

## **Shots fired at truck kill teen , hurt 2 others - 15-year-old girl slain after sneaking out of house early Monday.**

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DETROIT -- Relatives admit that 15-year-old Martha Barnett had no business sneaking out of the house early Monday morning and accepting a ride with a stranger.

Still, they say, the Cooley High School freshman didn't deserve a violent death.

Martha was killed about 4 a.m. Monday when an unknown assailant opened fire on a **truck** in which she was a passenger.

A 15-year-old friend who was with Martha was wounded in the shooting. She was listed Monday in serious condition in Sinai-Grace Hospital, where she was recovering from gunshot wounds to her arm and hand.

Police said the driver of the **truck** , 34-year-old Oak Park resident Davon Perry, was treated for minor injuries and released; a third 15-year-old girl, who also was a passenger in the **truck** , was unharmed.

Investigators were still trying Monday to piece together what happened. But Martha's grandmother, for whom she was named, said one thing is clear: "She was in the wrong place **at** the wrong time."

"She sneaked out of the house to meet up with her friends," said Martha Barnett, 69. "She had no reason to be out of the house **at** that hour of the morning."

Police say Martha and the two other teenagers accepted a ride from Perry, whose 16-year-old son also was in the **truck** . **At** some point, a Jeep Cherokee pulled up next to them, and its occupants opened fire, investigators said.

"Tiffany (who was in the **truck** with Martha) called us this morning to tell us Martha was dead," said Martha's 18-year-old sister, Melissa Barnett. "I had to go down and identify my sister's body."

Melissa Barnett said Martha's friend described the shooting to her as "a blur."

"She said this Cherokee kept following them, and shining their bright lights on them," Melissa Barnett said. "Then, when they were stopped **at** a red light, the Cherokee pulled up next to them, and they just started shooting. (The girl) said she saw a bunch of bright lights, and then she heard Martha scream."

The elder Martha Barnett said her granddaughter was a "kind-hearted" girl who had some troubles. "I caught her smoking marijuana, and I told her I was going to send her to boot camp if she didn't straighten up," Martha Barnett said. "Maybe if I'd have been able to send her to boot camp, she'd still be alive.

"This is a hurtful thing," she said. "But when you sneak out of the house late **at** night and get in the car with people you don't know, you're asking for trouble."

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