

Kamala Harris to attend Tyre Nichols' funeral

By Jasmine Wright and Sonnet Swire, CNN Tue January 31, 2023

Vice President Kamala Harris will attend the funeral of Tyre Nichols in Memphis on Wednesday, according to a White House official, joining other senior-level Biden administration officials at the service.

Harris spoke over the phone on Tuesday morning with Nichols' mother and step-father, RowVaughn Wells and Rodney Wells, the official said.

"The Vice President expressed her deep condolences and offered the family support as they continue to navigate this challenging time," the official added.

Harris is attending at the invitation of the Wells family. White House Director for the Office of Public Engagement Keisha Lance Bottoms and senior adviser to the president Mitch Landrieu will also be in attendance.

Harris' contact with Nichols' parents comes after President Joe Biden spoke with the Wells family on Friday, hours before video of Nichols' beating by police officers was released by Memphis officials.

The city of Memphis on Friday night released body camera and surveillance video of the January 7th traffic stop and beating that led to the 29-year-old's death from his injuries three days later in a local hospital. The release came a day after five Memphis police officers, who also are Black and have been fired, were charged with murder.

Nichols is seen on video screaming for his mother as Memphis police officers struck him multiple times – including in the face while his hands were restrained, CNN previously reported. Although paramedics arrived minutes after officers disengaged, Nichols appears to be left on the pavement without assistance for some time before an ambulance comes.

The footage drew stunned reaction from law enforcement experts and outrage from officials including Biden, who said it was "yet another painful reminder of the profound fear and trauma, the pain, and the exhaustion that Black and Brown Americans experience every single day."

In her own statement Friday, Harris said, "Tyre Nichols should have made it home to his family. Yet, once again, America mourns the life of a son and father brutally cut short at the hands of those sworn to protect and serve."

She added, "The persistent issue of police misconduct and use of excessive force in America must end now."

Harris' presence at the funeral comes after it was announced that Nichols' parents will attend the president's State of the Union address on February 7th.

Biden is facing renewed calls to discuss police reform at his address to Congress.

Written comprehension

1. What is the nature of this document?

This document is an article / a report from the CNN website.

2. Write a sentence to show you understand who the following people are. Use your own words.

- a. Kamala Harris

Kamala Harris is the Vice President of the United States of America.

- b. Tyre Nichols

Tyre Nichols is an African American who was attacked by police officers in Memphis on January 7th and who later died from his injuries.

- c. Jasmine Wright and Sonnet Swire

Jasmine Wright and Sonnet Swire and the CNN journalists who wrote this article.

3. Use an adjective to describe Harris' attitude to Nichols' parents during their phone call.

Kamala Harris was supportive / comforting / sad / upset in her phone call.

4. What happened to Tyre Nichols on January 7th 2023? Use your own words.

Tyre Nichols was savagely attacked by five police officers after a traffic stop in Memphis on the January 7th 2023. Nichols was hit many times and in a video which was made public, he can / could be seen shouting for his mother. He was hit in the face. Nobody came to help him for a number of minutes.

5. Why were people so shocked by the incident?

People were shocked because the incident highlighted the problem of police violence which still exists in the USA.

6. Describe Kamala Harris' reaction to this incident. Use your own words.

Kamala Harris was angry and sad. She was angry with the police officers' violence and wants it to end. She was also sad for Tyre Nichols' family and all victims of police violence.

Written expression: answer question 1 **OR** 2. You should write **at least** 150 words.

1. This incident became public thanks to a video. Express your opinion on the presence of security cameras in our villages, towns and cities.
2. The Black Lives Matter movement became famous thanks to social media, showing that social media can be positive. As a 'connected' teenager, express your opinion on the advantages and disadvantages of social media.