

United States v. Brendt Christensen
Case No. 17-20037

Exhibit 106 TR-2

Transcribed Testimony of Ye Cai on October 26, 2018

Miller: AUSA Eugene Miller
INT: Interpreter
CAI: Ye Cai

Miller: *Okay. Um, please tell us your name.*

INT: Please tell me your name.

CAI: CAI Ye.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *And, how old are you?*

INT: How old are you?

CAI: *Uh . . . Twenty eight.*

INT: *Twenty eight.*

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *Could you please, uh, summarize for us your education?*

INT: Can you briefly describe your education, education level for us?

CAI: I have a bachelor's degree, bachelor of science. Then--

INT: Hold on. Undergraduate degree in science?

CAI: Right, undergraduate degree. It is bachelor of science.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *What university did you attend to get your bachelor's degree?*

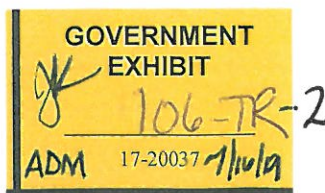
INT: Where, from which university did you get your bachelor's degree?

CAI: Sun Yat-sen University.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *Where are you currently employed?*

INT: Where are you currently employed?



CAI: I currently work at a consumer chemicals company in Huangpu District, Guangzhou.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *When did you first meet Yingying Zhang?*

INT: When was the first time you met ZHANG Yingying?

CAI: Um. . . It was in dorm room 520 on September 9, 2009. Our dormitory is No. 9 Shensiyuan, room 520. That was where I first met her.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *Can you tell us a story about your first, uh, memory of Yingying?*

INT: Can you tell us a story about your first encounter with ZHANG Yingying?

CAI: Mmm . . . At that time, it was her dad who took her over there. Then, I remember that when I arrived at the dormitory, I saw a rather skinny girl with somewhat dark complexion. But, she was a very smiley girl. She left a good first impression on me; I felt that she was very approachable.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *Um, did you become friends with Yingying?*

INT: Did you become friends with her?

CAI: Yes.

INT: *Yes.*

CAI: We were the closest friends in the dorm.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *Can you describe for us, in some more detail, uh, the charity work you and Yingying did together?*

INT: Can you describe in detail the charity work you and ZHANG Yingying did, such as poverty relief and volunteering?

CAI: Things about earlier. . .

INT: Right.

[INT and Miller conversing in background]

INT: He would like to know more about two things: your work as a volunteer and your work on poverty relief. These two areas.

CAI: Uh.

INT: These two areas.

CAI: Hmm . . . It was about. . . I don't quite remember when.

INT: Okay.

CAI: She was one who liked to do volunteer work. She herself had done quite a bit, such as volunteer teaching. As for our participation in San Xia Xiang, it was organized by our college. We went to a school and stayed in the school building where the condition was not very good, quite shabby, but it didn't bother her. She felt particularly good to be with others. This showed her teamwork spirit. Moreover, uh, and, as we engaged in the activity, she loved the children there, loved to be with the children. Because, you know, we organized one activity. It was not really a sports meeting, but an activity to interact with little kids, and she had a good time interacting with those kids. Those kids also had a great time with her. Towards the end, we organized small party. Because she could sing and she had talent in performance, she also performed on stage.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *Please tell us about Yingying's relationship with her family.*

INT: Can you tell us about her, ZHANG Yingying's relationship with her family?

CAI: Um, very good. She would call her mom and dad regularly and she would greet them with strong affection. She was always solicitous about her parents' health and her younger brother's well-being. She was especially close to her family, including her little aunt. She called her mom "sister." Their phone conversations always sounded very affectionate.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *Could you describe Yingying's personality in detail?*

INT: Can you describe ZHANG Yingying's personality?

CAI: Uh. . .

INT: In detail.

CAI: Personality? Um, she had a sunny disposition, always smiling, very easy going. She got along with others well. And, she was quite motivated, a very loving and filial girl.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *Could you, uh, tell us if Yingying was a good student at the university?*

INT: Can you tell us if ZHANG Yingying was a good student at the university?

CAI: Yes.

INT: *Yes.*

CAI: First, her grades were very good, uh, because she . . . I believe she received--from sophomore to senior year or something else--received scholarship. Well, she always received scholarship. And, toward the end, she was accepted to Peking University's graduate program by recommendation. One has to have top GPA to qualify for that kind of recommendation.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

CAI: Hmm. Okay. Wherever she went, she would send me a postcard. This one was from 2011 when she went to Suzhou. She wrote something there to tell me to be happy and smile. She was trying to inspire me. Then she gave me a little gift. I have kept all these until this day. Everything she gave me--I have kept everything that she gave me. In 2012, she went to Kelanghe [PH]. On the postcard, she quoted a poem: "The evening glow parallels with a lone goose; the autumn river reflects a scenic hue of the vast sky." She used this poem to let me know that she missed me. That was from 2012, February 2012. Then in October 2012, she went to another place. She expressed her delight for that place to me. She went to Xi'an. She wrote, "Our road is free and has life." She left people the impression that she was a free spirit. In 2013, she went to Fenghuang [PH]. She told me that she liked the small town there very much, very tranquil. She liked it there very much. She also went to other places. She brought me this gift from Macaw, a small item. This one, I don't remember where she got it, but I remember she liked it because of the word "*Lucky*". She wanted me to smile more and this could bring me some luck, so she gave me this and I have kept it ever since. Uh, this is--it should be around November 11, 2016. I went to Beijing then and that was the last time I saw her. She gave me this little gift. Since my husband was also our college classmate, she knew him too. She gave us this with good wishes, wishing us a long lasting marriage. These are all the small items she gave me. Uh, I should stop here, right? I also have . . . I have something else, but probably not related to this.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

CAI: It is about something else, not related to these. It is a short story. I like small notebooks very much, and she once lost a small notebook of mine. After I returned to the dorm, I told her it was no big deal, but she gave me this one. On the back of the notebook she wrote, "Although you didn't blame me, I am still feeling very sorry for losing your favorite notebook. Therefore, I am giving you my favorite notebook. I hope this one can replace the lost one." She wrote these words here.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *Thanks. Could you please show us each photo and then describe for, show it to the camera and describe what the photo details?*

INT: Can you please, those photos, show them one by one to the camera?

CAI: Hmm. Let me pick a few. Uh, I am just going to pick this one now. This one is of the four of us in the dormitory; we were in room 520. The photo was taken outside the dorm. The text here reads "Home of Love," which shows how good our relationship was. This one is for the four of us. Then, this one is she and I. We went to a place in Guangzhou together. It was a weekend and we went there for a spring outing. This one was taken when we went to the Heng Mountain for an internship during our junior year. Then, we stayed in a place high up and this photo was taken there then. We took this place along the mountain's vertical axis. This one was taken during our commencement ceremony. We were in full academic dress. She looked particularly beautiful, confident, and independent here. These few, uh, they are similar, not much different.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *Could you please tell us his name and describe their relationship at the university?*

INT: What's his name?

CAI: Uh, HOU Xiaolin.

INT: And describe their relationship.

CAI: Hmm . . . They were together for a long time. They were probably the first couple from our class. Um, and, both of them were excellent students; they both ranked very high in our class. They had very good GPA. Her boyfriend had very good grades too. Uh, and, they were together naturally. The other thing is that they both were busy. Uh, how do I put it? How do I describe their relationship? I think they were good lovers to each other, the two of them.

INT: *His name--*

CAI: [OV] Like what we call "a match made in heaven." They both were strong students and they became a couple naturally. Academically, I think they helped each other, and they both had very high expectations for themselves. They were both very motivated. Different from other--I think they were different from other couples. They were a couple of strong students, if you will.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *How, uh, how did she say things were going for her while she was in the United States?*

INT: How did she tell you about her life in the US?

CAI: Um . . . At the beginning, probably she was full of curiosity, being in a new place and everything was new to her. In the meantime, being in a completely new environment, she had to adjust and adapt and her studies were quite stressful. She also had to deal with her financial situation. After all, the financial burden to her family was quite heavy. So, at the beginning, she had to deal with all these matters.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *What were her plans after she finished studying in the United States?*

INT: What were her plans after she finished studying in the United States?

CAI: Um, she would return to China and become a professor.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: *Would you please tell us the last time you had contact with Yingying ZHANG and describe the contact course.*

INT: Can you describe for us the last time you had contact with her?

CAI: Um . . . I may not remember all the details because it was just a casual conversation. Nobody would have thought something like that could happen. We only had a casual conversation.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

Miller: [coughing] *Do you have, uh, any other photographs or items you brought with you that you would like to share?*

INT: Do you have other photos and items to show us? Anything else?

CAI: Um, let me see.

INT: *Let me take a look.*

CAI: I picked out some of the messages from her on WeChat. I would like to read them aloud. It can show you her attitude toward life.

INT: *I made some screenshot of what we chat on the WeChat. I would like to read, read to you and show [UI].*

CAI: On May 5, 2014, about midnight, she said, “How big is the world? I will measure it with my feet.”

INT: *She told us during a chat, she posted, uh, in the WeChat on the May 5th of 2014, saying that, “How big the, this world is, and we should. . .” What’s the next part?*

CAI: I will measure the world with my feet.

INT: To occupy the world?

CAI: To measure.

INT: To measure? To measure the world with her feet.

INT: *Oh. How the, how big the world is? I want to use my feet to take a measurement of the, of the world.*

CAI: Hmm. There is another one from February 27, 2015. She said, “If we can dance more freely without shackles, why should we wear shackles to dance?”

INT: *Why, if there is no handicapped, hand, handcuff, if there is no handcuff--Did you say why dance wearing shackles?*

CAI: Right, because she was a free spirit and she longed for freedom in life.

INT: *Okay. What she tried to say is the, she doesn’t want to be bound with the handcuff.*

Miller: *Handicap?*

INT: *Handcuff. Handcuffs, handcuffs. She wanted to, um, be more freedom. She wanted to be more free, free.*

Miller: *Okay.*

INT: *She seek freedom. She doesn’t want to be, uh, bound by the handcuff.*

CAI: Hmm. In addition

Miller: *Handcuff.*

INT: *Handcuffs.*

CAI: In addition, on November 14, 2014, she said, “I see a storm coming. I am just as excited as the ocean.”

INT: *Okay.*

CAI: My understanding is that, instead of flinching, she would confront it when she was faced with difficulty. She would turn a challenge to a driving force, a force that pushes her forward.

INT: Did you say October 14, 2014?

CAI: Right. She wrote, “I see a storm coming. I am just as excited as the ocean.”

INT: Excited?

CAI: Right, getting as excited as the ocean. When a storm comes, most people get scared, but she would be excited and use it as a motivation to keep going forward.

INT: *Oh, oh. On, uh, September, uh, October 14th, 2014, she wrote, “facing the storm, I felt very excited.” That means she, she would not scare by the dangerous storm, but she had, she had, she planned to, uh, to do, uh, to do something. She doesn’t want to be scared with the dangerous storm.*

CAI: Hmm. These messages can demonstrate that she was very different from other ordinary girls. She was different from us, let’s say, girls who would never think outside the box in terms of the attitude towards life. She was very different.

INT: *That she, she, uh, different from the typical girls, that she, she, whenever she faces difficulty, she wanted, she wanted to overcome the difficulty.*

CAI: Hmm. That’s all.

INT: *That’s, that’s all the screen shots.*

Miller: *Um, is there anything else you would like to share about how Yingying’s loss has affected you?*

INT: Do you have anything else to share about how Yingying’s loss has affected you?

CAI: Hmm. [sigh] I feel very sad. I am hurting inside. She had occupied a very important spot in my life, but one day I am told that she might have been gone. It is especially hard for me to accept.

INT: *I--*

CAI: [OV] That is how I feel.

INT: *--I felt very sad, and, um, this has been an important part in her life. And all of a sudden, she’s no longer with us. I am just very sad about it*

CAI: After all, I really want to let you know that she was such a nice person. Seriously, even if you want to find her shortcomings--You know, people usually have some shortcomings--but I feel it is hard to find hers. I am not saying this because I am

her friend. If you ask her classmates, teachers, or coworkers, the comments are all the same: she was a super nice person.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

[END OF INTERVIEW]