VIC: Attack on woman in hijab in Melbourne

Source: AAP Australian National News Wire, 30/10/2015

Accession Number: 74C2094394840

VIC: Attack on woman in hijab in Melbourne

Hijab 2nd Update

Melbourne, Oct 30 AAP - A Muslim woman was punched in the head during a vicious attack in broad daylight in Melbourne.

The 21-year-old woman was walking down a CBD street on Thursday afternoon, when a shirtless man approached her and punched her in the head, causing her to fall and hit her head on the pavement.

Reports from an Islamic group suggested the man had tried to snatch the woman's hijab, but police don't believe this is the case.

They are still trying to establish if the attack was racially motivated, or just a random assault.

Paramedics who attended said the woman did not require any treatment.

The bearded man, who has a tattoo on his upper right arm, was captured on CCTV footage.

Police are appealing for public assistance to identify him.

Islamophobia Register Australia says a 16-year-old Muslim boy stepped in to stop the attack.

But police say the boy only observed the incident, and was not involved.

The group also alleges the boy's father contacted them to say his son was threatened with a knife during the incident.

Police also refute this claim.

"His father was telling me that he has been incredibly shaken up and has been crying and that he came home and locked himself in his room for four hours," the register's president Mariam Veiszadeh told AAP on Friday.

"The implication of incidents like this are huge and it has a really traumatic affect on the rest of the community."

Copyright 2015 / Australian Associated Press


Item: 74C2094394840