

# Girl, 11, critically injured in shooting

Nadya Aviles was outside her house when she was hit by bullets from an AK-47.

By Susan Snyder  
EIGHTYEAR-OLD Nadya Aviles at nearly has her future planned. She wants to become a lawyer "so she can defend her family if something happens," said her sister.

But on Thursday evening nothing protected Nadya — a trouble-free Penn Treaty Middle School student — who was just being outside her house in West Kensington when at least a dozen shots sprayed around her.

She was struck from an AK-47 — a Russian assault rifle — ripped a hole in her chest, broke three ribs, tore her lung and put a hole in her heart, said police.

She was taken to a hospital, where she was intended to be treated as well as Nadya's 17-year-old brother-in-law and another brother.

The shooting — which occurred in one of Philadelphia's Operation Hurricane areas, high-crime areas targeted for increased police attention — was part of an operation to crack down on drug activity, said Capt. G. Baker, captain of the East Detective Division.

Nadya remained at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in critical condition, police said. Police have a suspect in the shooting, which occurred on the corner of Broad and Cambria Streets, but the first of Nadya's brick swabbers, but declined to release the suspect's name. They were searching for a gray Honda Accord that they believe was used in the attack, which happened near Shapero School and Pleasant Grove Street.

In the attack that left an adjacent building's graffiti-filled facade lit with bullet holes, Nadya's brother-in-law, who was hit in the left arm, and Nadya's 17-year-old brother were hit in the thigh. Both were in satisfactory condition.

Baker said that both Rivers were involved with others in an argument over drugs about 3½ hours before the shooting at Grand and Waterloo Streets, a known location for drug activity. The car pulled up in front of Nadya's house and the shooter — a teenager — got out and fired his shots over the hood of the car, Baker said.

"I can't even believe she's alive," Carlos said about noon yesterday, just after leaving the hospital and arriving at the family's home. "It's like a dream and I can't wake up."

She said she was standing next to her sister and then started to go back in the house when she heard the gunshot. That she she had died, her husband picked up Nadya and rushed her to Philadelphia Hospital.

Nadya — who won a school trophy for gymnastics, loves to ride her bicycle and vacation traveling and mentoring in a Sheppard Elementary program started by University of Pennsylvania college students — had no heartbeat when she arrived at the hospital, Carlos said.

"She was dead. That brought her back."



Nadya Aviles

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