# California college professor to stand trial for manslaughter and battery in protester's death



A judge has ruled that Loay Abdelfattah Alnaji, a 51-year-old college professor from Southern California, will stand trial for involuntary manslaughter and battery in connection with the death of Paul Kessler, a 69-year-old counter-protester, during demonstrations over the Israel-Hamas conflict. The decision was made by Superior Court Judge Ryan Wright after a two-day preliminary hearing.

The incident occurred in November in Thousand Oaks, California, during a pro-Palestinian demonstration. Alnaji is accused of striking Kessler with a megaphone, causing Kessler to fall backward and hit his head on the pavement. Kessler died the next day from his injuries, which included blunt force trauma, skull fractures, brain swelling, and bruising.

Alnaji, a computer science professor at Moorpark College, faces charges of involuntary manslaughter and battery causing serious bodily injury. If convicted, he could be sentenced to over four years in prison. He has posted $50,000 bail and will be arraigned on June 10. His lawyer, Ron Bamieh, argues that Kessler initiated the confrontation.

The case arises amidst conflicting witness accounts from both pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian protesters present at the scene. Prosecutors have yet to determine if the crime was hate-motivated, though no direct evidence links Alnaji to antisemitic speech during the event.