

SCHOOLGIRL , 16 , FOUND SLAIN IN GARAGE

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The body of a **16**-year-old girl, who police believe was abducted and strangled while on her way to school, was discovered Wednesday in a debris-filled vacant **garage** in northwest Detroit.

The victim, Michelle Kimberly Jackson, was **found** on the floor of the **garage** by her aunt and a cousin about 10:15 a.m., according to homicide investigators. She had been strangled, investigators said, and may also have been sexually assaulted. Further lab tests were necessary to determine if she was sexually assaulted.

"HER FAMILY reported her missing after she didn't come home from school yesterday," Inspector Gilbert Hill said. "They filed a report with the 10th (Livernois) Precinct Tuesday night and then started searching for her. They were retracing her steps when they **found** her this morning."

Police, school officials and community leaders have become increasingly concerned about incidents in which students have been abducted and assaulted while going to and from school. Police have provided no firm figure on the number of assaults.

The **garage** in which Michelle was **found** , a 14-foot-square wooden building with broken windows, sits behind a row of vacant buildings in the 3100 block of Fenkell between Parkside and Wildemere. It is less than a block from the home of the girl's aunt, Jodie(CQ) Kenney, who lives in the 14500 block of Wildemere.

"MY CHILD was good . . . there wasn't nothing she did wrong," said Michelle's mother, Carlotta Jackson, between sobs in her near west side apartment. "She didn't mess around with drugs or drink or hanging out . . . she was a good child."

Jackson said her daughter, a Murray-Wright High School student, had recently been living with her aunt. Murray-Wright school officials would not comment about Michelle and referred inquiries to the Detroit Public School system's director of media relations, who did not return several phone calls.

By Wednesday evening, homicide investigators were still trying to determine whether Michelle reached school Tuesday. MICHELLE WAS last reported seen alive at 6:45 a.m. Tuesday as she left her aunt's home and walked north toward Fenkell to catch a bus for Murray-Wright. When she did not return from school, Michelle's mother said the family became alarmed.

"She just never did that," Jackson said. "She always came home. When she didn't come home . . . I just knew something was wrong." At 9:15 p.m. Tuesday, the family filed a missing person report at the 10th Precinct. The family then began searching for Michelle.

"They took one side of the street and I took the other," Jackson said. "We just kept looking . . . To rape her and kill her, they . . ." Jackson said before her words were again halted by tears.

Michelle was **found** in a corner of the **garage** , which was filled with rags, old fencing and other debris. In some portions of the **garage** , the rubbish was knee deep.

HOMICIDE Sgt. Kenneth Day said police have no one in custody and no suspects. "She was well liked by everyone, was an excellent student and never had any problems that we are aware of," he said.

Residents of the Fenkell-Dexter-Chalfonte neighborhood are being interviewed in an attempt to locate anyone who may have seen something that might be useful to investigators, Day said.

Anyone with information about the slaying or Michelle's whereabouts Tuesday is asked to call the police homicide section any time at 224-4280.

Caption: Photo

Memo: SHORTER VERSION IN METRO FINAL

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