

Editorial: Rescue Lives of Somali-Canadian Youth in Alberta

Unless preventive measures and rescue efforts are taken, the death toll of Somali-Canadian youth is likely to continue in Alberta. For the past five years, many youth members were killed at various locations of Alberta; most of them were killed in the City of Edmonton, which is home to about 10,000 Somalis.

Somali-Canadian community in Alberta is devastated by the continuous murder rates that befall on its youth members; the community witnessed killing after killing. Abdinasir Dirie, 19, was the latest victim; he was murdered in Fort McMurray on April 21, 2010.

The root cause or who is behind these merciless killings aren't clearly known. These are mysterious killings which have challenged all kinds of sophistication and technological developments, as the Province of Alberta has been unable to catch and bring perpetrators of the killings to justice.

The community is outraged and questions the effectiveness of investigative efforts aimed at solving the murder cases that have plagued the community's youth. The community is demanding to have the Alberta province, its justice system and the law enforcement agencies investigate and solve the mysterious killings that are haunting the community and taking a terrible traumatic toll on its youth members. The continuous killings that are befalling on the community's youth must be put to an end.

Many Somali-Canadian families who came to Canada in search of peace and a better life do continually lose their loved young ones to mysterious murders, thereby making the families' dreams shattered. Instead of seeing their children graduate and complete their education, the families bury the children one after another; this is a tragic situation indeed.

Although the community is faced with a difficult time in relation to the youth's issues, there are programs and services put in place for the community's youth, children and families. The youth are coached and counselled, children are tutored and educated and families are given additional resources in relation to how to cope with challenges and situations faced by their teenagers.

Somali-Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton provides beneficial programs and services for the community's youth, children and their families. The programs are intended to help the community's youth stay away from troubled spots and inappropriate places and activities.

The community is approaching these issues in different stages; prevention, intervention and rehabilitation. It is also focusing to work with the parents to provide any necessary support they need to keep their children out of trouble.

