

## **Battered cabbie unresponsive in hospital**

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EDMONTON (Sun Media) - City cabbie Pavan Chohan had planned to drop off his last fare of the night and head home for supper before he was brutally attacked Friday.

Now, the 61-year-old family man is fighting for his life in a neurosurgical intensive-care unit at the University of Alberta hospital.

His family told Sun Media yesterday there's little they can do but pray for him to wake up.

"It's a devastating time for our family and we're going through a lot of emotions," an immediate family member said at the hospital.

"He's such a big-hearted man, happy and hard-working. We just don't know why this happened. He didn't deserve this."

City cops say it was just before 10 p.m. Friday when Chohan picked up a man in his Co-op taxi.

He was driving near 42 Avenue and 38 Street when the fare attacked him and beat him about the head, leaving him in critical condition.

Ken Butler, 24, has been charged with aggravated assault in the attack on Chohan.

City cops allege the same accused then broke into the home of his brother and sister-in-law Michael and Stephanie Butler, 4204 38 St., and killed Stephanie, 25.

Chohan, a father of three and grandfather of one, was still unresponsive yesterday. A stream of family and friends was arriving at the hospital to offer support.

"Of course we're angry. We're upset. We're confused," said the family member.

"We're having every emotion you can have."

Chohan was born in India and lived in Vancouver before he moved to Edmonton more than 20 years ago.

He had been making plans to retire.

Co-op Taxi spokesman Murray Neate said Chohan had been driving for the company for six or seven years.

"He was an experienced driver, a really good guy. He was a family man just like most of our drivers are family men and women - just out there trying to make a living."

Butler was arrested and charged in the beating of the cabbie, but cops didn't know about the homicide of Stephanie Butler until her father found her body the next day.