

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 17, 2016

**4 VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE IN 3 WEEKS**

Saint Paul, MN – To honor the lives of Tasha Lynn Hanson and Lyuba Savenok, Minnesota’s 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> known victims of domestic violence homicide in 2016, over 500 agencies, universities, businesses, and individuals from across the state will raise the Live Free Without Violence flag, a public awareness campaign spearheaded by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

“Two women have been murdered and four children are left motherless,” said Liz Richards, executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. “Across Minnesota we must make it known: domestic violence will not be tolerated – not in our families, not in our communities.”

Lyuba Savenok, 23, was stabbed and killed by her husband of six years, Eugene Savenok, in Eden Prairie on May 14. According to media reports, Lyuba was 26 weeks pregnant and had two children, a 3 year-old and a 4 year-old, with Eugene. Law enforcement reports there were prior domestic violence calls made by Lyuba, one of which resulted in charges against Eugene last August. He was to go to trial next week. On Tuesday Eugene was charged with two counts of first degree murder.

“In the US homicide is the leading cause of death during pregnancy,” Richards said. “We know that up to 20% of women experience violence during pregnancy and that intimate partner violence is the leading cause of injury during pregnancy. Clearly, domestic violence is an issue of reproductive health.”

Kyle Benjamin Allers, 23, killed his girlfriend, Tasha Lynn Hanson, 24, on or around May 12, in Winona County. Her body was found in the woods on May 14. According to the medical examiner, Kyle strangled and beat Tasha to death. Authorities were contacted by a family member of Kyle’s who stated that he had shared that Tasha was “gone forever” and requested help to dispose of her body. Tasha and Kyle had two young children together, a 3 year-old son and a 1 year-old daughter. The criminal complaint against Kyle states that he has a prior conviction of domestic assault from 2011.

“These deaths are tragic and they are preventable,” said Richards. “Please, don’t wait to speak out against domestic violence. Raise the Live Free Without Violence flag, start a conversation, and share resources with people in your community.”

The Live Free Without Violence flag campaign serves to memorialize those who have been murdered due to intimate partner violence; increase community awareness of domestic violence; and engage communities in proactive efforts to address violence.

For more information about the Live Free Without Violence campaign and domestic violence, contact Becky Smith at [bsmith@mcbw.org](mailto:bsmith@mcbw.org) or visit the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women’s website at [www.mcbw.org](http://www.mcbw.org)

If you are a victim experiencing abuse, contact Day One at 866-223-1111 to connect with services.

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