

BERG INJURY LAWYERS

For more information contact:

William Berg
Berg Injury Lawyers
Phone: (510) 523-3200
Fax: (510) 523-8851
Cellular: (510) 684-1156
Bill@BergInjuryLawyers.com

Suzanne Lee
Director of Public Relations
cj Advertising
Phone: (615) 254-6634 ext. 2224
Fax: (615) 254-6615
Cellular: (615) 500-6778
suzanne@cjadvertising.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERG INJURY LAWYERS FILES SUIT AGAINST THE WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ON BEHALF OF SCHOOL BEATING VICTIM

Alameda, Calif., December 5, 2005—Berg Injury Lawyers announces that it has filed a lawsuit against the West Contra Costa Unified School District on behalf of Hassan Rahgozar, a high school student who was twice beaten at Hercules Middle/High School last spring. The second attack was videotaped and posted on the Internet. The lawsuit was filed on December 5, 2005 in the Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa (Case No. C 05-02539).

The complaint alleges that the school district failed to maintain security at Hercules Middle/High School, failed to adequately supervise students at the school, failed to prevent adults and unauthorized persons from coming on the school campus and committing acts of violence against Rahgozar, and failed to protect Rahgozar from verbal and physical harassment and attacks. Seven young men who were involved in the attacks are also named as defendants in the lawsuit.

17-year-old Hassan Rahgozar, an Iranian-American citizen, was attacked in a boy's bathroom at Hercules Middle/High School on May 6, 2005, by LeJuan Thomas and Eric Guillebeau. At the time of the attack Thomas was a fellow student at the school and Guillebeau was an 18-year-old adult who was not authorized to be at Hercules Middle/High School.

Thomas and Guillebeau were aided and encouraged in the assault by Miguel Ponce who videotaped the attack and made it available on the Internet where thousands viewed it before it was removed. Video clips of the assault have been broadcast on news programs across the country.

Rahgozar suffered a broken jaw and two black eyes in the attack. Guillebeau and Thomas both faced felony assault charges stemming from the attack. Guillebeau pleaded no contest to battery causing serious bodily injury. He was sentenced to one year in the County Jail and three years probation. Thomas pleaded guilty in Juvenile Court to charges connected with the beating.

-MORE-

On April 29, 2005, Rahgozar was assaulted, battered, and robbed by Thomas, Jorge Garcia, Shaine Jackson, and Marcus Logan making the circumstances of the May 6 attack particularly heinous and premeditated. Rahgozar's mother met with school officials and informed them of the physical attack as well as the ongoing, continuous insults, racial slurs, and threats to which Rahgozar had been subjected to by this group of individuals. Despite knowledge and awareness of the of the racial slurs and insults and the threat of violence against Rahgozar, Hercules Middle/ High School and the West Contra Costa Unified School District failed to adequately protect Rahgozar and other students.

"This type of violence cannot be tolerated, particularly in our schools. In this case, Hassan's safety was clearly compromised," says William Berg, founder and principal of Berg Injury Lawyers. "Hassan and students everywhere have the right to attend school without being threatened and attacked. Hassan and his family do not want anyone else to fall victim to senseless brutality."

About Berg Injury Lawyers

Berg Injury Lawyers has successfully litigated a wide range of personal injury claims throughout northern California since 1981. With a staff of over fifty legal professionals, the Alameda-based law firm specializes in plaintiffs' personal injury law. Berg Injury Lawyers take great pride in their reputation as aggressive litigators and persuasive negotiators always committed to representing the rights of individuals injured by the negligent conduct of others. For more information, visit www.BergInjuryLawyers.com.

###