

Solidarity vigil in Saskatoon 'gives us a sense of hope at this difficult time'



ERIN PETROW, SASKATOON STARPHOENIX

More from Erin Petrow, Saskatoon StarPhoenix ([HTTP://THESTARPHOENIX.COM/AUTHOR/ERINMPETROW](http://thestarphoenix.com/author/erinmpetrow))

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University of Saskatchewan student Arisha Nazir is photographed in her home in Saskatoon on January 30, 2017. She will be MCing the vigil in front of City Hall Jan. 31 for the lives lost in the Quebec mosque shooting. (Michelle Berg / Saskatoon StarPhoenix) *MICHELLE BERG / SASKATOON STARPHOENIX*

Hundreds of people are expected to gather Tuesday for a vigil to honour the victims of the Quebec City shooting and to stand together with those affected by the U.S. travel ban.

The solidarity vigil, scheduled to start Tuesday at 6 p.m. in front of City Hall, was the idea

of University of Saskatchewan student Arisha Nazir and several of her friends. Nazir said she is overwhelmed by the number of people stepping up to help including community organizers from throughout the city.

"The outpouring of support and how quickly this action has spread is very inspiring and gives us a sense of hope at this difficult time," she said.

Nazir hopes the vigil will not only honour the victims but also bring light to wider problems shared by the worldwide Muslim community.

"This is also a moment for us to push the federal government and municipal governments to continue supporting the refugees who are coming in," she said. "It's not just about (the Quebec City shooting). It's part of a bigger systemic issue."

Nazir will serve as emcee of the event. Also expected to speak are Arif Juma, the director of religious affairs at the Islamic Center of Saskatoon, Mayor Charlie Clark, and elders and other Muslim community members. There will also be musical and spoken word performances.

Alexandre Bissonnette, a 27-year-old student at Laval University, has been charged with six counts of first-degree murder and five of attempted murder in Sunday's attack.

There is no known motive, but friends say he had radical views and admired French far right leader Marine Le Pen, who visited Quebec last year, U.S. President Donald Trump, and a Quebec City columnist who holds pro-nationalist and anti-multicultural views.

Two days before the Quebec City shooting, an executive order was signed by United States President Donald Trump that [bans refugees, migrants and foreign nationals from seven predominantly Muslim countries](http://www.thestarphoenix.com/news/world/unnamed+white+house+official+travel+98it+really+massive/12808833/story.html)

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. Protests against the order have been held across the globe in the ensuing days.

Saskatoon Flyers



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