



**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER**

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION BY COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

Davidson County Medical Examiner: Bruce Levy M.D.

State Medical Examiner: Bruce Levy M.D.

State Number: 09-19-1704

Judicial District Number: 20

Case Number: MEC09-1283

District Attorney: Honorable Victor S. Johnson III

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Name of Decedent Sahel Kazemi | | 2. Age 20 Years | 3. Race | 4. Sex Female |
| 5. Address [REDACTED] | | | | |
| 6. Date of Death 07/04/2009 7:45 PM | 7. Type of Death Suspected Suicide | | 8. Investigating Agency/Complaint #: Metro Nashville Police Department, Complaint #: 09-527875 | |
| 9. Place of Death [REDACTED] | | | | |
| 10. Narrative Summary <p>Reportedly, this 20 year old Middle Eastern female sustained a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. EMS responded and confirmed asystole. MNPd responded and Lt. Patrick Taylor notified the Office of the Medical Examiner at 18:54 hours. This investigator, along with Investigator Lance Long and Dr. Feng Li, responded to the scene and death was officially pronounced at 19:45 hours. A brief body exam was performed, the hands were bagged to preserve possible evidence, and the scene was documented with photography. A 36 year old black male with multiple gunshot wounds was also pronounced deceased at the same time (see MEC#09-1284). The body was transported to the Center for Forensic Medicine by the Middle Tennessee Removal Service for further examination by a forensic pathologist.</p> <p>Investigator Krista Myers 7/4/2009</p> | | | | |
| 11. Jurisdiction Accepted Yes | | 12. Autopsy Ordered Yes | | 13. Toxicology Ordered Yes |
| 14. Physician Responsible for Death Certificate Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D. | | | | |
| 15. Cremation Approved No | | 16. Funeral Home Jacksonville Memory Gardens | | |
| 17. Cause of Death Gunshot wound of head | | | | |
| 18. Contributory Cause of Death | | | | |
| 19. Manner of Death Suicide | | | | |

CERTIFIED COPY

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy
of the medical examiner's report on file at the
Office of the State Medical Examiner, Nashville, TN.

By Vamburen Date 7/21/09

**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
OFFICE OF THE STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER
Center for Forensic Medicine
850 R.S. Gass Blvd.
Nashville, Tennessee 37216-2640**

**CASE: MEC09-1283
County: DAVIDSON**

AUTOPSY REPORT

NAME OF DECEDENT: KAZEMI, SAHEL RACE: Iranian SEX: Female AGE: 20

HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

DATE AND TIME OF DEATH: July 4, 2009 at 7:45 p.m.

DATE AND TIME OF AUTOPSY: July 5, 2009 at 8:55 a.m.

FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST: Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D.

COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER: Bruce P. Levy, M.D.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL: Honorable Victor S. Johnson, III

PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES

Young adult Iranian female suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound of the head:

1. Contact perforating gunshot wound, right temple:
 - A. The bullet causes patchy subscalpular hemorrhage, extensive skull fractures, patchy subarachnoid hemorrhage, extensive damage to the cerebral hemispheres, multiple areas of cerebral cortical contusions, and the bullet exits through the left temple.
 - B. Bilateral periorbital bruises.
 - C. Patchy hemoaspiration, lungs.
 - D. Direction of the wound track: Leftward and slightly upward.
 - E. Muzzle imprint around entrance wound.
 2. Other injuries:
 - A. Few faint brown-colored contusions, left forearm.
 - B. Small abrasion, posterior aspect of left lower leg.
 3. Other findings:
 - A. Few scars.
 - B. Tattoo.
 - C. No evidence of pregnancy.
-

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KAZEMI, SAHEL

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CAUSE OF DEATH: Gunshot wound of the head

MANNER OF DEATH: Suicide

CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH: Shot self

AUTOPSYFILES.ORG

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KAZEMI, SAHEL

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I hereby certify that I, Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., have performed an autopsy on the body of Sahel Kazemi on the 5th day of July, 2009 at 8:55 a.m. in the State of Tennessee Center for Forensic Medicine. The purpose of this report is to provide a certified opinion to the County Medical Examiner and District Attorney General. The facts and findings to support these conclusions are filed with the Tennessee Department of Health.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is that of a young adult white female measuring 64 inches and weighing 127 pounds. The body is normally developed and appears consistent with the given age of 20 years. She is received with pink tank top, pink shorts, and pink/black/white panties. The clothing is stained with blood. Post mortem changes consist of fixed posterior livor mortis and moderate rigor mortis.

The scalp hair is black and long. The corneas are cloudy. The sclerae and conjunctivae are unremarkable. No discrete petechiae are present. The irides are brown. The mouth contains natural teeth with braces. The palate and frenula are intact. The ears, nose and mouth show no abnormalities. The neck is of normal configuration and there are no palpable masses. The thorax is symmetrical. The abdomen is flat. The axillae, external genitalia, anus and back are without trauma. The extremities are symmetrical and normally developed. There is a small scar on the umbilicus, a small scar on the left buttock, and a small scar on the right upper arm.

Identifying marks include a tattoo of a shape of a heart on the left lower quadrant of the abdomen.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY:

GUNSHOT WOUND:

This is a 3/4 inch diameter contact perforating gunshot wound on the right temple, at 4 inches below the top of the head and 3 1/2 inches right of the anterior midline. There is a muzzle imprint around the entrance wound which measures 1 3/4 inches in diameter. There are multiple lacerations around the entrance wound with one at the 11 o'clock position measuring 3/4 inch in length, one at the 2 o'clock position measuring 1 inch in length, and one at the 5 o'clock position measuring 1/2 inch in length. There is a moderate amount of soot material around the entrance wound and in the depth of the entrance wound, including outer table of the skull. A hemorrhagic wound track passes leftward and slightly upward causing patchy subscalpular hemorrhage, extensive skull fractures, including basal skull fractures, patchy subarachnoid hemorrhage, extensive injuries to the bases of the bilateral frontal lobes, multiple areas of cerebrocortical contusion, patchy hemoaspiration of the lungs, and the bullet exits through the left temple, at 3 inches below the top of the head and 3 1/2 inches left of the anterior midline, with the exit wound starry shaped and measuring 1/2 inch x 1/2 inch in greatest dimension. There are bilateral periorbital bruises noted.

Other injuries include few faint brown colored contusions on the left forearm, and a small abrasion on the posterior aspect of the left lower leg.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

The organs occupy normal positions. There are no fluid collections, adhesions, or mass lesions.

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KAZEMI, SAHEL

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HEAD AND NECK: The brain weighs 1360 grams. There is no epidural or subdural hemorrhage. The vasculature overlying the cerebral hemispheres is congested. The structures at the base of the brain, including cranial nerves and large vessels, are intact except for the injuries described. Serial sections through the cerebral hemispheres, cerebellum, and brain stem reveal no tumor or evidence of infection.

The neck is without soft tissue hemorrhage or palpable fracture and the structures surrounding the upper airway are intact. Sections through the thyroid gland and tongue are unremarkable.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The heart weighs 240 grams. The epicardium is intact and smooth. The coronary arteries arise from unobstructed ostia, follow the usual distributions, and are without significant arteriosclerosis. The cardiac valves are normally formed and the chambers are of usual dimensions. The atrial and ventricular septa are intact. The myocardium is red-brown, firm and unremarkable. The aorta and its major branches are intact.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: The right lung weighs 370 grams and the left 260 grams. The pulmonary arteries are without thromboemboli on initial incision into the pulmonary trunk and on dissection. On sectioning the pulmonary parenchyma is otherwise unremarkable.

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM AND LIVER: The esophagus is unremarkable with a sharp gastroesophageal junction. The unremarkable stomach contains approximately 200 cc of food chyme. The duodenum, small intestines, appendix, and large intestines are unremarkable. The liver weighs 1170 grams. It is intact. The parenchyma is red-brown and soft without focal lesions. The unremarkable gallbladder contains approximately 4 cc of bile. The extrahepatic bile ducts are patent and unremarkable. The pancreas is unremarkable.

RETICULOENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM: The spleen weighs 130 grams. There is a normal distribution of unremarkable lymph nodes. The 50 gram thymus gland is unremarkable.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The right and left kidneys weigh 110 grams and 120 grams, respectively. The subcapsular surfaces are smooth. The cortices are of normal thickness with sharp corticomedullary junctions. The calyces, pelves, and ureters are patent and unremarkable. The unremarkable urinary bladder is empty.

The internal genitalia consist of a uterus, cervix, ovaries and fallopian tubes. They are appropriate for age. There is no evidence of pregnancy.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The pituitary, thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal glands are unremarkable.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: The musculoskeletal system is unremarkable.

TOXICOLOGY: The following specimens are submitted for possible toxicologic analysis: blood and vitreous humor. A separate report will be issued.

SUMMARY OF CASE

This 20 year old Iranian female suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head on July 4, 2009. EMS responded and confirmed asystole. An autopsy was performed on July 5, 2009.

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KAZEMI, SAHEL

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Major autopsy findings include a young adult Iranian female with a contact perforating gunshot wound on the right temple with extensive injuries to the brain tissue.

Based upon the circumstances surrounding the death, as currently known, the cause of death is gunshot wound of the head. The manner of death is consistent with suicide.

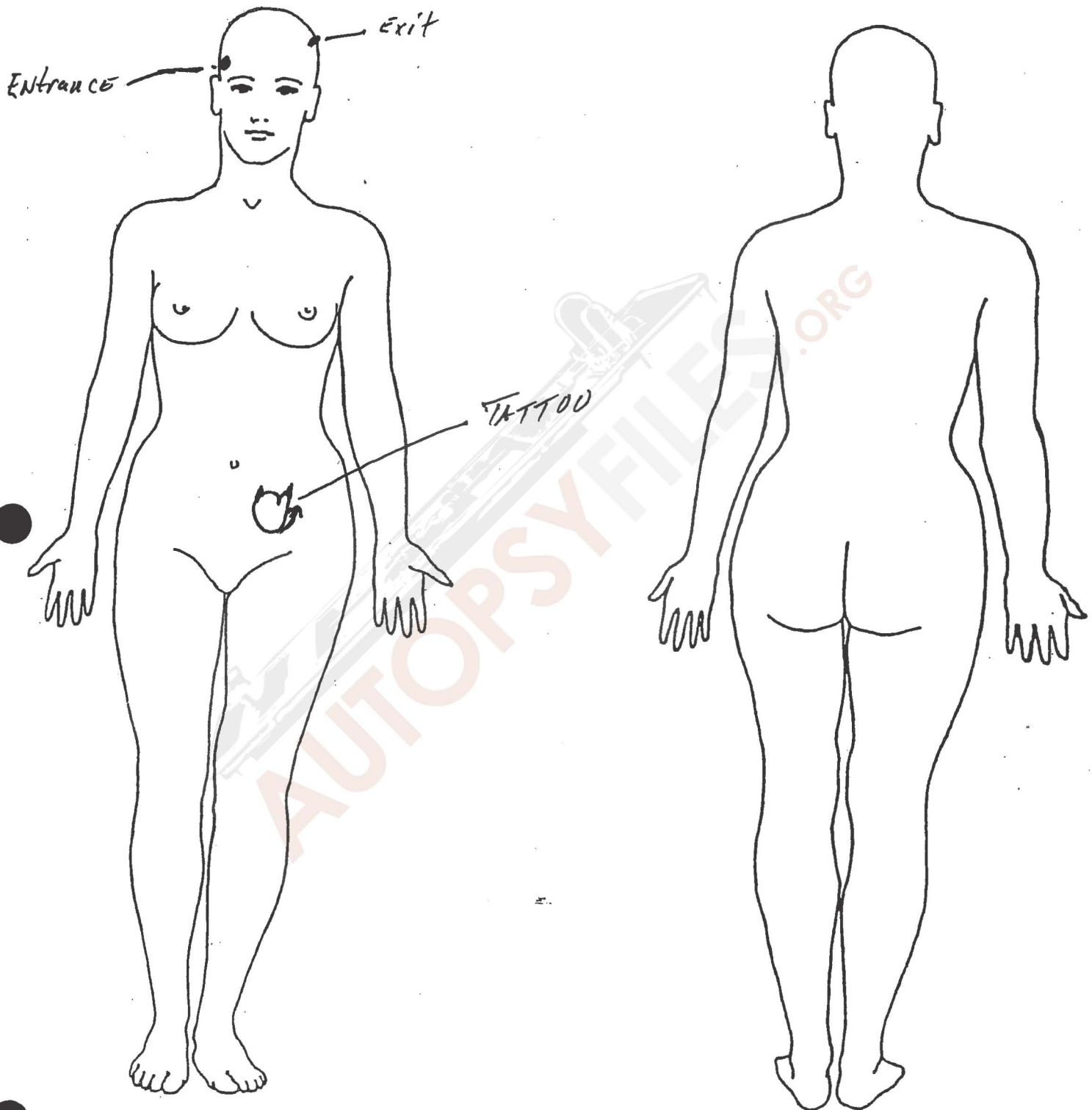
****Electronically signed by Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D. on Tuesday, July 21, 2009****

Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Medical Examiner

FL/shl
07/07/2009

AUTOPSYFILES.ORG

2009-527875



OF DECEDENT:

KAZEMI, SAHEL

M.E.#:

09-1283

NED BY:

DET. NORRIS TARKINGTON

DATE:

07, 05, 09

AEGIS**SCIENCES CORPORATION**

515 Great Circle Road Nashville, TN 37228

Ph: (615) 255-2400 Fax: (615)255-3030 Web: www.aegislabs.com

Client: 225 - Forensic Medical
Report To: Dr. Feng Li
Forensic Medical
850 RS Gass Blvd
Nashville, TN 37216

Case ID: 09-1283
Laboratory ID: 4397276
Collected: 07/05/09 00:00
Received: 07/07/09 07:06
Completed: 07/16/09 09:54
Reported: 07/16/09 10:15

Reason: Post-mortem
Specimen Type: Femoral Blood

Test(s) Ordered: 40599 - Profile-ME Comprehensive
71071 - Confirm Blood Cannabinoids

Drug Class**Result****Quantitation****Reporting
Threshold**

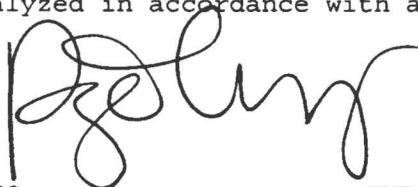
Miscellaneous

NONE DETECTED

0.25 ng/mL

I certify that the specimen identified by this accession number has been handled and analyzed in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Certified by:
Date:

**PAIGE LONG****JUL 16 2009**

----- END OF REPORT -----

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Client: 225 - Forensic Medical
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850 RS Gass Blvd
Nashville, TN 37216

Case ID: 09-1283
Laboratory ID: 4397277
Collected: 07/05/09 00:00
Received: 07/07/09 07:06
Completed: 07/07/09 07:08
Reported: 07/16/09 10:15

F

Reason: Post-mortem
Specimen Type: Heart Blood

Test(s) Ordered: 49999 - Sample Received

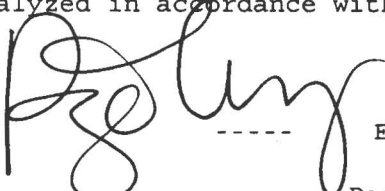
Drug Class**Result****Quantitation****Reporting
Threshold**

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Nashville, TN 37216

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Laboratory ID: 4397278
Collected: 07/05/09 00:00
Received: 07/07/09 07:06
Completed: 07/07/09 07:09
Reported: 07/16/09 10:15

Reason: Post-mortem
Specimen Type: Vitreous

Test(s) Ordered: 49999 - Sample Received

| <u>Drug Class</u> | <u>Result</u> | <u>Quantitation</u> | <u>Reporting Threshold</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
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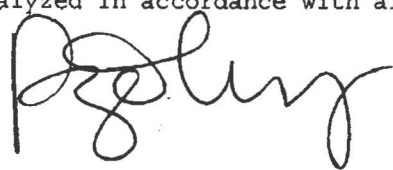
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| <u>Drug Class</u> | <u>Result</u> | <u>Quantitation</u> | <u>Reporting Threshold</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Alcohol - Volatiles | NEGATIVE | | 10 mg/dL |
| Acetaminophen | NONE DETECTED | | 10 mcg/mL |
| Amphetamines | NONE DETECTED | | 50 ng/mL |
| Stimulants | NONE DETECTED | | 50 ng/mL |
| Barbiturates | NONE DETECTED | | 200 ng/mL |
| Meprobamate | NONE DETECTED | | 1250 ng/mL |
| Methadone | NONE DETECTED | | |
| Benzodiazepines | NONE DETECTED | | 25 ng/mL |
| Cannabinoids (Marijuana) | POSITIVE | | |
| Carboxy-THC | POSITIVE | 5 ng/mL | 5 ng/mL |
| THC | NONE DETECTED | | 1 ng/mL |
| Cocaine Metabolite | NONE DETECTED | | 10 ng/mL |
| Opiates | NONE DETECTED | | |
| Meperidine | NONE DETECTED | | 100 ng/mL |
| Fentanyl Analogues | NONE DETECTED | | |
| Propoxyphene | NONE DETECTED | | 100 ng/mL |
| Fentanyl Group | NONE DETECTED | | |
| Pentazocine | NONE DETECTED | | 100 ng/mL |
| Phenothiazines | NONE DETECTED | | 1 ng/mL |
| Salicylate | NONE DETECTED | | 50 mg/L |
| Tricyclic Antidepressants | NONE DETECTED | | 50 ng/mL |
| Atypical Antidepressants | NONE DETECTED | | 10 ng/mL |
| Antipsychotics | NONE DETECTED | | 2 ng/mL |

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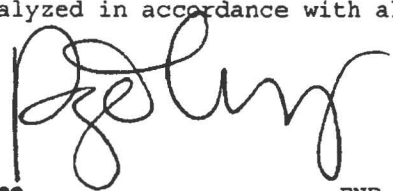
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|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Miscellaneous | NONE DETECTED | | 0.25 ng/mL |

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**PAIGE LONG****JUL 16 2009**

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