

DRONTO STA

WEATHER HIGH -3 C | BREEZY WITH SNOW SHOWERS | MAP S8

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020

Iran targets U.S. forces in Iraq

Missiles hit two military bases, including one where Canadians had been stationed

ALISSA J. RUBIN FARNAZ FASSIHI, **ERIC SCHMITT AND VIVIAN YEE** THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD-Iran attacked U.S. forces at two bases in Iraq - including one housing Canadian personnel - with a barrage of missiles early Wednesday, the start of what Tehran had promised would be retaliation for the killing of a top Iranian commander.

'The fierce revenge by the Revolutionary Guards has begun," the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps said in a statement on a Telegram messaging appchannel.

U.S. officials in Washington said Iran had fired more than a dozen ballistic missiles at the bases at al-Assad. in western Iraq, and Irbil, in northern Iraq. The Pentagon said it was assessing whether any U.S. troops had been killed or injured in the strikes.

There were no immediate reports of American casualties.

Canadian special operations forces troops have been based in the Irbil area on an advise-and-assist mission to train local security forces.

Military sources told the Star's Bruce Campion-Smith that Canadian personnel were in the area of the Iranian attack on the base in Irbil.

"(Canadian Armed Forces) families: I can assure you that all deployed CAF personnel are safe & accounted for following missile attacks in Iraq," Gen. Jonathan Vance, the chief of defence staff, said in a tweet late Tuesday. "We remain vigilant."

The attack came just hours after Vance announced that Canada would be moving some military personnel out of Iraq to Kuwait for their safety amid concerns that Iran would strike.

Vance was at defence headquarters in downtown Ottawa Tuesday night as reports came in from Iraq. With him were senior military leaders and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan.

After the strikes, President Donald Trump, who has vowed a strong response to any Iranian attack on U.S. targets, met at the White House with his top national security advisers to discuss retaliatory options.

IRAN continued on A10

Canada joins other allies in moving troops out of Iraq amid rising tensions, A11 Dozens die in stampede at funeral, A10

'We're just gonna ... come back'



> ANALYSIS Why aren't hit-and-run victims identified?

Peel police named teen killed in Brampton to help solve case but most victims stay nameless

MAY WARREN STAFF REPORTER

We don't know his name, or his face. Just that he was wearing brown loafers.

The 65-year-old man whose shoes were left behind on Jarvis Street south of Gerrard Street East after he was hit Saturday night is still just a statistic. One more anonymous person killed in a hit-and-run on Toronto streets. The first of 2020.

But not every victim is nameless.



Frenchie Simard collects some belongings before the city took down several homeless camps in the Rosedale Valley ravine. He says shelters aren't an option. "Bed bugs. Violence. Stealing. I won't live in that kind of place. I prefer my bridge."

They have no plan for what comes next, other than a night or two in a homeless shelter, a crisis fix to a chronic problem



DiManno

Esho Korkis hacked and coughed and spit a thick spume of phlegm and apologized.

"I'm the boss here," said the 52-yearold homeless man, his voice hoarse, lighting up the pinched butt of a cigarette. "I've been here for a year and a half."

"Here" is a wedge of space beneath the subway bridge in the Rosedale ravine, walking distance from one of the poshest residential neighbourhoods in Toronto. There were five people - four men and a pregnant woman – living in the urban cranny on Tuesday morning, hunkered inside ramshackle tents, surrounded by bits of repurposed detritus, protected from the elements by cardboard and ragged tarps and heaps of stuff.

"I have 16 blankets. When I get under there, it's warm enough."

But he's sick. Seems like he's been sick forever these past five years. "Don't have any ID, so I can't get OHIP, can't go to the hospital. Used to have a job driving a truck. Used to have a bachelor DIMANNO continued on A2

apartment. Then they took away my licence because I hadn't paid child support. Lost the apartment because I couldn't pay my rent.

"Got into the meth.

"They say I'm just a lazy addict." And there you have it – a thumbnail bio of how one man came to be living rough, joining a Toronto homeless population of about 8,000, though only a small minority could be defined as hardcore homeless, rejecting for a wide variety of reasons the beleaguered shelter system.

Just the next day, Peel police released the name and photo of 16-year-old Dianna Manan, who they say was left to die in a hit-and-run in Brampton early Sunday.

The two cases and two different approaches highlight the questions of when and why police should release the identities of pedestrians and cyclists killed on city streets. Toronto police, for example, say they don't release the identities of victims of fatal traffic collisions, as standard practice.

Should that change?

The New York Police Department regularly IDs road victims. And some advocates argue putting human faces on these deaths is an important step to getting the public - and politicians to take them more seriously.

VICTIMS continued on A6

"What were they thinking?" asks mother of Brampton hit-and-run victim, GT1

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ASTMAN'S

Advocates say releasing names can be a positive

VICTIMS from A1

Spokesperson Const. Danny Martini said Peel police made the decision in the Manan case for investigative purposes.

"Just because there's so little information to go off of, it's just to get public awareness," she said.

It's traditionally "case-bycase" whether to give out names of road victims, Martini said, "just because it's so situational and every case presents so differently."

Peel police have guidelines on the issue, Martini added, but "it is something they're looking at getting more structured wording on."

If anyone recognizes the teen, a Grade 11 student who loved music and art and wanted to be a pediatrician, they might have some information that could help the case, she added.

And, "it makes it more real."

Spokesperson Const. Caroline de Kloet said Toronto police don't release the names or road deaths as a "standard procedure," unlike with homicide victims.

But, on rare occasions, the service may also release an identity "for investigative purposes," she said.

"We don't name them, we never do," she said, adding she is not sure of the rationale for the practice.

Of the 42 pedestrians and one cyclist killed in Toronto last year, by the Star's count just a single victim was formally named by Toronto police, several days after her family had already identified her to the Star and other media.

Celeste Jones, a 34-year-old beloved daughter and sister who loved books, film and television, was killed in August after a driver hit her as she crossed Sheppard Avenue East,



The spot on Jarvis Street near where a 65-year-old man was hit and killed in Toronto on Saturday.

and then fled. Her family kept a vigil over the spot where she was hit, hoping the person who left her would turn themselves in. In an interview with the Star, her father begged drivers to "be more humane."

The case is still unsolved.

Releasing Jones's name was "something that was done through Crime Stoppers," de Kloet said, noting the group had made a video re-enactment of the crash.

(In 2019, four of the city's 42 pedestrian victims were killed while on foot on a 400-series highway, which are patrolled by the Ontario Provincial Police. Sgt. Kerry Schmidt said the OPP releases the names of these victims except in cases of suicide.)

Last year was one of Toronto's most deadly for pedestrian deaths in recent years, tied with 2018 for the highest since 2002, when 50 were killed.

Several of the pedestrians killed were named by the Star or other media after reporters spoke with witnesses, friends and family. Their stories often made it to the front page and the city's morning shows — but most victims were never identified.

Those unnamed victims included people like the 76-yearold woman who was hit twice and killed while crossing a Scarborough crosswalk — by the drivers of both a turning transport truck and, minutes later, a car — around midday in August. Neither driver stayed with her.

At least 25 of those pedestrians were over the age of 60. Many were killed on large suburban streets in areas such as Scarborough.

In New York, NYPD spokesperson Sgt. Mary O'Donnell said that the force releases the names and identities of any killed pedestrians and cyclists after notifying family as a matter of "public record," just like Toronto police and others do for homicides.

New York, like Toronto, has seen a recent rise in traffic deaths amid efforts to implement a Vision Zero road safety plan.

Last summer, Toronto city

council approved a beefed-up "version 2.0" of the plan, adding more red light cameras and reducing speed limits on some streets.

Identifying victims is something Gil Penalosa, founder and chair of the non-profit 8 80 Cities would like to see become commonplace.

It's "very, very important" to release the names of all pedestrians and cyclists killed by drivers, he said.

Following the 2018 Yonge St. van attack, in which a driver intentionally mowed down 26 pedestrians in North York, the names of the 10 killed victims were officially released by the provincial coroner and Toronto police a few days after the crime. (By that time, local media had already named many of the victims.)

The stories of those victims, complete with relatable details of their lives, were widely published along with their photos.

"So, all of a sudden, people realized it could have been me," Penalosa said.

Releasing identities is a way to

"humanize" road safety and help mobilize public opinion and spur politicians to action, he said.

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"This is a huge crisis, that people are afraid to go out and walk because they might be killed," he said.

"And I think that having the faces — and not only the faces, but as much as possible about the person and the family, then (the public will) realize, 'oh, it's a high school student,' or 'it's a mom,' or 'it's a dad.'"

As the World Health Organization put it in a 2007 report on road traffic crashes: "Behind each statistic there is a story of a father or mother, son or daughter, brother or sister, grandchild, colleague, classmate or friend whose life was transformed in an instant by a road crash."

Lawyer and road safety advocate Patrick Brown takes a cautious approach.

"If a family consented to the release of the name of the person who was killed, then I would think that it would be helpful for the police to release that name in order to change behaviour," he said.

"If consent was not provided, I would not expect them at all to release the name."

There's a "positive side" to putting a name and face out there, he said, but the families are also victims, "and you don't want to victimize them twice."

But Brown and Penalosa agree the advocacy from the families of road crash victims and survivors has resulted in positive change, both in Toronto and in other cities.

"In my experience, many of them feel compelled to want to have change, and do want at times to get the story out so that it doesn't happen to other people," Brown said.

"They want to end this."

