

MAY 3, 1999

Closed Wilmington Mosque Subject of Shotgun Blast

WILMINGTON, Del.—The shotgun blast that came in the early nighttime hours—and the slug smashed through the plate-glass window of Muhammad's Mosque No. 35 here, penetrated a curtain behind the window, slashed into a checkroom and across the auditorium into the opposite wall.

FORTUNATELY, there were no casualties as a result of the entirely unprovoked, sneak attack, though that was no fault of the person or persons back of the shotgun assault. But for the divine wisdom of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, death and injury might have been extensive.

Ordinarily, the sisters of the temple would have been holding their meeting at the time of the attack. But the Messenger had changed the hours of the M.C.T. class because of "these times of universal war"—and the mosque was closed and empty.

According to Minister Carl X Harden, the incident came after a turbulent week of fires and confrontations in this West Side Wilmington community, but the Muslims had no part in them.