

Sheila Nabb emerges from coma after vicious beating at Mexico resort

37-year-old Calgary woman to undergo facial reconstructive surgery later this week

By Jamie Komarnicki, Calgary Herald January 24, 2012

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Sheila Nabb, with her husband Andrew, was found severely beaten in her hotel in the Mexican resort town of Mazatlan.

Photograph by: Facebook, National Post

A Calgary woman badly beaten while on vacation in Mexico has emerged from her medically-induced coma, her family says.

Sheila Nabb, 37, is set to undergo facial reconstructive surgery later this week at a Mazatlan hospital, according to a statement from her brother, Paul Giles.

“Sheila was brought out of her medically induced coma yesterday afternoon. She recognized (her husband) Andrew and his father, was responsive to questions, and was able to understand and follow directions,” Giles said.

“This is excellent news as it would appear that there is not any brain damage. She was also breathing on her own (through a tracheotomy) without the assistance of a ventilator. She was able to indicate that she felt some pain, but her jaw is wired shut so she was unable to communicate verbally.”

Nabb, a Calgary office manager, and her husband, Andrew, left Calgary Thursday for an all-inclusive vacation at the Hotel Riu Emerald Bay in Mazatlan.

By Friday morning, Sheila Nabb was found, beaten and bloodied, inside an elevator at the five-star resort. Several facial bones were shattered. She is now being treated at a Mazatlan hospital, her husband and father-in-law by her side.

Nabb will undergo CT scans Tuesday that will determine whether she will have surgery Wednesday or Thursday.

“She has a long road of recovery ahead of her, but we all know that Sheila will pull through this with the support of everyone she has ever met — and many that have never met her,” said Giles.

Giles said Nabb’s father-in-law told him Andrew Nabb is staying strong through the traumatic events.

“(He) described Andrew as a ‘pillar.’ It just goes to show exactly how much (Andrew) truly loves her.”

Giles said he and his other sister, Kathy Carmichael, have been closely following news of their sister’s “tragic attack,” and wish to thank everyone who has offered prayers and support.

A trust fund at TD Canada Trust has been set up to assist Sheila and Andrew with their expenses not covered by insurance. (David Peterson in trust for Sheila Nabb. Account number — 6519124. Transit number — 8072.) Donations can be made at any branch across Canada.

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