FORGE has learned of the death of Milwaukee-based rapper Evon Young, age 22. Young was reported missing by his mother Annette Cross-Perry on January 2, 2013.

Five people have been charged in connection with Young’s disappearance and murder. Two have been charged with first degree intentional homicide, and the three others with substantial battery. Police are continuing to investigate this homicide, including an effort to recover Young’s body.

Several media outlets have inaccurately characterized Young’s gender. In interviews with his mother, Cross-Perry has consistently referred to her child as male and with masculine pronouns and name. FORGE encourages all media and individuals talking about this case to respectfully use masculine pronouns (he, him, his) and name (Evon, or his rapper name YuNG LT).

FORGE sends its condolences to Young’s family and friends. We also recognize that when anyone is killed or harmed, those who share the victim’s identity may react with intense grief, anger, or fear. We ask our community to be caring, compassionate and supportive of each other as we acknowledge the pervasiveness of violence in our culture, and the accompanying sorrow many of us are feeling.

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