



VIOLENCE FREE
MINNESOTA

WE REMEMBER MANIJEH "MANI" STARREN



THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE REMEMBERS **MANIJEH STARREN**

MINNESOTA'S 13TH CONFIRMED VICTIM OF INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE IN 2023

Manijeh "Mani" Starren, 33, was killed on or around April 21 in St. Paul. Her boyfriend, Joseph Jorgenson, 40, was charged with second-degree murder on June 30. Family members reported Manijeh missing on May 1, and had last seen her on April 18. Manijeh's father told police that she was afraid of her boyfriend, who was later identified as Jorgenson. On the night of April 21, surveillance footage shows Manijeh running from her apartment before Jorgenson is seen catching up with her, turning her around, and shoving her back inside. She was not seen leaving the apartment again. A week later, Jorgenson was viewed entering and leaving the apartment 28 times, carrying duffel bags and suitcases. In May, Jorgenson's apartment building received several complaints about a smell coming from the unit. That same month, police searched Manijeh's apartment and found broken items, a large hole removed from the bedroom mattress, and what appeared to be blood stains on the bed, and in the living room and kitchen. The blood was later identified as Manijeh's. On June 26, police obtained a warrant to arrest Jorgenson. When officers arrived, Jorgenson barricaded himself in his room and started a fire there. Jorgenson fought with officers as they tried to arrest him and he attempted to disarm and take one of the officer's firearms. He was arrested unharmed. During his arrest, there was a woman in Jorgenson's apartment with bruises on her face and red marks on her neck. She told law enforcement that Jorgenson had strangled and threatened to kill her. Manijeh's neighbors recalled seeing her with a black eye and red marks on her neck on at least one occasion. On June 28, a search of a storage unit rented out on May 5 to Jorgenson's roommate revealed Manijeh's remains in two coolers and a bag. It is believed that Jorgenson killed Manijeh in her apartment, dismembered her, moved her body to his apartment, and then to the storage unit. Jorgenson is also suspected in the 2021 disappearance of Fanta Xayavong, 33. One of Fanta's friends told police they believed Fanta was a victim of sex trafficking by Jorgenson. Manijeh "Mani" Starren is survived by her three young children.