

**Date : 2/16/2019 5:19:14 PM**

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**Subject : [External] Re: Far-right media sites picking up the assault story**

The comments are equating the fact they are refugees with Islam.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 16, 2019, at 4:43 PM, Laura Armstrong <[arm.laura@gmail.com](mailto:arm.laura@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thank you Lindsay and Tara,

This has been really helpful and I really appreciated your statement Tara.

Are the anti-Islamic statements coming from a fact that the boys were Islamic or just a lumping in with "refugee", "Muslims", "African". I do think that if you are going to bring someone in that Taga from the Islamic Center of Boise would be a good person. He is from Africa, is Muslim, lives in Kuna and is part of the Canyon County Juvenile System (can't remember what he does) and the President of the Islamic Center. I know in the past they haven't always gotten involved visibly but I think they would be willing to give input. Just my two cents worth!

Continuing to hope it doesn't spin too much wider!

Laura Armstrong

Glocal Community Partners

[lauraa@glocalboise.org](mailto:lauraa@glocalboise.org)

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On Feb 16, 2019, at 4:23 PM, Tara Wolfson  
<[twolfson@idahorefugees.org](mailto:twolfson@idahorefugees.org)> wrote:

Thank you, Lindsay, for the update. Below is my draft statement, in case this helps as you work on talking points. I might not be the right messenger, but I wanted to get something on paper.

On the local media front, the Statesman Story which had an inflammatory headline changed about an hour ago. There was pressure from tweeters and readers. I think it would be good to have a few leaders from the African community join our conversation. I am thinking Buta and will send him an email. The local comments are very anti-Islam, so representation from the Mosque would be a good addition as well. Do people have other suggestions?  
–Tara

“As a woman, a mother, and a leader, I am deeply saddened by each and every case of sexual assault and violence against women—the ones that we hear about and the ones that never get reported. These types of incidents, including the recently alleged rapes in Kuna, have no place in our community. Far too many women and girls experience sexual violence in Idaho and across the U.S. The media, the courts and the public at large must remember that national origin, race, and class are not relevant factors in this recent case or any others. The epidemic of sexual assault impacts all of our communities, across all demographics. There is no place for bigotry or discrimination in our criminal justice system, nor in the court of public opinion. Every case must be decided on its own merits and not through a racist or xenophobic lens. We urge our neighbors and friends across the community to work to combat violence against women in every corner of the state and nation.”

**From:** Lindsay Schubiner [<mailto:lindsays@wscpdx.org>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 16, 2019 3:33 PM  
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**Subject:** Far-right media sites picking up the assault story

Hi all,

Thanks for taking the time to jump on a call with us yesterday.

I wanted to send everyone a heads up that the assault story seems to now be gaining some traction online. The [Daily Caller](#) and the [Gateway Pundit](#) have both picked up the story.

The social media posts I'm seeing about the story come with plenty of anti-refugee and anti-Black vitriol, not surprisingly. It's not getting a ton of attention yet, but definitely has the potential to snowball given the readership levels of the sites that have picked it up.

The Gateway Pundit published their story last night, and the Daily Caller story went up a few hours ago. We haven't seen anything on this yet from anti-refugee figures like Ann Corcoran or Brigitte Gabriel.

I'll keep you posted as this evolves. We are refining the messaging points we discussed yesterday and I'll send those along as soon as possible. Feel free to be in touch in the meantime if we can help in any way.

Best,  
Lindsay

On Fri, Feb 15, 2019 at 12:52 PM Tara Wolfson  
<[twolfson@idahorefugees.org](mailto:twolfson@idahorefugees.org)> wrote:

Dear Friends,

In light of current events in the national media we are concerned the recent news below could have even bigger implications. In addition to avoiding reporter calls today, I reached out to Western States Center and they thought that it was important that we all connect today. They offered to facilitate a call at 4:30 PM today. The call in number is 208.955.6550 #7800.

-Tara

Hello all,

I know you are all already aware of the arrests made by Ada county in regarding a to a rape investigation. This is the press-release post from Ada County. In case any of you had not seen it yet

<https://adacounty.id.gov/sheriff/news/four-boise-teenagers-arrested-on-rape-charges/>

#### **Four Boise teenagers arrested on rape charges**

Four male Boise teenagers who had illegal sexual contact with an 18-year-old girl earlier this month are charged with rape.

Swedi Iyombelo, Mulanga Rashidi, and Elias Lupango are all being held in the Ada County Jail and are set to make their initial court appearances [Friday afternoon](#).

A 16-year-old boy arrested [Friday morning](#) will be held at Ada County's Juvenile Detention facility.

Deputies with the ACTION team arrested Iyombelo and Rashidi, who are both 18-years-old, near a fast-food restaurant in Kuna [Thursday morning](#). Deputies arrested the 19-year-old Lupango [Thursday afternoon](#) in east Boise.

Kuna Police began their investigation Feb. 8 after being contacted by a third party.

The girl told investigators she was with Iyolmbelo, who she just recently met, the night before in a car in a Kuna neighborhood when he began to have sexual contact with her.

A short time later, the three other teenage boys showed up. All four then forced themselves on the girl in the car.

Detectives continued to investigate the case and develop evidence – including interviews — before arresting all four suspects [between Thursday and Friday morning](#).

The crime of rape, a felony, is punishable by up to life in prison.

**Tara Wolfson | Director**  
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**Your support makes a difference in our ability to provide critical programming for racial and gender justice. Can you give a donation today at [westernstatescenter.org](http://westernstatescenter.org)?**

Lindsay Schubiner | MOMENTUM Program Director  
My gender pronouns are: she / her / hers  
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