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## URGENT CALL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

September 28<sup>th</sup>'s domestic violence-related murder of 24-year-old Suraia Parbin Miah illustrates the need for awareness and prevention, especially among Michigan's South Asians.

Twenty-two-year-old Mohammed Abul-Fazal Chowdhury was charged with second-degree murder of his wife by multiple stabbings. She was found in their Sterling Heights apartment kitchen by Police after Chowdhury called 911 to report three intruders broke in and killed her. Evidence pointed otherwise; Chowdhury is currently being held without bond.

Many South Asians (Asian Indians, Pakistanis, and Bangladeshis) in Michigan describe this occurrence and past ones as shocking or rare. But MAI Family Services' counselors and members only feel saddened and disheartened. Eighty percent of calls received by MAI Family Services, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping South Asian families, concern domestic violence. Domestic violence and the harm it incurs to individuals, families and societies are realities faced by the South Asian community. It is about time Michiganders raise a strong, loud voice against domestic violence in every community.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Help MAI Family Services to prevent family violence and to build healthy relationships. Walk with us at our first-ever Walk to Stop Domestic Violence at Rochester Hills Municipal Park on Saturday, October 3, 2009.

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To register, make a pledge or sponsor Walk to Stop Domestic Violence, visit [www.maifs.dojiggy.com](http://www.maifs.dojiggy.com) or email Mona Belsare at [monabelsare@hotmail.com](mailto:monabelsare@hotmail.com). Contact MAI Family Services on our Free Helpline 888/664-8624 or at 248/477-4985.