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PRESS RELEASE

UCLA STUDENT TASERED BY CAMPUS POLICE

FILES FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS ACTION

January 17, 2007, Los Angeles, CA

Mostafa Tabatabaiejad will file a federal civil rights lawsuit this morning seeking damages for a November 14, 2006, attack on him in UCLA's Powell Library by officers of the UCLA campus police. The attack was videotaped by another UCLA student and the video shocked people across the country and the world.

Mostafa had gone to the library to work on a history paper. A disagreement between Mostafa and a student security guard over whether he had to show his Bruin ID led to a completely unnecessary confrontation initiated by UCLA PD officers as Mostafa was leaving the library. The UCLA PD officers grabbed Mostafa forcefully without justification and dragged him through the library. As they dragged Mostafa through the library in front of shocked students, the officers repeatedly and sadistically used a taser gun on Mostafa, to punish him and cause him extreme pain. Officers continued to "tase" Mostafa even after he was handcuffed and after he had told the officers he had a disability. The UCLA PD officer who "tased" Mostafa; Terrence Duren, has a long history of abuse during his career as a law enforcement officer.*

* Background information about officer Duren's history of brutality is attached to this release.

Since the incident, Mostafa has not spoken out publicly. In response to the lawsuit he has issued a statement (attached) through his attorneys. In the statement, Mostafa explains that it is his *“hope that this lawsuit will bring something positive to what has been a very traumatic experience not only for me and my family, but for all of the people around the world who have seen the video.”*

Paul Hoffman of the Law Firm of Schonbrun De Simone Seplow Harris & Hoffman LLP, the lead counsel in the case, announced the filing of a federal civil rights action against the UCLA PD officers responsible for this unprovoked and unnecessary attack. The complaint also names the University of California and the UCLA Police Department for violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Hoffman emphasized that the lawsuit is not only about obtaining justice for Mostafa for the constitutional violations he suffered. *“We hope to put a spotlight on UCLA’s responsibility for hiring and retaining a police officer with a long history of brutality on its police force. Police officers on university campuses should treat students, especially those with disabilities like Mostafa, with sensitivity and understanding. The use of Taser guns in a UCLA library against a defenseless student is not what the parents of UCLA students should expect.”*

Mostafa’s older brother, Shahin, and Paul Hoffman, will be available for interviews on Wednesday January 17th from 10AM to 2PM at the Law Offices of Schonbrun De Simone Seplow Harris and Hoffman LLP**, located at 723 Ocean Front Walk, Venice, California.***

** Mostafa is also being represented by Benjamin Schonbrun and Michael Morrison of Schonbrun, De Simone, Seplow Harris and Hoffman LLP, Thomas G. Gehring and Cyndi Wong of the Law Offices of Thomas G. Gehring and Associates APC, and John Raphling.

*** Copies of the complaint will be available on the Schonbrun, De Simone website: www.sdshh.com.