

## 4 IN FAMILY DIE IN MASSACRE BODIES FOUND IN DETROIT HOME

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Four people -- including at least three family members -- were **found** Thursday afternoon shot to death **in** a **home** near City Airport **in Detroit** 's worst mass killing **in** 20 months.

Police were still trying to identify the victims -- three men and a woman -- Thursday night while trying to locate the four other members of the Abdullah family.

A family member, Jabbar, 23, is being sought for questioning.

The victims were **found in** a bedroom and the living room. Some were shot **in** the head and one was shot multiple times, police said. They were killed at least 24 hours before the **bodies** were **found**.

Police were summoned to the **home** of Karim Abdullah **in** the 13700 block of Troester by a coworker who **found** a blood- splattered front door when he went to investigate why Abdullah had missed two day of work as a mailer for the **Detroit** Newspaper Agency.

Inside the tidy red brick **home**, police **found** a woman, two teenage boys and an unidentified man believed to be **in** his 30s. The woman and the two teenagers were members of the Abdullah family but police could not positively identify them Thursday night.

According to records, neighbors and relatives, the Abdullah family consisted of parents Karim, 46, and Beulah, 42; sons Shaheed, 26, Jabbar, 23, Karim Jr., 18, and Malik, 16; and daughter Nadira, 11.

Police are trying to locate Abdullah, whose van is missing, and his other children.

"There's no apparent motive," said Inspector Gerald Stewart, head of the homicide section.

While Stewart said all avenues of investigation are open, he said the initial indications appear to rule out a drug- related massacre or a murder-suicide situation.

Abdullah was seen at the **home** Tuesday night by his landlord, who was checking on the **home** 's boiler. The landlord, Robert Harrison, said nothing appeared amiss during his brief time inside the house.

Harrison, of East **Detroit**, said he saw Abdullah, the daughter and one of the sons.

"The daughter let me **in** and one of the sons said hi to me," Harris said.

Abdullah, according to neighbors, friends and coworkers, is a hard-working, dedicated family man who was living quietly.

Abdullah worked as a mailer at a DNA facility on Cecil and Clayton. He worked his usual 7:05 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. shift Tuesday, his first day back on the job after a weeklong vacation.

Fellow employees became concerned when he missed work Wednesday and Thursday.

"It's not like him to not call **in** or to put a slip **in**," said Rickey Turner.

Turner drove by the Abdullah **home** after work about 1:30 p.m. Thursday to see if there was any problem.

"I went up to the porch and rang the bell," Turner said. "I opened the door and looked down and there was just blood. I still knocked, then I closed the screen."

Turner said that "blood was on the inside of the screen door from about waist-high. There were a couple of drops on the outside. I looked on the side and I saw nothing."

"I knew it was something that wasn't right," he said.

Turner drove to the 9th (Gratiot) Precinct Station.

"They dispatched 911 to the scene," Turner said.

Turner said Abdullah was a "quiet, hardworking family man. That sums it up. . . . The kids were brought up right."

The Abdullahts were to mark their 23rd wedding anniversary on Dec. 21, neighbors said.

Neighbors said they were shocked over the killings striking a family that had lived **in** the house for the past three years.

"I just know they were good neighbors," said Claudia Young, 32, who lives across the street.

"They just stayed with themselves."

Young said she believed some of the Abdullahts went out of town to visit relatives on Tuesday and have not returned.

"My sister was keeping an eye on the house for them," Young said. She said she heard shots Tuesday night, but "we didn't really pay them any attention because sometimes they'd be shooting on the next street."

Staff Writers Lori Mathews, Patricia Montemurri and Joe Swickard contributed to this report.  
Caption: Photo Color GEORGE WALDMAN Map HANK SZERLAG

: Relatives of four people shot to death **in** an east side **home** comfort each other Thursday **in** front of the house near City Airport.

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