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Police: Syosset murders not random

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The Syosset couple found by their young children shot to death in the family's two-story home were apparently targeted, but police said Tuesday that a motive for the killings remained a mystery.

Meanwhile, bullet fragments -- which are useful in an ongoing homicide investigation -- were recovered from the bodies of Jaspal and Geeta Singh in the autopsies, Nassau's Homicide Squad commander said.

A week after the killings, homicide detectives passed out Crime Stopper fliers to passers-by and motorists in the couple's upper-middle-class neighborhood for two hours Tuesday morning. Investigators hoped the fliers, with a picture of the Singhs and brief information on their deaths, would generate new leads.

No arrests have been made and police are still struggling to determine a motive in the slayings of the deeply religious couple.

"It's not likely a random act and we are looking for reasons as to why they may have been targeted," said Det. Lt. Michael Fleming, the homicide commander. "We are struggling with trying to get a grip on what was the motive. All the information we've received so far is that these were well-liked people."

Jaspal Singh's brother, Joginder, 37, of Bethpage, has taken in the Singhs' children, Josh, 13, and Ankur, 12.

When Joginder went to pick up clothes for the boys at their home Tuesday, he greeted detectives handing out fliers.



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"Police are trying their best," he said.

Tuesday was the first time the children attended a full day of school since the killings, their uncle said.

Jaspal Singh, 46, and his wife, Geeta, 38, were killed Jan. 23 in their home. Their sons, who attend Syosset's H.B. Thompson Middle School, found them dead after returning home from school.

Geeta Singh died from a single gunshot to the head, while her husband suffered wounds to the head and the torso, said Diane Markunas, a spokeswoman for the Nassau medical examiner's office.

Citing the completed autopsy results, Markunas said a bullet perforated Geeta Singh's brain and shattered her skull. Her husband's brain and left lung were punctured, Markunas said.

Fleming confirmed Tuesday that bullet fragments were recovered in the Singh autopsies. He declined to discuss more about the fragments or any other evidence in the case.

However, experts say bullet fragments could help police determine what kind of a weapon and type of ammunition was used in the Singh murders.

It's unlikely police will make a ballistic match to the murder weapon using only fragments, said Charles Patrick Ewing, a professor of criminal law and a forensic psychologist at the University of Buffalo Law School.

"You'll need a lot more than fragments," he said, adding "like an entire bullet."

Joginder Singh, who has a 2-year-old son and his wife is expecting the couple's second child, said he hasn't seen the completed autopsy. Instead, he said, his focus is on providing a life as close to normal for two boys orphaned after three gunshots.

"Right now we're just thinking about the kids," he said. "I think they'll get back to their studies and school so they can take their minds off the tragedy."

Anyone with information is asked to call Nassau Crime Stoppers at 800 244-TIPS.

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