

SE SHOOTING LEAVES TEEN BRAIN DEAD

VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUTHS UP

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By Gabriel Escobar

A 16-year-old youth, one of four injured in a Wednesday night shooting, was declared brain dead yesterday and placed on a life-support system until his organs can be donated, hospital officials said.

The shooting of Andre Carter, his two 15-year-old friends and a 25-year-old man again brought attention on the city's violence and led one D.C. Council member to call for mobilization of the National Guard.

Although the homicide rate this year is just slightly ahead of 1990's record -- 286 compared with 282 at the same time last year -- the number of victims aged 17 and younger has risen substantially. Carter's death would make him the 32nd homicide victim of the year under 17. That is one more than all of 1990 and nine short of the city's record, set in 1989.

Wednesday's shooting, in the unit block of Anacostia Road SE, was apparently prompted by a slaying Tuesday, police sources and several residents said. Although detectives are still investigating, one police source said it appeared the three teenagers were not the targets.

The other victims were Gary Anthony and Vincent Anthony, both 15, and George Harris, 25. The two teenagers, one of whom is the uncle of the other, were listed in critical condition yesterday at Washington Hospital Center. Harris was grazed by one or more bullets and was in stable condition at D.C. General Hospital.

The Carter family lives in the unit block of Ridge Road, around the corner from the scene of the shooting. Outside the family's apartment yesterday, Carter's brother, Gabriel Ross, 19, and Joseph Blyther, a "godbrother," said Carter graduated in June from Wilson Junior High School. He had a summer job at the school and was making an "honest living," Ross said.

"He wasn't doing wrong. He was doing all the right things," Ross said. "I don't know how it could happen."

In the afternoon, Carter's aunt, Catherine Carter, stood outside the apartment and cried. By then, the family had decided that Carter should be kept alive until his organs were donated, a process hospital officials said could take until today.

"He made plans to go to college. He worked. In this neighborhood, it's hard," Catherine Carter said. "I'm tired of all the killings in D.C. They are making a mockery of our system."

Two 11-year-olds, who said they were witnesses and did not want to give their names, said the shots were fired by several men who drove up in two cars. They said one of the cars was old and brown, with darkly tinted windows, and the other was white and large. Police later in the day provided the same description of the vehicles.

The two children said the occupants drove the cars through an alley that runs behind 110 and 114 Anacostia Rd., adjacent buildings in the housing project. When the cars pulled onto the street, two men got out and fired into the crowd. One of the youths said some of the occupants in the car also appeared to fire.

At least two police officers were nearby when the shots were fired.

Council member H.R. Crawford (D-Ward 7) said the shooting was proof that crime in the city is "out of control," and he urged Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon to call the National Guard to help patrol the streets. Units of the guard, said Crawford, should be deployed for 120 days in neighborhoods in which there is "drug activity and gangland-style crime." Dixon's office did not return a phone call for comment.

"This isn't some Third World country where people can ride around with machine guns and automatic weapons," Crawford said. "All I'm asking is that we bring some order to the chaos."

Crawford, citing information received from the "neighborhood," also said that the shooting was prompted by an earlier slaying.

On Tuesday, Anthony D. Fortune, 26, was killed in the 200 block of 58th Street NE, a little more than a mile from where the Greenway shooting occurred. Several residents said that Fortune was a frequent visitor to Stoddert Terrace. None of the residents wanted to be identified.

The Greenway Apartments were the scene of another shooting late last night. Police said a man walking between two apartment buildings in the 3600 block of Minnesota Avenue SE was shot several times.

The victim, whose identity was not immediately available, was taken to D.C. General Hospital in critical condition. Investigators at the scene said they did not believe incident was related to the earlier shooting. As in the Wednesday's shooting, foot patrol officers were close enough to hear the shots and were on the scene quickly.

Witnesses told police they saw the gunman leaning out of a second-story window. Police took into custody two suspects, one of whom was seen running from an apartment from which police believe the shots were fired. Police recovered a .22-caliber rifle in the apartment.

No one had been charged and police did not release a motive.

One other person was killed overnight, an 18-year-old man who was shot in the 2800 block of Hartford Street SE. The victim, identified as Prince White, lived in the 1800 block of Frederick Place, just one block from Harris, the other victim in the Greenway shooting. Police said they did not know if there is a connection between the incidents.

Staff writers Nancy Lewis and Debbi Wilgoren contributed to this report.
