

**REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
"PUBLIC INQUIRY"
THE FATALITY INQUIRIES ACT**

CANADA

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

WHEREAS a Public Inquiry was held at The Law Courts, in the City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta on the 27th day of September, 1995 before The Honourable Judge E.R. Saddy, A Provincial Court Judge.

A jury was not summoned and an Inquiry was held into the death of:

NAME OF DECEASED: *RI HUI LUO* of Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta and the following findings were made:

Date of Death: April 22, 1993
Time of Death: Between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Place of Death: Common Room at housing Unit B
Edmonton Institution, Highway 15,
30 kilometres north-east of Edmonton, Alberta.

Medical Cause of Death ("cause of death" means the medical cause of death according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death as last revised by the International Conference assembled for that purpose and published by the World Health Organization - The Fatality Inquiries Act, Section 1(d).

- **Cause of death was LIGATURE STRANGULATION.**

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Fatality Inquiry (Continued)

Deceased: Ri Hui Luo
Date of Death: April 22, 1993

Manner of Death ("manner of death" means the mode or method of death whether natural, homicidal, suicidal, accidental or undeterminable - the Fatality Inquiries Act, Section 1(g)).

-Manner of death was "HOMICIDAL"

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURRED

Up until approximately 1988 the Edmonton Institution was a maximum security institution. From approximately 1988 to 1992 plans were prepared to convert it to a medium security institution and maximum security inmates were sent to a Saskatchewan Penitentiary and Edmonton Institution received only medium security inmates.

In April 1992, however, these plans were reversed and Edmonton was to become the regions only maximum security institution, with the Saskatchewan Penitentiary converting to a medium security institution. At the time of the death of Hui Luo, the Edmonton Institution was in transition with an increasing number of maximum security inmates, without yet having converted to a maximum security institution. It was, at the time of this homicide, a medium security institution in ever since ie: attitude, planning operations, programming and population.

Hui (Ricky) Luo was one of 23 inmates in housing Unit B which is part of Unit One at the Edmonton Institution. Unit One has four housing units designated A, B, C, and D. Each unit is joined to one other: A to B and C to D. Each pair of housing units is joined by a common sub-control post and a common vestibule leading outside to the inner courtyard. There are two levels of cells in each unit with 12 cells on each level. Hui resided in cell B002 on the lower range of housing Unit B.

Visiting is allowed between upper and lower levels, but not between the housing units. Each unit is self contained with its own servery, television room, common (games) room and upper and lower janitor rooms.

The deceased was found under the table by the door upon entering unit B's common room.

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CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DEATH OCCURRED - Continued

Inmates were normally locked in their cells at 4:15 pm for what is known as a formal count when each inmate is required to be in their cells facing the guards so that a face count can be made. At 4:49pm they were released for dinner. After dinner an informal inspection referred to as a range walk was done following the inmates return from the dining room. During such a check at 5:45 p.m. the deceased was not in his cell. Informal checks were carried out between 6pm and 10 pm, none of which confirmed the deceased's presence. Although Correction Officer Sells believes he saw Hui Luo entering Unit B from the courtyard at 8:15 p.m. and near the servery at 9:03 p.m. On reflection, Correction Officer Sells acknowledges that this may have been another oriental wearing a similar baseball cap. At 10:00 p.m. all inmates were locked in their cells and a face count of all prisoners was made.

The deceased was not present for the count and the guards advised sub-control that he was missing and the staff from unit A was called to assist in carrying out a search for Luo.

At 10:10 p.m. the deceased was located in the common room on the floor under a table. Attempts to find a pulse were unsuccessful. Repeat cardiopulmonary resuscitation and C.P.R. was administered but without success. A nurse responded to the cell, examined the deceased, and stated his pupils were fixed and dilated and there was no respiration or pulse, his skin was cold, rigormortis had set in the neck and the jaws and extremities. Some kleenex or toilet paper was found in the deceased's mouth.

The medical examiner found circumferential ligature abrasions to the neck, possibly caused by a stereo speaker wire.

The cause of death was determined to be Ligature Strangulation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS

Following the death of Luo, the Administration of the Edmonton Institution accelerated steps to convert the institution into a maximum security institution and a number of changes were made which it is believed will

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS Continued...

reduce the possibility of a reoccurrence of such deaths. It is understood that the elimination of all risk of reoccurrence is not practical. Some of the changes instituted by the time of this inquiry are as follows:

- 1) The common rooms were eliminated as recreational areas, as they were out of view of the sub-control post.
- 2) All medium security inmates residing at the Edmonton Institution are being moved as soon as possible to a medium security institution.
- 3) The inherent control procedure changed to reflect the maximum security environment and staff training instituted to ensure proper appreciation of changes.
- 4) Inmate movement was restricted and where required, closely monitored. The inmates in upper ranges cannot visit lower range inmates.
- 5) Metal Shop was closed as the availability of metal provided raw materials for weapons.
- 6) Increased use of camera coverage in recreation yard and program rooms.
- 7) The number of random searches and lock downs of inmates have increased.
- 8) Metal detectors through which inmates must pass have been installed at the gymnasium and program rooms and weight rooms etc.

Other changes designed to improve security of inmates and staff are being undertaken.

No further recommendations are suggested.

DATED this 23rd day of January, 1996, at the City of Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta.



The Honourable Judge E.R. Saddy
A Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta