

# Herald Sun



## FOR VICTORY

Melbourne Victory was on a high after its emphatic 3-0 win over Sydney FC in yesterday's A-League grand final ... but Australian soccer chief Frank Lowy hit rock bottom when he crashed off the podium.

REPORTS: PAGES 6-7, SPORT



## Terror teen Numan Haider's friend dies in Middle East

# JIHADI MATES

**EXCLUSIVE**  
TOM MINEAR AND  
JAMES DOWLING

A MELBOURNE teen who was close mates with terrorist Numan Haider has died fighting with jihadis in the Middle East.

Irfaan Hussein, 19, has been killed while fighting for Islamic State — with speculation either a bomb blast killed him or he was beheaded by extremists for attempting to return to Victoria.

It can also be revealed Hussein was close friends with Numan Haider, 18, who was shot and killed after stabbing two police officers in Endeavour Hills in September.

Hussein and Haider went to Lyndale Secondary College together. Hussein's spiral into extremism began when he started visiting the controversial Al-Furqan Islamic Centre with Haider after finishing



Irfaan Hussein and Numan Haider.

school in 2013, according to friends.

Hussein's upset family have confirmed he has died, but declined to comment further.

A friend said she lost contact with him after they graduated and he and mates stopped associating with girls they went to school with.

CONTINUED PAGE 4



PIES GO DOWN AS ...

**TIGES KEEP  
DREAM ALIVE**

SPORT



**P3 LOVE LOCKS  
HEARTBREAK**



School friends shocked as teens Numan Haider and Irfaan Hussein

## Another teen lost overseas

FROM PAGE 1

Police have also alleged in court that Harun Causevic — charged over an alleged plot to murder police on Anzac Day — had the international phone number of Hussein, who called himself Abu Sufyan Al Austra-li, in his room. It is alleged that Hussein helped Australians wanting to go to Iraq or Syria to connect with extremist recruiters in the Middle East.

Those as Lyndale Secondary College with Hussein and Haider also included Ismail Safi and Eathan Cruse, who were arrested during last month's Operation Rising counter-terror raids in Melbourne's southeast.

Safi and Cruse were both released without charge.

Cruse's father Glen said just after the raids that the youth had been distraught after seeing graphic photos of a dead friend — believed to be Hussein — online.

Some friends have said the teen was beheaded by IS as he was seeking to escape the Middle East, while others say he was killed in a bomb blast.

One friend said she made the shocking discovery that Hussein had joined IS when he posted a photo of himself wearing military gear and carrying weapons in the desert.

"I'd never seen violence from any of those guys," the friend said.

Hussein had deleted his social media accounts. But in a YouTube post in April 2014, under a clip of British Muslims dancing to Pharrell Williams' *Happy*, he wrote: "Here we are dancing whilst the rest of the world is bleeding, fear Allah."

The *Herald Sun* understands Hussein — whose father is Fijian — travelled to Turkey in September or October before he was smuggled over the border to Syria.

Police have alleged they found Hussein's fighting *nom de guerre* scrawled on an envelope in Causevic's Hampton Park home when he was arrested last month.

Hussein grew up in Dandenong North and neighbours remembered him as a "good kid" from a "lovely family".

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# JIHADI DUO

## LYNDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE 2013 LEAVERS



**NUMAN HAIDER, 18**  
ENDEAVOUR HILLS

Shot and killed after stabbing two police officers in Endeavour Hills in September



**ISMAIL SAFI, 19**  
NARRE WARREN

Arrested in Operation Rising counter-terror raids relating to alleged Anzac Day terror plot. Released without charge



**EATHAN CRUSE, 19**  
EUMEMMERRING

Arrested in raids over the alleged Anzac Day terror plot, then released without charge. Understood to have been upset after learning of Hussein's death



**HARUN MEHICEVIC**

## AL FURQAN



**NEIL PRAKASH**

All those arrested in last month's Operation Rising raids are said by police to have had ties to Al-Furqan, run by Bosnian cleric Harun Mehicevic and also attended by Neil Prakash, believed to be Australia's main IS recruiter now in Syria

## THE OTHER MATES



**HARUN CAUSEVIC, 18**  
HAMPTON PARK

Police alleged they found Hussein's overseas phone number in Causevic's home during Operation Rising raids. Attended Haider's funeral. Charged with conspiring to kill police and public on Anzac Day



**SEVDET BESIM, 18**  
HALLAM

Attended Haider's funeral. Charged with one count of conspiring to plan a terror attack after raids over Anzac Day plot



**MEHRAN AZAMI, 19**  
NARRE WARREN

Arrested in Operation Rising counter-terror raids. Charged with stockpiling more than 200 weapons, including knives, knuckle dusters and Tasers



**MOHAMED ELOMAR**

Sydney-born jihadi fighting in Syria who notoriously posed with two severed heads. Police also found Elomar's overseas phone number in Causevic's home

## NEARLY 300 NABBED TRYING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY



ALMOST 300 Australians travelling to the Middle East have been hauled off planes in the past nine months in an escalation of counter-terrorism operations by spy and policing agencies.

There are fears they could be travelling to join Islamic State to fight with people such as Mohamed Elomar and Khaled Sharrouf, who slipped through the net.

The latest national security briefing to the Federal Government has also revealed that 56 "coercive interviews" — where witnesses are compelled to give evidence — had been held in secret by a foreign fighters taskforce set up under the Australian Crime Commission.

The ACC is investigating links between radicalised

groups and organised crime, raising new fears that sophisticated weapons could fall into the hands of potential terrorists.

A total of 284 travellers had been offloaded from flights leaving Australia over concerns that they could be travelling to the Middle East to join IS.

It comes as security officials fear a blond-haired

Queensland teenager who fled the country to join a terror group in Syria may be used to lure other western youngsters.

Security agencies will analyse social media links between Oliver Bridgeman (left) — a class captain and rugby league fan — and jihadist sympathisers, to work out how the 18-year-old was radicalised.

## CANNIBALS IN THE KITCHEN

A NIGERIAN restaurant has reportedly been shut down for cooking human flesh and serving it to customers.

Police were tipped off by locals who suspected horrific things were taking place inside the kitchen.

A police raid found human heads still dripping with blood in plastic bags.

Ten people were arrested in connection to the crimes.

## Lenders stingy passing on cuts

SOPHIE ELSWORTH

ONE in two lenders have remained silent on whether they will reduce interest rates almost a fortnight after the Reserve Bank of Australia's latest cut.

Others have been stingy, passing on as little as 15 basis points of the 25-basis point official drop.

And nine lenders are not actually reducing their rates until June — 27 days after the RBA's action.

Financial comparison site finder.com.au's spokeswoman Michelle Hutchison said it was unacceptable so many had remained tongue-tied on rates or had been tight and not passed on the full cut.

"I think it's really disappointing that we have seen so many lenders that haven't announced interest rate cuts yet, and of the ones that have,

so many haven't passed it on in full," she said. "There's no reason why they can't afford to — we are seeing record profits from lenders."

Data from finder.com.au shows Bankwest is among the most miserly of the bigger banks, handing over a rates cut of just 0.17 percentage points.

A spokesman said the bank wanted to level out the benefits for borrowers and savers.

MONEYSAVER HQ, PAGE 23



Amy Winehouse

## MORE TO AMY THAN BOOZE

THE director of a documentary about Amy Winehouse, premiering in Cannes, hopes the film will shatter the image of a hopeless junkie that has dogged the singer since her death. "A lot of people said: 'Why do you want to make a film about a junkie?'" Asif Kapadia said.

"That's exactly why I needed to make the film."



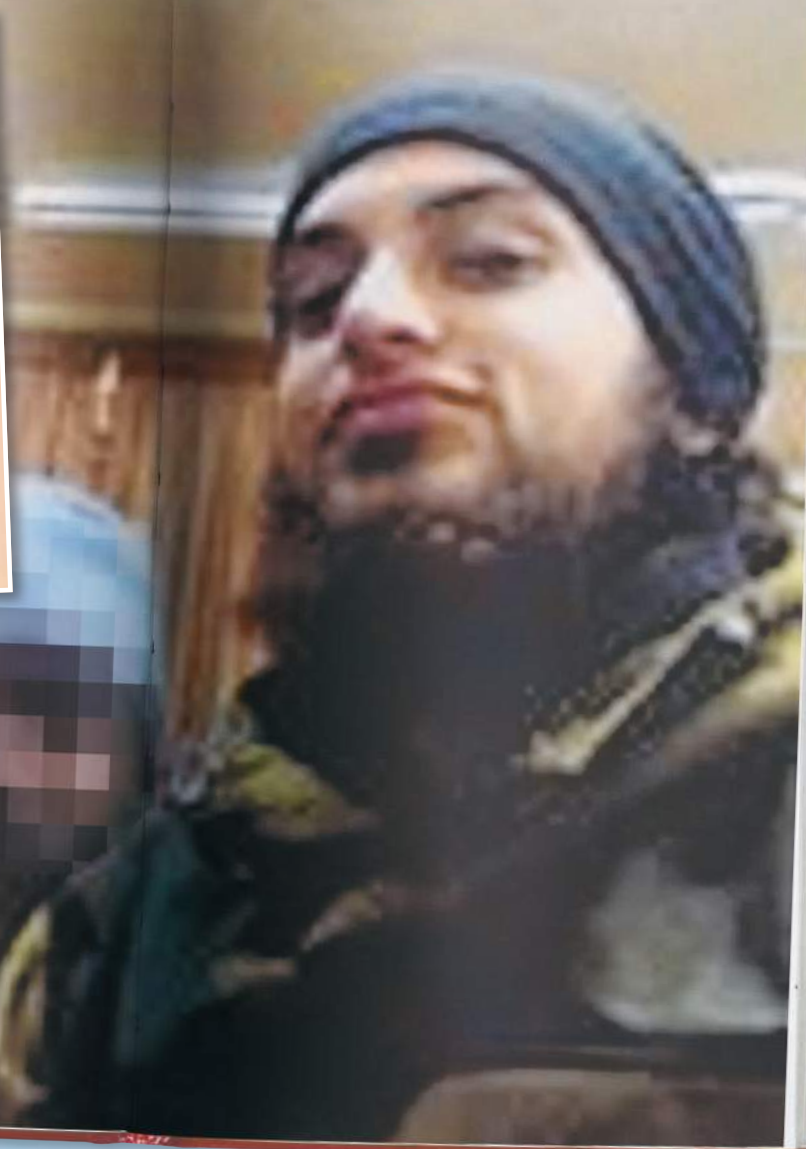
die fighting for Islamic State believing they are martyrs for the cause

# MATES TO END



**IRFAAN  
HUSSEIN, 19**  
DANDENONG  
NORTH

Friend of Numan Haider. Died while fighting with jihadis in the Middle East, after joining Islamic State last year. Hussein called himself Abu Sufyan Al Australi



**TOM MINEAR AND  
JAMES DOWLING**

"THEY were normal at the end of year 12."

One close friend of teens Numan Haider and Irfaan Hussein shook her head in disbelief as she remembered the larrikin pair.

Just 18 months later, the two close mates from Lyndale Secondary College are dead — killed acting in the name of the murderous Islamic State.

Haider was said to be the clown of the class of 2013 at the Dandenong North high school.

Hussein was almost always by his side, a sport-loving teen popular with the girls.

"They were good kids," a friend told the *Herald Sun*.

"Why would they think murdering people is OK?"

The pair's spiral into extremism became apparent to many after Haider posted fiery Facebook rants and pictures of himself in military gear holding an IS flag.

After graduating, the group had started visiting the controversial Al-Furqan Islamic Centre and tried to convince others to pray with them.

The boys blocked many of the girls they went to school with on Facebook and Hussein once ignored a friend who tried to greet him with a kiss on the cheek.

It seemed like just weeks since Haider had been fooling around with a fake beard at school and "pretending" to be a terrorist.

But it became extremely serious, very rapidly.

"He's going to get himself killed," one girl told a friend in September.

Two days later, Haider was dead, shot by police after stabbing two counter-terrorism officers in Endeavour Hills.

About the same time, Hussein was making his way to the Middle East to join IS, a decision that would also seal his fate.

He died in the past few months.

Hussein and Haider had been close mates at Lyndale with Ismail Safi and Eathan Cruse, who were arrested last month in counter-terror raids to stop an alleged plot to kill police on Anzac Day.

Those two were released without charge.

Former classmates last week told the *Herald Sun* the gang were not particularly vocal about their religion at school, although Hussein and Haider were apparently instrumental in Cruse's conversion to Islam.

Hussein had asked girls he dated if they would be willing to convert, it was said.

Haider's long-term girlfriend did convert but their relationship soured in the weeks before his death.

Friends had claimed Haider applied for a passport so he could travel to Afghanistan and find a wife in his parents' homeland.

Haider and others were sometimes spotted handing out Islamic flyers at Dandenong Plaza, where Haider brandished an IS flag shortly before his death.

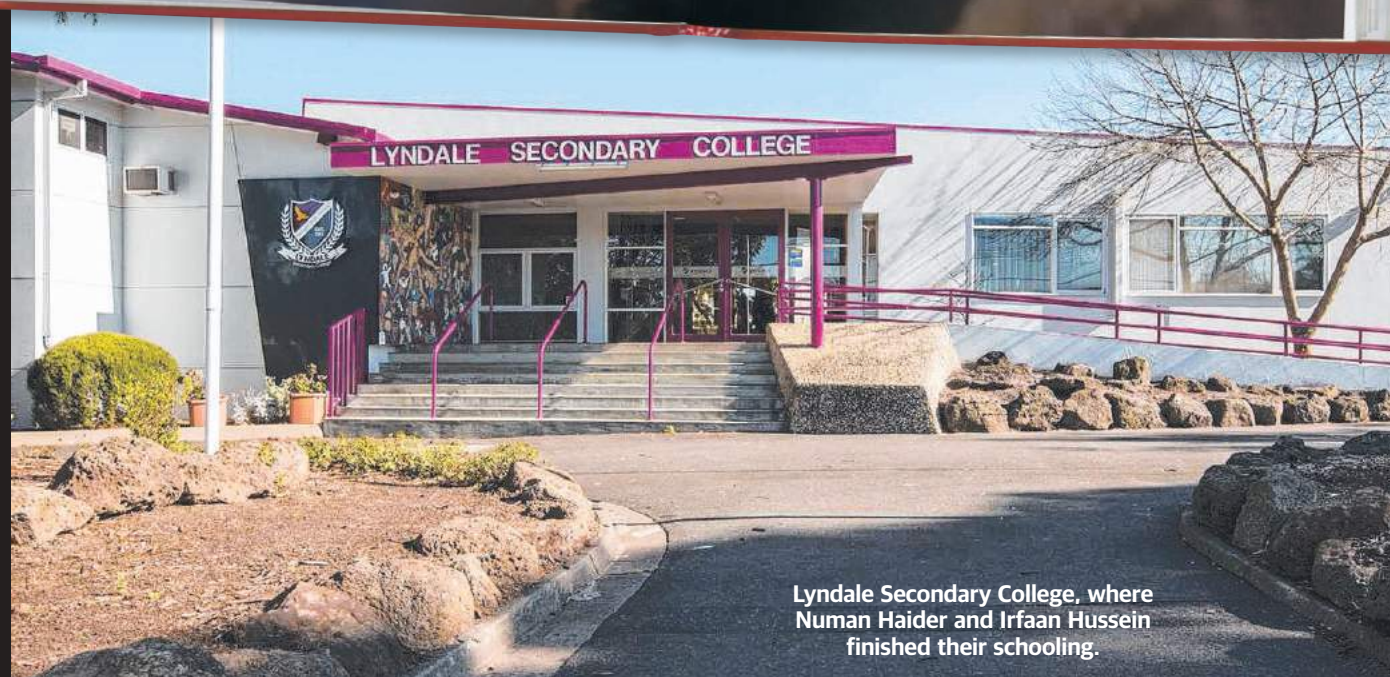
Police continue to investigate Haider and Hussein's links to Harun Causevic and Sevdet Besim, 18-year-olds charged with conspiring to kill police on Anzac Day.

Both went to Haider's funeral and Hussein's phone number was allegedly found at Causevic's home.

Word about Hussein's death filtered back to Melbourne in March — weeks before Safi, Cruse, Causevic, Besim and their associate, Mehran Azami, were arrested. "I couldn't believe it," one friend said. "It gave me goosebumps."

Lyndale Secondary College principal Mark Moir said the school taught teenagers to embrace "quintessentially Australian values of diversity, tolerance and respect".

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Lyndale Secondary College, where Numan Haider and Irfaan Hussein finished their schooling.

## Two missing boys found safe

TWO north Queensland boys missing overnight in bushland were found safe yesterday.

Search crews found Nicholas Baxter, 6, wandering through dense bushland at Mt Stuart near Townsville about 2pm.

Shortly afterwards, his neighbour, five-year-old Timmy Carter, was also found.

"Great News! Five-year-old Timmy Carter has also been found on Mt Stuart," Queensland

Police Service posted on Facebook.

"While a detailed medical examination needs to be conducted, it would appear Nicholas is reasonably unharmed from his ordeal, although this is yet to be confirmed," the statement read.

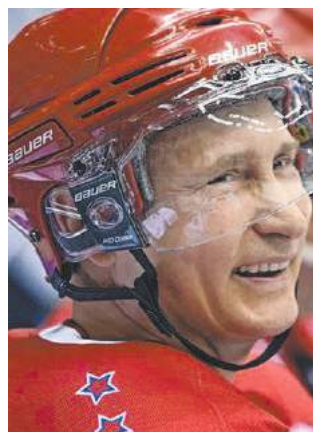
"Nicholas remains with search crews while efforts are under way to retrieve him from Mt Stuart."

Neither boy had shoes on

when they were last seen and Timmy did not have a shirt.

SES crews, rescue helicopters and police had been searching since Saturday afternoon. Soldiers from a nearby defence base joined the search yesterday morning.

A scooter and a tricycle were found about 8.30pm on Saturday on a dirt track near bushland, leading police to believe the boys wandered off into thick scrub and got lost.



President Putin

## ICE KING PUTIN LEADS WAY

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has played in an exhibition hockey game and scored one goal after another on assists from retired NHL players.

Mr Putin's team won 18-6, with eight of those goals made by the 62-year-old President, most of them on assists from NHL stars Pavel Bure and Valeri Kamensky.

Three of the remaining goals were scored by Russia's Defence Minister.

The game was played in Sochi, the city that hosted the 2014 Winter Olympics, and concluded shortly before Russia played the US in a semi-final of the ice hockey world championships.

During his 15 years as Russia's leader, Mr Putin has frequently displayed his athletic skills, most notably in judo and swimming.

He took up hockey in recent years to promote the sport.





# NEW ANZAC COIN TODAY

TOKEN & DETAILS: P2

Coins are available at participating newsagents while stocks last

JUST \$3  
WITH  
TODAY'S  
PAPER



MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015

\$1.40 (inc GST) HERALDSUN.COM.AU

WE'RE FOR VICTORIA

# Herald Sun

ALLEGED TERROR PLOTTERS CLOSE TO COP ATTACKER

# HAIDER LEGACY OF HATE

TWO alleged ringleaders of the Anzac Day terror plot attended the funeral of teen terrorist Numan Haider and were his close friends.

In a Victorian first, one of the pair is being held in jail under tough anti-terror laws, despite not being charged.

The teen is being grilled over his involvement in the alleged plot to attack police and the public with swords and knives.

Police could hold him for up to 14 days after applying for the Preventive Detention Order, designed to be used if there is a perceived imminent terror threat.

The *Herald Sun* can reveal the 18-year-old, whose identity is suppressed under the tough laws, revels in showing off his abs to his social media followers among other photos.

The teen, who lists slain gangster rapper Tupac as a favourite artist, applied for a passport only last week.

Both he and alleged co-ringleader Sevdet Ramadan Besim frequented the controversial Islamic group, Al-Furqan.

And the father of the teen terror suspect, who cannot be named, admitted his family had close ties with the Al-Furqan's firebrand cleric Harun Mehicevic.

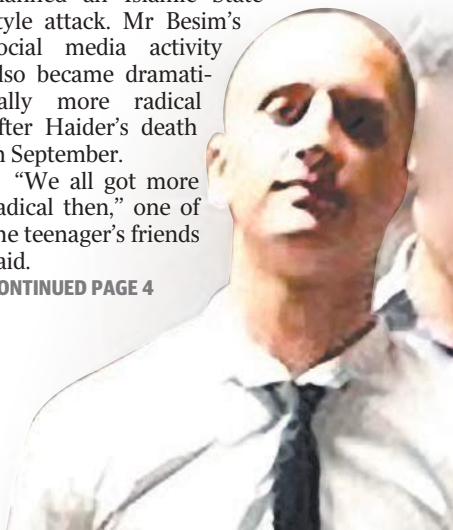
**TOM MINEAR, JAMES DOWLING  
AND ALEKS DEVIC**

Mr Besim, 18, has been charged with conspiracy to commit a terror attack.

Mr Besim and the teen on the PDO attended the funeral of Haider, who was shot dead last year after stabbing two police officers at a Melbourne police station after he planned an Islamic State-style attack. Mr Besim's social media activity also became dramatically more radical after Haider's death in September.

"We all got more radical then," one of the teenager's friends said.

CONTINUED PAGE 4



Numan Haider (left) and (above) Sevdet Ramadan Besim.

WONDER DRUG WIN

P9

CATS CLAW BACK

SPORT



# ANZAC TERROR PLOT

## DEAD TEEN'S HATE LEGACY REVEALED

FROM PAGE 1

"It was the moment we realised even here we are not safe."

His family went to ground yesterday but one man who knew him insisted Mr Besim was a "good kid".

Three other teens were arrested in the dawn raids on Saturday, but were released. One of those, Aboriginal Eathan Cruse, 19, who attended Lyndale Secondary College, can also be revealed to be the schoolmate of a junior jihadi recently killed fighting in Iraq and Syria.

A defiant Mr Cruse yesterday told media that he and Haider had slept at each others' homes.

"He was a good guy," Mr Cruse said.

Meanwhile, the father of the teenager locked up on the PDO, said he would be shocked if his boy was involved in terrorism and wanted him to come home.

"I believe my (son) doesn't do nothing. I believe, I don't know 100 per cent," his father said.

"But personally, I know I am teaching him to be a good man. I believe he don't do nothing bad."

Premier Daniel Andrews yesterday promised to pour in extra cash and resources to understand how youths were being radicalised.

He also vowed there would be a boosted security presence on Anzac Day, especially at the dawn service and AFL.

About 200 Australian Federal Police and Victoria Police officers swooped across several homes in Melbourne's southeast before dawn on Saturday and arrested the five men amid concerns of an alleged terror strike.

Police alleged the men were planing to kill authorities and attack the public with knives and swords.

It is the first time a PDO has been used in Victoria since they were introduced in the aftermath of the London bombings in 2005.

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### SEVDET RAMADAN BESIM

18, Hallam

Charged with conspiracy to commit terrorist acts. Remanded in custody until Friday.



## Man says police kicked him while in handcuffs

A YOUNG man arrested in a pre-dawn raid claims he was assaulted by police, with his mother saying he got a "flogging".

Eathan Cruse, 19, had just finished watching a movie with his family at their Eumemmerring home soon after 3am on Saturday when police smashed through the doors and windows.

**TOM MINEAR,  
ALEKS DEVIC AND  
JAMES DOWLING**

"He grabs me, handcuffs me and says 'what's your name?' I said: 'Eathan.' He said, 'yep, that's the one'. He kicks me right across the face as my hands were cuffed.

"I don't know if they're gonna fix my door, I don't

know if they're gonna fix my window, I don't know if they're going to apologise to my family... I'd like an apology," Mr Cruse said.

His mum, Anja, who asked that her surname not be published, said that armed officers stormed through the home, restraining her other children as they looked for her son.

"They dragged him into

the kitchen," Anja said. "They flogged him pretty bad because there was a pool of blood on the floor."

Her son gave a statement to police and was released without charge on Saturday afternoon.

Anja said her son was "pretty shaken up and badly bruised all over".

"It was just the most

terrifying experience ever," she said. "There was no reason why they got treated like this ... My son wasn't charged or anything. What was the reason? All that for questioning? It's not on."

A Victoria Police spokeswoman said a complaint had been received regarding the treatment of one of the men arrested and it was referred to

Professional Standards Command.

Sevdet Ramadan Besim, 18, was charged with conspiracy to commit terror acts.

His driving school instructor Samson Demissie said he was in complete shock when he saw his former student had been arrested. "He was very humble and was a very good kid," Mr Demissie said.