



BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-5900, TDD: (510) 981-5799, police@ci.berkeley.ca.us



Mother Arrested For Son's Death

Media Contact:

Sgt. Kusmiss S-6
Public Information
Officer (PIO)
(510) 981-5881

Chief of Police
Douglas N.
Hambleton

City of Berkeley
Main Line
(510) 981-CITY



Berkeley, California (Friday, October 12, 2007) - City of Berkeley Police Department (BPD) Homicide detectives have completed their investigation into the death of 9-year-old Amir Hassan. As a result, **Misti Mina Hassan**, 31 of Berkeley has been arrested and charged with one count of murder (187PC) for the death of her son.

On Wednesday, October 10, 2007, a friend of Ms. Hassan flagged down a City of San Jose Police Department officer (SJPD) and told him that Ms. Hassan had called her and said she "had slit her wrists and cut her neck." She also told the friend that she had "killed her son with Klonopin." BPD patrol officers responded to 3011 Shattuck Avenue #4 to do a welfare check of the two.

Once in the home, officers found a young boy, identified as Amir, clad in pajamas and lifeless on a bed in the front room. They also found Misti Hassan suffering from cuts to her wrists, arms and neck. BFD paramedics took her to a local trauma center for treatment where she has remained for evaluation. Based on their observations and experience, detectives believe that Amir was possibly dead between 18-36 hours before he was discovered.

There is probable cause to believe that young Amir died at the hands of his mother. Detectives have based the arrest on Ms. Hassan's statements to witnesses, Berkeley Fire Department (BFD) rescue personnel, as well as statements provided by Ms. Hassan to BPD Homicide detectives during interviews in recent days. During a search warrant of the apartment, detectives seized writings of evidentiary value that talk of her plans. Content of the writing is also consistent with the crime scene as detectives found it.

During an autopsy by the Alameda County Coroner, it was confirmed through examination of Amir's body that he did not die from injury or natural causes. The exact cause of his death will not be available pending results of toxicology tests. Ms. Hassan will be transported to Santa Rita County Jail once she has been released from the hospital.

###