

CASE NO. 99-0759-510

POST MORTEM EXAMINATION REPORT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER  
STATE OF MARYLAND

AUTOPSY XX INSPECTION \_\_\_\_\_

JURISDICTION BALTIMORE CITY DME/FI \_\_\_\_\_  
Jurisdiction of Death/Police Investigating

NAME OF DECEASED HEY MIN LEE (UNKNOWN 99-29)

RESIDENCE OF DECEASED [REDACTED], WOODLAWN, MARYLAND

AGE 18 SEX FEMALE RACE ASIAN

INCIDENT OCCURRED-DATE FOUND: 2-9-99 TIME UNKNOWN

ADDRESS 4400 N. FRANKLINTOWN ROAD, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

OCME NOTIFIED:

DATE 2-9-99 TIME 2:20 PM BY WHOM POLICE COMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORTED TO OCME BY OCME VEHICLE

PRONOUNCED DEAD - DATE 2-9-99 TIME 2:00 PM

ADDRESS/INSTITUTION SCENE

AUTOPSY/INSPECTION-DATE 2-10-99 TIME 10:00 AM

PERFORMED BY MARLON O. AQUINO, M.D. MARGARITA A. KORELL, M.D.  
Associate Pathologist Assistant Medical Examiner

CAUSE OF DEATH a. STRANGULATION \_\_\_\_\_ Natural  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ Accident  
c. \_\_\_\_\_ Suicide  
\_\_\_\_\_ XX Homicide  
\_\_\_\_\_ Undetermined

Other significant conditions:

HOW DID INJURY OCCUR SUBJECT FOUND STRANGLED

TOXICOLOGY:

HEART BLOOD, ALCOHOL - Negative  
HEART BLOOD, DRUG TEST: Negative  
VAGINAL SWAB: Acid Phosphatase 136 U/L  
ORAL SWAB: Acid Phosphatase 107 U/L  
ANAL SWAB: Acid Phosphatase 22 U/L

THIS IS A CERTIFIED COPY  
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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER  
STATE OF MARYLAND  
DATE 2-12-99

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An autopsy was performed on the body of HAE MIN LEE FORMERLY UNKNOWN 99-029 at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Maryland on the 10TH day of FEBRUARY, 1999.

#### EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body was that of a well-developed, well-nourished Asian female fully clad in white sweater/jacket, one gray shirt, one white bra, one black skirt, and one pantyhose. The decedent was wearing a white metal necklace with a charm pendant, one yellow necklace with a heart pendant that had one white stone, one white school ring with inscription "HML" on the inner surface, and one white metal ring (composed of two interlocking rings) with a white stone. The body weighed 134 pounds, was 5'6" in height and appeared compatible with the reported age of 18 years. The body was cold. Rigor was broken to an equal degree in all extremities. Lividity was present and fixed on the anterior surface of the body, except in areas exposed to pressure. Mold growth was seen on the anterior and posterior torso, and upper and lower extremities. The scalp hair was black, long and straight. Facial hair was absent. The irides were brown. The corneae were moderately cloudy. The conjunctivae and sclerae were red-brown. The external auditory canals, external nares and oral cavity were covered with dirt and free of abnormal secretions. The nasal skeleton was palpably intact. The lips were without evident injury. The teeth were natural and in good condition. Examination of the neck revealed evidence of injury described below. The chest was unremarkable. No injury of the ribs or sternum was evident externally. The abdomen was scaphoid. No healed surgical scars were noted on the abdomen. The extremities showed no evidence of fractures, lacerations, or deformities. The fingernails were intact. No tattoos or needle tracks were noted on the body. The external genitalia were those of a normal adult female. The posterior torso was free of injuries.

#### EVIDENCE OF THERAPY

None.

#### EVIDENCE OF INJURY

The body was found in the woods, buried in a shallow grave with the hair, right foot, left knee, and left hip partially exposed. The body was on her right side. The body was decomposed, with mold growth noted on the skin of the trunk and proximal segments of the upper and lower extremities. The white jacket the decedent was wearing was unbuttoned along its anterior middle opening; the skirt and bra were partly pulled up, exposing both breasts onto which wet soil was adherent. The pantyhose had prominent defects on the knees. The skirt was pulled up at the level of the buttocks.

Generalized skin slippage was noted and livor mortis was prominently seen on the anterior-upper chest and face. A poorly defined paranasal areas of dark discoloration of the

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skin was seen extending into the right face which approximately measured 1-1/2" x 2". There was a fairly circumscribed dark brown skin discoloration, measuring 1" in diameter, on the left cheek. These two last described areas are consistent with pressure applied with contact with the elements. Petechial hemorrhages (two) were seen on the left lower palpebral conjunctiva; both bulbar conjunctivae were hemorrhagic. The skin at the anterior right aspect of the neck had a poorly defined elongated contusion measuring 1-1/4" x 1/4". Dissection of the neck revealed multiple focal hemorrhages on the superior (proximal) segments of the strap muscles involving the sternohyoid and the sternothyroid muscles. The junction of the body and the left horn of the hyoid bone was dislocated, with small focal hemorrhage of the surrounding soft tissue. The laryngeal cartilages were intact.

There were focal and poorly delineated right occipital subgaleal and right temporalis muscle hemorrhage. The skull was free of fractures. No intracranial hemorrhage was seen.

#### INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

##### BODY CAVITIES:

The body was opened by the usual thoraco-abdominal incision and the chest plate was removed. No adhesions were present in any of the body cavities; decomposition fluid were present in all of the body cavities. All body organs were present in normal anatomical position. The subcutaneous fat layer of the abdominal wall was 1/4" thick.

##### HEAD: (CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM)

See "Evidence of Injury". The scalp was reflected. The calvarium of the skull was removed. The dura mater and falx cerebri were intact. There was no epidural or subdural hemorrhage present. The leptomeninges were thin and delicate. The cerebral hemispheres were symmetrical, but swollen. The structures at the base of the brain, including cranial nerves and blood vessels were intact. The brain weighed 1410 grams. (See "Neuropathology Report".)

##### NECK:

Examination of the soft tissues of the neck, including strap muscles revealed injuries described above; the thyroid gland and large vessels revealed no abnormalities. The injury to the hyoid bone was described above; the larynx was intact.

##### CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:

The pericardial surfaces were smooth and unremarkable; the pericardial sac was free of significant adhesions. The coronary arteries arose normally, followed the usual distribution and were widely patent, without evidence of



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significant atherosclerosis or thrombosis. The chambers and valves exhibited the usual size-position relationship and were unremarkable. The myocardium was dark red-brown, and soft due to decomposition changes. The atrial and ventricular septa were intact. The aorta and its major branches arose normally, followed the usual course and were widely patent, free of significant atherosclerosis and other abnormality. The venae cavae and their major tributaries returned to the heart in the usual distribution and were free of thrombi. The heart weighed 220 grams.

#### RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:

The mouth and nose were covered with dirt; the mucosal surfaces were smooth, and red-brown. The pleural surfaces were smooth and unremarkable bilaterally. The pulmonary parenchyma was deep purple, exuding moderate amounts of bloody fluid; no focal lesions were noted. Both lungs showed decomposition changes. The pulmonary arteries were normally developed, patent and without thrombus or embolus. The right lung weighed 540 grams; the left 380 grams.

#### LIVER & BILIARY SYSTEM:

The hepatic capsule was smooth, and intact, covering a dark red-brown, soft and moderately congested parenchyma with no focal lesions seen. Decompositional change was noted. The gallbladder contained 5 ml. of green-brown, mucoid bile; the mucosa was velvety and unremarkable. The extrahepatic biliary tree was patent, without evidence of calculi. The liver weighed 1170 grams.

#### ALIMENTARY TRACT:

The tongue exhibited no evidence of recent injury. The esophagus was lined by gray-brown, smooth mucosa. The gastric mucosa was arranged in the usual rugal folds and the lumen contained 40 ml. of mucoid and tan fluid containing fine white particles. The small and large bowel were unremarkable. The pancreas was autolyzed, but the ducts were clear. The appendix was unremarkable.

#### GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:

The renal capsules were smooth and thin, slightly cloudy, and stripped with ease from the underlying smooth, deep purple cortical surfaces. The cortices were congested and moderately delineated from the medullary pyramids, which were red-purple and showed decomposition changes. The calyces, pelves and ureters were unremarkable. The urinary bladder was empty; the mucosa was red-brown and smooth. The non-gravid uterus and appendages were without note. The right kidney weighed 90 grams; the left 95 grams.

#### RETICULOENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM:

The spleen had a smooth, intact capsule covering red-purple, soft parenchyma; the lymphoid follicles were unremarkable. The regional lymph nodes appeared normal. The spleen weighed 80 grams.

#### ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:

The pituitary, thyroid and adrenal glands were unremarkable.

#### MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:

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Muscle development was normal. No non-traumatic bone or joint abnormalities were noted.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

ANAL, ORAL AND VAGINAL SWABS: Negative for spermatozoa.

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### PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES


- I. Strangulation
  - A. Hemorrhage at the superior segment of the neck strap muscles.
  - B. Hyoid bone, with focal hemorrhage of soft tissues surrounding the junction of the body and the left horn.
  - C. Neck contusion, left anterior aspect.
  - D. Bilateral bulbar conjunctival hemorrhages
  - E. Petechial hemorrhage of the lower left palpebral conjunctiva
- II. Focal right occipital area, subgaleal and right temporalis muscle hemorrhage.
- III. Decomposition.

### OPINION:

This 18 year old, Asian female, HAE MIN LEE, FORMERLY UNKNOWN 99-029, found in a shallow grave in a wooded area, died of STRANGULATION. Blunt force injuries to the right back and right side of the head were also present. The manner of death is HOMICIDE. The deceased had not been consuming alcoholic beverages prior to death.

  
Margarita A. Korell, M.D.  
Assistant Medical Examiner

  
John E. Smialek, M.D.  
Chief Medical Examiner

  
Marlon O. Aquino, M.D.  
Associate Pathologist

Date signed: 5-20-04

HEART BLOOD, ALCOHOL - Negative  
HEART BLOOD, DRUG TEST: Negative  
VAGINAL SWAB: Acid Phosphatase 136 U/L  
ORAL SWAB: Acid Phosphatase 107 U/L  
ANAL SWAB: Acid Phosphatase 22 U/L

## NEUROPATHOLOGY REPORT

**Name:** Hae Lee  
(Unknown #99-029)

**Case #:** 99-0759

**Sex:** Female

**Age:** 18

**Race:** White

**Medical Examiner:** Dr. Korell

**Date of Death:** February 9, 1999

### **MACROSCOPIC EXAMINATION of February 22, 1999**

**Brain Weight:** 1600 grams

**Dura:** Unremarkable.

**Brain:** The cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical, the gyral pattern is normal, and the leptomeninges are free of subarachnoid hemorrhage. At the base, there is no abnormality of blood vessels, cranial nerves, brainstem, or cerebellum.

On coronal sections, the cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical. Cortical gray matter is of normal thickness and free of traumatic lesion. White matter is well-myelinated. The basal ganglia are normal and the ventricular system is of normal size and shape. No abnormality is noted in the brainstem or cerebellum.

**Summary:** Normal brain.

**Comment:** This specimen shows no evidence of recent or remote trauma.