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February 13, 2009

Press Statement

NEW HAVEN MAN KILLS LIVE-IN GIRLFRIEND ANOTHER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY OCCURS IN CONNECTICUT

East Hartford, CT – A New Haven man has been charged with killing his live-in girlfriend. Maurice Ross, 25, shot and killed his 29-year-old girlfriend, Shalanda Joyner, in their Fair Haven apartment Tuesday night. Ross surrendered himself to police headquarters Wednesday and is being held on a \$2.5 million dollar bail. So far, police have not revealed a motive.

Every year in Connecticut between 20 and 25 individuals are murdered at the hands of their abusive partners. This number may seem small, but when put into perspective, **a domestic violence fatality occurs every other week in Connecticut.** One of the most dangerous times for victims is when they decide to leave their abusive relationship. Most often their deaths are not unpredictable, isolated events without context or warning. Many of them tried to reach out for help or confided in someone.

“We will end the violence not just by understanding the experiences of victims, but also by understanding the circumstances that lead to their deaths. When our knowledge is met with compassion for victims’ lives and a powerful sense of our collective responsibility, we can transform the conditions that allow abuse to thrive,” said Erika Tindill, Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

The Coalition extends its deepest sympathy to Joyner’s family and friends. In Connecticut, there are 18 domestic violence programs that provide a wide array of services including 24 hour hotline support, emergency shelter, support groups, counseling, and assistance with the legal system. If you are a victim of domestic violence and need help, or just someone to talk to, please call Connecticut’s toll free, confidential 24-hour hotline number at 888-774-2900. For more information about the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence please visit: www.ctcadv.org

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