

Mustafa Boztas didn't hesitate to stop when he came across a shot teen outside Al Noor mosque

Mustafa Boztas was running for his life but didn't hesitate to stop when he found a shot teen outside Al Noor mosque. What happened next was heartbreaking.

Elizabeth Binning, NZ Herald

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Running for his life with a bullet in his leg Mustafa Boztas didn't hesitate to stop when he came across a 16-year-old lying on the ground outside Al Noor mosque. **(Christchurch Truth editor: [1] You wouldn't have been able to run if you had been shot in the leg with a real bullet from an AR-15; [2] The "live-stream" shows no dead male on the ground outside Al Noor.)**

The teen, later identified as Hamza Mustafa, had a large gunshot wound to his upper left chest and was clutching a phone in his right hand, [NZ Herald](#) reported.

"His eyes were open and in his hand he had a phone (and was calling) his mum.

"I was already shot so I didn't care if I died or not," Boztas told the Herald. "If I could get this guy with me it would be a bonus, but I couldn't bring him back to life."

The 21-year-old, who had just moved to Christchurch to study engineering, was listening to the Imam with hundreds of others when the shooting began last Friday.

"I ran to the left. I got shot and I just fell to the ground."

Instead of fear Boztas says he felt at peace with the fact he might die.

“I was just so calm. I was at the almighty God’s house — that’s the best place to die, to go to heaven.”

He said he waited on the ground until the shooting stopped. He then smashed a window and run (**sic**) outside.

That’s when he came across Mustafa.

Due to the location of the teen’s injury, Boztas couldn’t do CPR so instead tried to hold the wound.

“I started mouth-to-mouth but I couldn’t save him and picked up the phone from the ground. I was talking to his mum and I said, ‘I think he’s dead. Please come to the mosque’.

“She couldn’t believe it. She was saying, ‘Is it my husband or my son?’ I said, ‘I think it’s your son’.

“She was in shock. She was yelling and screaming and breaking down.”

At that stage the shooting resumed.



Mustafa Boztas recounts to media how he tried to save the life of a teenager at the Al-Noor Mosque. Photo / Elizabeth Binning *Source: Supplied*

Boztas said he closed Mustafa's eyes "for respect", dropped the phone and ran again.

He didn't get far before his leg "stopped responding" and he fell to the ground. A policeman eventually came to his aid and waited with him till paramedics arrived.

A week on and Boztas, who came to New Zealand from Turkey 10 years ago, remains in hospital unable to walk yet. The bullet travelled up his thigh and into his liver. A fragment remains lodged in a rib.

He was temporarily released from hospital today so he could attend the prayer session at Hagley Park and later the funerals for 26 victims, including three-year-old Mucaad Ibrahim, the brother of his good friend.

Boztas said one of the most difficult parts of that day was seeing the young people who were injured and killed.

"You want to help them to live because they are young.

"The hardest part was for me not being able to save (Mustafa)."

He said the community had been "unreal". So had Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern who visited him in hospital.

"She was really supportive, she was awesome. She gave me a hug and she just wished me well and to stay strong."

He said her visit left him in tears.

Like most of those who were injured or lost loved ones, Boztas said he wanted the shooting to unite people.

"I just want everyone to know Islam is not about terrorism, it's about love."