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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

UNIVERSITY PARK MAN INDICTED IN BRUTAL DECAPITATION MURDER OF GREENBELT TEACHER

UPPER MARLBORO, MD –State’s Attorney Braveboy announced the indictment of 33-year-old Harold Landon III on Thursday, October 5th. He is accused of killing Mariame Toure Sylla, who was a beloved and well-admired teacher in Greenbelt.

Sylla, 59, disappeared during one of her regular evening walks at a park near her condo in Greenbelt on July 29th. She taught second grade at Dora Kennedy French Immersion School.

After her disappearance, both the police and the community searched extensively for her. On August 1st, that search came to an end when Prince George’s County Police confirmed that a woman’s partial remains that were found by a pond near Joint Base Andrews belonged to Sylla. Based on surveillance footage, phone records, and witness information, police arrested Landon.

“Ms. Sylla was a cherished teacher, sister, mother and friend. The community’s relentless search for her after her disappearance is a testament to that,” said State’s Attorney Braveboy. “We all desperately hoped for a different outcome. I will be prosecuting this case along with Assistant State’s Attorney Jonathon Church, and we will fight to get justice for Ms. Sylla and the entire community.”

An indictment contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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