that it was an accident and Faleh al-Maleki meant to scare the girls.

Faleh al-Maleki said he was a loving father. She was a bad girl. She had a huge phone bill. That was basically it.

We have a Power Point for the sentencing of this case. [On overhead.]

Male Speaker: We called 22 witnesses during the trial. They were really quick. [Laughter.]

[Reading list of witnesses [On overhead.]

The prior act witnesses were the officers from the scene before.

My partner also testified. The trial lasted over a month. To no one's surprise, the defense didn't call anyone. We were hoping Faleh al-Maleki would take the stand to get the chance to have filleted Faleh.

The jury got the case on Monday, February 14th. They returned a verdict 8 days later. Lots of wine was consumed. On 2-22-11 the verdict was guilty on the lesser of a 2nd degree murder. [Reading verdict [On overhead.]

Because of that verdict, we alleged that Faleh al-Maleki was lying in wait for ambush. There were multiple victims. We called Amal. [Reading verdict [On overhead.]

Noor's dad told us people were still sitting in that jury that wanted first degree. They were not to give up on the lying in wait or ambush. They wouldn't acquit. They believed Faleh al-Maleki was lying and waiting in ambush. They hung it to not find that aggravator.

This photo is important. There's Chris' head! [Laughter.]

I think I provided a copy of the sentencing memorandum. I couldn't use the psychological report. The defendant admitted to wanting to injure Amal. Amal is there. She is hugging Marlin. We presented this video I will show you. Marlin had never seen photos of the crime scene. He broke out in the middle of it.

The defendant was ridiculous. He cried. The wife did not show up for the trial. Ali was also crying. He was

there for the trial. We were going to call Ali and his wife. They helped him escape. They were both granted council. We couldn't call him.

The sentencing was ridiculous. He went on a theological dissertation. He brought in every religion possible. It was very bizarre. He went on for a long time. Saddam Hussein of Phoenix.

Laura Reckart: we became a family for Noor because no one else was there. We put the following video together. This is what we played at sentencing. To Noor, rest in peace.

[Video]

[Music playing]

Lyrics:

You never loved. You can't hurt me now, I got away from you, I never thought I would. You can't make me cry. You once had the power. I never felt so good about myself. Seems like yesterday I laid down next to your boots and my pain. Oh father I have sinned. You can't hurt me now. I got away from you. I never thought I would. You can't make me cry. You once had the power. I never felt so good about myself.]

[On screen.]

" What's the address?"

" West 40th "

"At the DES office?"

"Yes. There's 2 people who got hit here by truck, I think they were walking."

"The two people?"

"Two people"

"Are they walking?"

"No they're on the ground"

"They're both on the ground right now?"

"Yes."

"One moment."

"You see obvious injuries on them?"

"I don't know, I don't know ... I don't see blood"

"Ok. We'll get units out there. Keep everyone calm."

"They're talking and awake."

" The other one is barely breathing."

"The other is barely breathing? Ok. We have help on the way"

"Thank You."

"Bye."

"911?"

"Yes. I'm at 8990 at the DES office. I'm an employee. There are two people in the parking lot run over by an SUV. I believe they went west bound and I don't think they speak English. Does anyone know what the truck looked like? It's a jeep. I think it's grey."

" Which direction did they go? "

"Westbound."

"Are the two people still laying down?"

"Yes ma'am "

"Thank you." Help is on the Way."

[Music playing]

[Father, you left me, but I never left you. I needed you. You didn't need me. I just want to tell you.]

[I don't know. Daddy come home. I don't know. Daddy come home.]

Ali: For the past two years, she's gone out of her way to be disrespectful. The boy that is her boyfriend right now, I don't like him.

Male Speaker: For a traditional Muslim family, that was the ultimate disrespect for his father.

Ali: Different cultures. Different values. It may not make sense to another culture.

[Music: Keep that in mind. I designed this rhyme to tell you how I tried so hard. Remembering all the times you fought with me. I'm surprised it got so far. Things aren't the way they were before. You kept everything inside. What it meant to me will eventually be ... I tried so hard and got so far. In the end, it doesn't even matter. I had to fall to lose it all. In the end, it doesn't even matter.

I put my trust in you. Pushed as far as I can go. For all this, there's only one thing you should know. I tried so hard and got so far. In the end, it doesn't even matter. I had to fall to lose it all. In the end, it doesn't even matter.]

[Music: Because of you, I never stray too far from the sidewalk. Because of you, I learned to play on the safe side so I don't get hurt. Because of you, I find it hard to trust not only me, but everyone around me. Because of you, I am afraid.]

[Music: Look what he's done to you. It isn't fair. You're life was bright. He didn't care. He took the heart of a little girl and made it grow up too fast. This is a song for the broken girl. The one pushed aside by the cold, cold world. You are. Hear me when I say. You're not the ... there is a love he can never steal away. You don't have to stay the broken girl.]

[Music: Somebody cries in the middle of the night. The neighbors hear but they turn out the light. A fragile soul caught in the hands of fate. When morning comes, it will be too late. The wind, and the rain, she stands hard as a storm. In a world that she carries above. But her dreams hear her wings. She flies to a place where she's loved. Come creation. A statue stands in a shaded place. An angel with a beautiful face. A name is written on the oldest rock. A broken heart that the world forgot. There's a wind and the rain. She stands high as a storm. In a world

that she carries above. Her dreams give her wings. She flies to a place where she's loved. Concrete angel.]

Laura Reckart: Thank you very much.

[END KEYNOTE LECTURE.]

Executive Director: Thank you. I just want to say thank you on behalf of everyone for having the courage to call this an honor killing and to be the first DA's office to do that case as such.

Let's take a break to 3PM.

[Break]

Amanda Parker: Sabatina James was born in Pakistan, but at the age of ten moved with her family to Austria. Growing up, she was caught between the two worlds, wanting to be like the independent girls she befriended at school as her abusive family planned for her return to Pakistan for a forced marriage to a first cousin she had never met.

Her eventual conversion to Christianity prompted her father and a Muslim clergyman to declare her death sentence. To this day, she lives in hiding and under police protection, yet has started an organization, Sabatina EV, to help Muslim women escape the oppression and violence she knew. The German government awarded Sabatina EV a human rights award.

To best introduce you to Sabatina, though, I would like to use some words Ayaan has said about her:

"Sabatina's story is a gripping tale of an extremely brave and determined Muslim woman's emancipation from her family and their faith. She pays dearly to lead a life of her choice and find a faith of her own. Her voice is... compassionate even towards those who abused her systematically and sentenced her to death. She now devotes most of her time to liberating other Muslim women who face an existence of abuse, confinement and risk death at the hands of their families. If only there were thousands of Sabatinas."

Today she's here to tell you her story.

KEYNOTE LECTURE: SABATINA JAMES

Sabatina James: thank you for inviting me. So my name is Sabatina. I was born in Pakistan in 1982. My life in Pakistan was centered on the religion of Islam. My grandfather was a Muslim scholar. In past years more than 4000 women were burned alive in the name of Allah.

My father went to Austria. In my childhood I didn't see anyone who didn't believe in Allah. In 1992 he took us with him to Austria. For me, this was a culture shock. I had a neighbor named Rosie who was unmarried and the unmarried daughter had a child. I thought to myself, "why is this woman still alive, in Pakistan they would have killed her." I tried to stay away from this family and concentrate on school. When I turned 16 we moved to a bigger city and I attended a grammar school. I learned German and in the grammar school I specialized in music and acting. I always wanted to be a Bollywood princess.

My first problems started in school. I adopted the lifestyle of the Western classmates. I wanted to listen to BackStreet Boys. But in my mother's eyes my friends were prostitutes because they had boyfriends. I became two people. At school I was like my friends and at home I was Muslim. They told my mother, "your daughter is

changing, she's wearing jeans with holes in them and hanging out with boys." My mother became suspicious. She checked my room and my bags. The stress was so much living in these two cultures that I would break down in the middle of class and cry. I knew my friends wouldn't understand me. My teacher asked me one day "are you crying for attention?" I also had a boyfriend, who was an exchange student. When my mom found out I had a boyfriend, she grabbed my hair, dragged me through the room and punched me in the face.

Physical punishment is normal in Pakistan. But sometimes I screamed when hit and my marks were visible. One day we had a teacher, and I wanted to talk to him about it, but I was afraid because I didn't want to harm my family or have the teachers harm my family. I told the teacher that my mom beat me, and he gave me a number for a shelter.

My aunt called me and told me she was ready to take me into her family. They said I could stay there. They also said they'd talk to my family. Then my father appeared. My father is an extremely good looking man. He appeared there, and he didn't look like a radical Muslim.

My father said, Sabatina has every freedom she needs, she doesn't have to marry anyone she doesn't want. So they sent me back to my family after that meeting. I think the social workers, in their eyes I was a rebellious teenager. I think that's what they thought. They sent me home.

I released my book, "from Islam to Christianity " The book became a best seller. There were so many women from Pakistan saying that the men were cursing you while watching the TV. There were so many women that came to me in 2006, when I established my organization Sabatina. My father signed the marriage certificate himself. The embassy didn't ask me if I was married. No one asked me. So I was married without knowing it. I went to the police and said " I never married my cousin, it's my father's signature." So they were helping my cousin, but no one helped me. There's also an Iraqi girl, who was my best friend, who said, "maybe you should marry someone else."

So that's what I did. I married a man from the street who's Egyptian. Austria didn't help me, so I tried to help myself. I was called a polygamist. I didn't know what that was, so I called the police. I'm still married to my cousin without knowing it, my father admitted that to the courts. When my story was released, my father went to court and sued me.

My father didn't stop suing me. There are too many proofs in the book I wrote. I just want to say that these cases of honor killings don't just happen in Afghanistan. People who immigrate do not leave their culture at the airport. I know a Pakistani pastor, who tells a story of Coney Island that have the same situation.

With Sabatina, we are helping women in Germany. We're giving psychological help. We have a shelter that's our own shelter. We also go to schools where there are immigrants. If a girl comes up and says she has a problem in school we help. For example, there's a girl in Turkey, the school said she was supposed to marry. We helped her flee. This is not easy. Then her younger sister who is 16 had to marry the guy she didn't want. I wanted victim protection for her, but they said "forget it."

When you start with victim protection, don't involve people from Muslim background because they'll be loyal to their culture.

I hope this was useful to you all.

[APPLAUSE.]

Executive Director: Thank you. Any questions?

Female Speaker: Can you talk about the reaction of the Pakistani community to what happened? Did your family get support from them?

Sabatina James: For my father, it was difficult. When he went to mosque, there were all of these people telling him they saw me hanging around with boys. They said I was with Austrian prostitutes. When I refused to marry

my cousin, many Pakistani families didn't want contact with my father.

One day, I went with my father to visit a family we knew for a long time. My father had sweets in his hand. He went to them to tell them I had been engaged. The guy opened the door. I knew his daughter. He said he didn't want sweets from my father.

For my father, it was very hard. The pressure on my family was extreme because of the context of the traditions of Islam. If you don't follow the traditions, you are cut off from a community. Sometimes, the family thinks the only way to go back to the community is to kill your daughter. They won't leave you in peace until you do that.

I'm not trying to justify people who kill their daughters. The guy said he didn't commit murder. He just protected his honor. For him, it was just protecting his honor and his family for being cut off from the community of Pakistan.

Female Speaker: Hi. I'm a social worker. I used to work in Coney Island. I worked for a psychiatric facility. I had support groups for people with certain problems. I'm asking you, if I were still in that position, how would you advise me to reach out to that community to be helpful in a preventative way?

Sabatina James: Well, the first thing is like Nazir Afzal said today. I'm afraid if I go on summer holiday that I will have to marry. You have to believe the girls. Holidays to hell. Sometimes, we come back married. You have to take it very seriously.

It's also important to go to schools. That is where these girls are. That's where no one is watching them and looking at what they are doing. I wish I had someone in my school who could understand my culture.

One day, I had advice from my director. They told me to go to Mrs. Nadia. She taught Islam in our school. I went to her. I said I didn't want to marry. She told me my parents wanted what's best for me. And then, she called my father and invited us over for dinner. She had the whole family over. They became friends.

This is why I'm so suspicious when they think they solve problems by putting immigrants into social work. I didn't only experience that in the secondary school, but that was in the grammar school as well. A man taught us about the Quran. He said to me, look, these Christians have three gods. And then, if god doesn't have a wife, how can he have a child and call him the son of god? Nothing is holy to them.

This is what he's teaching me. He is sponsored by the Austrian government. I think it's hard to know who you can be loyal with and who you can't. Not all Muslims feel this way. It's hard to find out who is not thinking that way though.

Female Speaker: Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

[END KEYNOTE LECTURE.]

PANEL DISCUSSION

Executive Director: We're now going to bring all of the speakers up to answer some questions and have a discussion. Unfortunately, we will have to keep it brief. Professor Ric Curtis is going to lead that. He is a professor from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Ric Curtis: First, I want to thank you for having come here to John Jay for this conference. I hope this has been good for you.

I am going to stay out of the way and let folks talk to the experts. I do have some questions from the audience. I will throw those out there for your consideration. If there's anything else you want to ask of our panelists, we will

get into it in a second.

One of them is more of a request. We don't have time for this, but could each person here today to identify something they can do to go back to the workplace or neighborhood to enhance the understanding of honor killings. Do you have advice to take back to the workplace?

The other question was interesting to me. Today, we've heard the testimonials and the information the speakers have given us today about female victims. Honor is not gender specific. A man or boy can also suffer a fate from dishonoring a family.

In place like Uganda they are trying to pass laws for death penalties for gays. There are some issues which don't emerge. That's not our concern here today, but it's a question we might ask as well.

Are there questions or comments?

We will come around with the mic.

Female Speaker: I want to ask this question and I am very naïve about this issue. I'm curious. Our country is plagued by Islamophobia. How do you raise awareness with that going on?

Ric Curtis: Let me just respond to that quickly. One reason we are having the conference here at John Jay is that we too are concerned about that. I think there has been a lot of testimony which is easily enflamed by the media and people who are interested in doing that. We would like to get some empirical data about this problem to use that is not reliant on testimonials.

Nazir Afzal: When I have this conversation, I tell people that criminality begins and ends with criminals. It's about identifying champions for change. I have NO doubt, thousands of people will stand up and do something about it. In working with the U.K., there's a white ribbon day, anti-violence day. During the uprising there's a moment where the Muslims were praying. We want to get more men involved and we want to organize a demonstration that's women only and lined by men protecting them. This is to show this is an issue. So I don't buy this thing about just feeding phobias. It's about saying "this is wrong." It doesn't matter which community. This is the land of the free. So you MUST look to be able to deal with this. You will have 10s of thousand of people that will help.

The lady in the back asked "who do you trust." Actions speak louder than words. When you see people in this field, they're the people that you trust. My experience is that there are 10s of thousands of people working in this field, not because of their faith, but because they feel it's wrong.

Ric Curtis: Questions?

Female Speaker: how do you go about getting facts, or collecting data. How do you collect numbers, and facts? How do you go about these facts when girls are afraid to talk about them?

Ric Curtis: let me say that one reason why I'm involved with this is that I like a challenge like that. I think it's very difficult as was pointed out before. The narrative doesn't sometimes match the actions. It's difficult when you need to collect data. This is the challenge. A lot of other projects we work on here at John Jay we think prepares us for this. There was a case where there was a teens who are prostituted around the country. Here is another set of challenges. That's why you're here, to help us understand the difficulties. Especially in the conversations we have in talking about the FGM and other practices in this country, people don't want to talk about it. People are worried for themselves. But I think there's a way to solve this. There are thousands of people who are invested in this topic, who are outraged. We have to be cautious in the way that we approach this. There's a legitimate concern in doing more damage than good.

We need to collect data that serves a purpose, and you need a plan about where we're going with this and what we want to do. Do we want to lock up the brother, as in the earlier example. We're seeking YOUR knowledge and advice as well.

Female Speaker: I learned a lot from today's conference. I'm happy I came. I want to talk about myself. I work at the DA's office. I work with women, deaf individuals, women who identify themselves as deaf first, then race and nationality. I work in a variety of communities.

Those communities include diverse religions. One woman was having flashbacks and I really feel that I didn't approach her in the right way. After this conference, I feel tomorrow I will approach her in a different and better way.

Ric Curtis: How would it be different?

Female Speaker: Well, I will help them with the new knowledge I have. I will reach out more and give them more information instead of just having them tell me about their family, instead of telling them to go home. I have this new knowledge now. I wouldn't just leave them or say to go to a shelter.

With domestic violence, it's not only problems within the family, it also involves religion. First, I would contact agencies related to the religion the victim is experiencing.

Ric Curtis: Thank you very much.

Other comments?

Female Speaker: In the Arizona case, were you guys able to go after any of the family members that helped the father?

Laura Reckart: I apologize for running over. We could do a whole day conference just on that case. There are so many things to talk about on that case. We were hoping to get to that. Usually, the family members are involved. What we believed happened is that the defendant made that decision that day. He took action. We didn't have a conspiracy for murder that we expected.

We were 99.9% confident they assisted in him fleeing the country. We spent days going over every aspect of the case. If we had a wiretap after the incident it would have been better. We couldn't get to that. We just didn't have enough.

Obviously, they were involved if they didn't testify. They were invoking. They knew they would implicate themselves. We didn't have enough beyond reasonable doubt. The evidence was there, but not enough. If we had gone after the family without a strong case it would have caused a lot of issues.

We tried!

Chris Boughey: That's a good point. Sometimes, if you go after individuals where you don't have the evidence and they get away, that's totally counterproductive. People then think they can get away with things too. From a prosecutor's point of view, sufficient evidence is so important. You need the evidence.

Had they run and lost a case these people would think they could do anything. That's a danger we want to avoid.

Female Speaker: For Phoenix, after the story broke, has the dialogue been enhanced? Are you seeing more stories? Have there been more reports following this case?

Laura Reckart: This was an extremely high profile case. It was around the country and around the world. I don't think anyone expected this to occur in Arizona. We might be known for Mexican food -- because it's really good -- but I don't think people expected this to occur in Arizona.

Dr. Zuhdy Jasser runs an Islamic foundation for freedom. He is a medical doctor in Phoenix. He is a Muslim trying to promote democracy. He has been very outspoken on this case. He wrote about how the judge sent the wrong message focusing on religion, rather than culture.

It raised awareness. Phoenix is a very conservative community. There was quite a bit of outrage when the verdict came out. There was outrage when people thought they would settle the case. I think there's awareness. I think certain decisions were politically motivated. This was an issue where they wanted to appear fair.

I think that was part of the jury's decision also. In 22 years, I have never had a jury react the way they did in that room. I told Dr. Jasser afterwards that I thought it was like a politically correct pack of rules. Their excuses were ridiculous. It has torn the community.

Amal has been ostracized. Her husband has kicked her out of the house. I think there's awareness. Whether or not we will get anyone to act is difficult. I have already talked to a man at the foundation to get legislation moving. I think people are cautious. They don't want backlash from the community or anti-Islam people out there.

Chris Boughey: To answer your question, here's a statement. Do we know about everything? No. This is new ground for us as investigators and prosecutors. I think we need to remember that murder is murder. Wrong is wrong. That's what we do. That's our job. That is what you entrusted us to do, regardless of where you come from, where you live, what religion you are, what color you are, what preferences you have. You call us, we show up and do our job. People need to be brought to justice regardless of who they are.

We do our job. There's going to be Faleh al-Malekis everywhere. This is not the only segment of the population we need to communicate better with. Stuff like this, days like today are, to me, positive steps in identifying these issues and going back out to your agencies and educating the people you work with.

I think it's also important that we do a better job of making it easier for these victims, for these women, to feel comfortable reporting. As an investigator, this case was sentenced on April 15th. It's now the first of June. I'm still dealing with issues with our surviving victim and how she's treated.

She said that a week ago she doesn't have a place to live and can't go back to Iraq because they'll kill her. So, hopefully we can get the ball rolling.

Ric Curtis: one last question if there is one?

Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

Ed Sullivan, Chairman of the AHA Foundation: I have the honor of being the last speaker. I'll try to make it quick. I hope you were able to find one distinction that helps you in your work. A lot of things were discussed. This can be called the first honor violence conference in the U.S. I would like to thank the participants. Thank you all for traveling across the globe and taking the time off to participate. I want to thank AHA Foundation, our sponsors, our team and you for coming. In my rush to get everyone out of here I want to leave with three things that are important issues.

Issue 1 -- in the U.S. honor violence is here and it's growing as a problem. In fact, almost every day we get calls from women or emails that women are afraid. We're actively hiding women in the U.S. from their fathers that are threatening them.

2nd -- domestic violence and honor violence are very different. If we can differentiate that, we own the issue. I think a downfall is that we're not tracking honor violence. If we do this, we can give the people on the front lines the tools they need to solve the problem.

The other thing I took away from this is that it seems that there are success models out there. There are laws in the U.K. for example that we don't have. We need laws like they have. I want to ask you to do a couple of things. First, tell people about the AHA Foundation. We have a website - www.theAHAfoundation.org. You all received this information on your thumb drive. Finally, we need help! We don't just need financial help, we need people to talk and be willing to engage in these conversations and not worry about being labeled. If you're willing to help, to have your voice heard, we have cards, an email address {info@theAHAfoundation.org}. Thank you all for coming. Thanks to the AHA Foundation team for making this happen and pulling this together.

[APPLAUSE.]

[End of conference]