

NAACP NEWS

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NAACP SENDS TEAM TO WEST VIRGINIA TO MONITOR ACTIONS RELATED TO ATTACK OF BLACK WOMAN

NAACP leaders are deeply concerned by the horrific acts and crimes related to the reported abuse and repeated sexual assault of a 20-year old black woman in West Virginia, still hospitalized as a result of a week-long ordeal that ended last Saturday. The NAACP has deployed a team to monitor the situation and calls for local, state and federal authorities to be swift, thorough and just in the prosecution of those accused.

Six white suspects, male and female, are in police custody for allegedly torturing and attacking Megan Williams. The woman's abductors are said to have used racial slurs in their attacks that included stabbing, choking, rape, pulling out her hair, confinement and other grotesque acts, according to media reports.

"If true, this inhumane behavior defies understanding," said NAACP National Board of Directors Chairman Julian Bond. "It is difficult to even attempt to understand their [the suspects] mindset. The cruelty involved is shocking and the racial aspect makes it even worse. This gives new meaning to the term 'hate crime'."

"The federal government and West Virginia have hate crimes laws in place and we await details of the investigations by various law enforcement agencies already underway to determine whether these alleged crimes will be prosecuted as such," said NAACP Interim President & CEO Dennis Courtland Hayes. "Proper respect must be given, and we expect the authorities to do the right thing in bringing the responsible parties involved in these despicable and heinous events to justice with the full weight of law."

Logan-Boone County NAACP Branch President Rev. Audie Murphy has met with the attack victim and her family. Murphy, West Virginia NAACP President Kenneth Hale and NAACP Regional Director Rev. Gil Ford will meet with local law enforcement authorities, the lead prosecutor as well as the U.S. and State's Attorneys tomorrow (Sept. 14).

"Racial hatred and bigotry still exist and we want to make sure the punishment fits the crime in this case," Hale said, adding that the local NAACP is identifying resources that will aid Williams in her recovery.

The incident has prompted a Prayer Meeting, hosted by the Charleston Black Ministerial Alliance, which will be held 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Phillip's Baptist Church in Logan, W.Va.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

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