Dear AAPIRC Community,

We were unable to send out weekly newsletter last week due to receiving grave news and working with the UNM and the wider Albuquerque community on this situation. I am sending out a special message today.

Last week began with the heartbreaking news that one of our UNM alumni, Muhammad Afzaal Hussain, was killed by gun shots near his home close to campus on Monday night. During his tenure, Muhammad Afzaal was very active at UNM and held the position as the president of GPSA.

Soon after, we learned the disturbing news that the killing was connected to a pattern of killings of Muslim men from South Asia. Following Muhammad Afzaal’s funeral services on Friday, there was yet another Muslim man found killed with gun shots – totaling 4 murders. Statements have been issued by Mayor Tim Keller, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, and President Biden.

We are grateful for the leadership and work by UNM international students from South Asia. We also appreciate the response, concern, allyship and solidarity of the UNM leadership and community.

Some ways to be involved:

* There will be a UNM safety forum today **Monday August 8th at 2pm** on Zoom. Please see UNM correspondences below for important information on safety and resources.
* Please stay informed through local and national media and look for ways to support the local impacted communities. Latest info is in this article: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/08/us/albuquerque-muslim-men-killings-monday/index.html>
* Student groups and alumni are organizing to explore ways to honor Muhammad Afzaal. Let us know if you are interested and we will forward your interest along.
* Join us for yoga this Wednesday 2pm. We will focus on breath and poses to relieve anxiety.
* Sign up for the Fall AAPIRC reading group of Edward Said’s “Orientalism”, a seminal text that furthers the understanding of the roots and history of Islamophobia. The reading group will also provide a space for discussion.
* Let us know how AAPIRC can serve AAPI students during this time.
* Let us know if there are any resources that you would like us to pass along.

We will continue to keep you posted. We will send out our regular newsletter with our Fall programs in the next day or two.

Sincerely in gratitude,

Farah

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