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Less than justice for all

Regarding the June 21 Metro article "Advocates seek to label teen's death a hate crime":

The refusal so far of local prosecutors to consider the murder of Nabra Hassanen, a Muslim teenager wearing a hijab, as a hate crime and their decision to deal with it as a matter of "road rage" are reminiscent of Fairfax County prosecutors' refusal to prosecute a drunk passenger a few years ago who threatened to "slice" the throat of a Muslim taxi driver whose religion he vilely denounced. Happily, a civil jury found differently and awarded the driver \$350,000 in damages for this hateful incident.

Another similar avoidance of reality took place in Gloucester County, where after two African Ameri-

can children were assaulted, including one who was severely beaten, the judge hearing the criminal case found no hate crime but simply assar:It arising out of a neighborly dispute "fueled by alcohol" — this despite one perpetrator's admission to calling the children "dirt frogs," "monkeys" and (he said) "jiggers" (which the children unanimously testified was in fact the n-word).

I litigated the taxi driver's case in Alexandria, and I am litigating a civil case arising out of the latter assault in Newport News, Va.

Until our oh-so-white public officials understand what it means to wear nonwhite skin, there will be less than justice for all in our fair land.

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