



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VICTIM OF MURDER-SUICIDE IS 7TH KNOWN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE IN 2019

Saint Paul, MN – Alexandra Jacobs was found dead in her Orono home on Wednesday, April 10. She is the 7th confirmed victim of domestic violence homicide in 2019.

Alexandra, 77, was shot and killed by her husband, Irwin Jacobs, 77. Irwin was found in bed alongside Alexandra, dead by a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Initial media reports of the murder-suicide focused on Irwin Jacobs' life, leaving out details concerning Alexandra's life including her volunteerism and art-making. During her later years, Alexandra displayed signs of dementia and used a wheelchair for mobility. She leaves behind five adult children.

“The mere act of a murder-suicide is indeed an act of relationship violence,” said Liz Richards, Executive Director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. “There is no indication of any previous incidents of relationship violence between Alexandra and Irwin, but his ultimate decision to end her life took the control away from her and is an act of relationship violence. Even someone who loves their partner cannot make the decision to end their life without consent.”

Murder-suicides involving older couples are often categorized as “suicide pacts” or “mercy killings,” however, research shows that in the majority of murder-suicides among older couples, the victim is not aware of the plan. According to a study by the Violence Policy Center, ninety-six percent of murder-suicides involving an intimate partner were perpetrated by a male against a female. Furthermore, ninety-one percent of murder-suicides studied involved a firearm. The presence of a firearm in the home increases the likelihood that a woman will be killed by a man by threefold. Firearms are used more than any other weapon to end a woman's life.

For media inquiries, please contact Liz Richards, 612-379-4611.

If you are a victim experiencing abuse, contact Day One at 866-223-1111 to connect with services.

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