

Hate Crimes in the News

MUSLIM BIZ GAL BEATEN

By JAMES FANELLI

Posted: 5:00 AM, September 16, 2007



The Muslim owner of a high-end nail and facial salon that caters to the likes of Jennifer Lopez was beaten and robbed yesterday in what Long Island cops called a bias attack.

The attack followed two weeks of phone calls in which Iranian-American Zohreh Assemi was called a "terrorist" and told to "get out of town," friends and family said.

She was opening her store in Locust Valley at around 6:30 a.m. when two men came out of a public bathroom and forced her inside the salon.

They smashed her hand with a hammer, sliced her with a boxcutter and kicked her before taking about \$2,000 in cash and scrawling anti-Muslim slurs on her mirrors, sources said.

She was treated at North Shore University Hospital at Manhasset.

"I'm in pain. I can't talk," sobbed a shaken Assemi, 52, as she left her store late yesterday afternoon.

"They said, 'Your kind isn't welcomed here. You don't belong here,' " said Ginny Russo, a friend and customer. "You don't do that to people. That's so wrong."

Slain Arab-American May Have Been Hate-Crime Victim

By EVELYN NIEVES

Published: October 6, 2001

The New York Times

REEDLEY, Calif., Oct. 5— Last Saturday, on his last day, Abdo Ali Ahmed opened his convenience store at 7 a.m., the same as always. His customers had come to rely on Ahmed's East Reedley Store for coffee and cigarettes on their way to work in the grape fields and packing houses.

Mr. Ahmed, who was 51 years old, was **shot to death behind his counter** about 4:15 that afternoon. And in a sleepy Central Valley farm town about 20 miles southeast of Fresno, where there had been only one murder in the last four years, police say Mr. Ahmed, a Muslim and native of Yemen, may have been the victim of hate.

"This was not a robbery," said Mansoor Ismael, consul for the Republic of Yemen in San Francisco. He and others here noted that **no money was taken from the store, even though Mr. Ahmed's cash register was full, a bag of money sat behind the counter, the store safe was open, and Mr. Ahmed was alone and defenseless.**

"Mr. Ahmed is **one more victim of the tragedy of Sept. 11,**" said Mohammad Rocka, a community leader who spoke at Mr. Ahmed's funeral service, which was held on Thursday. "When will we stop the terror?"

Swaran Kaur Bhullar

Los Angeles Times

September 11, 2002

Swaran Kaur Bhullar, 52, emigrated from Kenya in 1988 after falling in love with the San Diego area during an earlier visit to her husband's relatives. She has never been to the Middle East and is a U.S. citizen. But she is, as she puts it, "a brown woman." She was one of dozens of people of foreign ancestry who were victims of hate crimes in the weeks after Sept. 11. Two men ripped open her car door, slashed her in the head with a knife and shouted: "**This is what you get for what you've done to us!**" She has recovered from her wounds, but she locks the door now when she drives.