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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from Paula M. Shugart, President of the Miss Universe Organization regarding Miss Nebraska USA:

"Belinda flew home to be with her family and loved ones during a tragic time. We are heartbroken for her loss, but inspired by her strength and spirit.

Sadly, the show must go on and the 50 contestants who remain in Las Vegas are more committed to making this a show that will make Belinda proud. Although she is not physically here, her presence remains.

Our condolences, thoughts and prayers are with her during this difficult time."

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