

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

Exhibit 107 TR-2

Transcribed Testimony of Lisha Fang on October 26, 2018

UM: AUSA Eugene Miller
MI: Male Interpreter
FLS: Lisha Fang

UM: *Um, could you please tell us your name?*

MI: Could you please tell me your name?

FLS: FANG Lisha, last name is FANG.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *How old are you?*

MI: How old are you this year?

FLS: Twenty-seven years old.

MI: *Twenty-seven years old.*

UM: *Where do you currently live?*

MI: Where do you currently live?

FLS: A1-1501, Jiuzhouhaiyu [PH], Dongguan Zhuang [PH] Road, Tianhe District, Guangzhou.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Could you please, uh, summarize for us your education, starting with high school?*

MI: Could you please summarize for us your e-education, starting with high school?

FLS: I went to Zhengding High School in Hebei, and then went to university in 2009, at the College of Environmental Engineering of Zhongda [TN1], that is, Sun Yat-sen University, for my undergraduate degree, and in... 2013, I studied at the College of Environmental Engineering of Sun Yat-sen University for my master's degree. I was majored in environmental science for both.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Uh, please, uh, tell us, uh, when and where, uh, you first met Yingying, uh, and describe that experience for us.*

MI: Could you tell us where, w-when and where you first met ZHANG Yingying, and describe the circumstances for us?

FLS: The first time I met her was when we started college in 2009. Yingying and I shared the same dormitory. The first impression I had about Yingying at the time was that this was a relatively petite girl, and kind of dark-skinned, but she was very... you know, very open and she loved to smile. At that time we... Because we were strangers, and she was relatively open, so we were able to talk and get to know each other very quickly. And I also thought she's a very energetic girl. Because at the time, we just arrived in Guangzhou and we felt it was very hot; however, I felt that this girl would... For instance, she would ask, "is there anything... is there anything you--you need to buy?" She was very active, and very warm-hearted. That was my first impression.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Okay, please describe for us how your friendship developed at the university.*

MI: Could you tell us how your friendship started and developed at the university?

FLS: At first, our friendship [started] since we were roommates. Throughout our life in college, because we were roommates, we... Whether it was daily life, or study, or out-of-college activities or entertainment, we actually... you may say we were shadowing each other during our college life. At that time... Take study as example, like, going to classes. We would... go to classes together, and pre... At the end of each semester, everybody from our dormitory, a few of us would get together to prepare for the exams. And, for instance, there were many community

activities at the university, we would... Since we shared common interests, we would join the same... For example, I remember we joined the environmental protection association, and some student associations of the college, such as the students union. We participated in all of these together at that time. And, I mean, we would go sight-seeing together during holidays and vacations. You know, all these added up... Our friendship developed gradually as we spent time together. I felt during the four... There were four years in college, and we spent each day and night together, and Yingying had basically become one of my siblings.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *What was Yingying's relationship like with her family?*

MI: Can you describe she and her... ZHANG Yingying's relationship with her family?

FLS: Uh, at that time... She, you know, also had a very good relationship with her family members, but at that time... Because she, she had a younger brother, and what I heard a lot was that she was worried about her younger brother. Um, because, as an elder sister, she was excellent, but as for her younger brother, he's not as—not as outstanding as she was according to our standard, and that's why she was concerned about her younger brother's study. Uh, I remember that he might have got a job later, but since he's rather young, she kept telling us that she's worried about her brother working at such a young age, you know, he stopped going to school, and she's worried that, uh, you know, going out to the society at such young age, without enough... He might not have enough knowledge, would he be taken advantage of? And, how about his life? Uh, for instance, his salary was not high enough, would he be able to, you know, support himself? Questions like that. And, Yingying herself was a very filial girl. I remember... [In choked-up voice] um, when we started college in 2009, only her father accompanied her to school, and... so we inquired her. She just... Her mother was probably not healthy enough already, I remember that, at that time, she often called home, um, to encourage her mother to take care of herself, um, and remind... it's probably... Uh, I don't remember exactly what was wrong with her mother, her mother to take her medication regularly. She really was a [in choked-up voice] very--very--very filial girl.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

MI: How would you describe Yingying's personality?

FLS: First of all, I want to say that Yingying... I mean, starting... I mean, as, at that time, we as students, from the aspect of study, she studied very hard. I think was somebody who's very capable of realizing the priority of different phases in her life. As a student, one of the most important tasks at college is to study very hard. So she was very earnest in her studies at that time. At that time, I remember it was... sophomore or junior year, she was elected student representative of our class, I mean, the reasons we elected student representative were, I mean, firstly, her grades were good, in addition, her attitude towards study was really very serious. Also, another example is the graduation dissertation. When we were working on the dissertation for bachelor degree, to tell you the truth, the dissertation for undergraduate students didn't have very high standards, but Yingying spent one whole year to prepare for her graduation dissertation. She was under the supervision of a professor of ours-ours, and she... Guided by the professor, she thought about a proposal, [noise] a project, and she finished the whole experiment plan. So I could tell that she experienced some hardships to complete the dissertation, however, she really enjoyed it, because she felt... because I felt that her attitude towards study made her... I mean, even if she was tired, she felt a sense of joy. And... speaking of... I mean, in addition, for instance, she participated in some, uh... Secondly, I think she's an energetic person, and she's full of ideas. On top of her study, for instance, on top of her study in college, there were many activities for students in college. For example, since we were majored in environmental protection, she would be, like, she joined an environmental protection association, and even became the president of the environmental protection association later on. She's, uh...

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

FLS: Based on these two points, I just wanted to show that she was a very excellent student at college. Next I want to say that, as a friend, as a f-friend, really, Yingying was a very, very good friend. Starting with school, I mean, I won't even mention that we spent days and nights together for years. Let's talk about after graduation. After graduation, we both went to graduate schools. Um, we probably... Uh, she--she had a higher academic standard than I did, and, and... she did even better than me academically. So, we kept frequent communication after graduating from college, during which, she would give me a lot of advice on my study. As a friend, she wasn't like, you know, since we graduated and didn't see each other, we became strangers. And... and, I think she really cared about her friends. For instance, Yingying, for instance, when I got my marriage license, I mean, right after I told her, "I'm getting my marriage certificate today", I said, and she showed up at my door the first thing in the morning, saying, "getting

married is such an important event, [in choked-up voice], getting married is such an important event in your life, how can I not be a part of it?" [Crying] And... I think... As a girl, Yingying had a lot of expectations, I mean, I mean, she showed much of her gentleness as a girl. [In choked-up voice] Like... like... *Sorry*. As a girl, she's so gentle. For instance, when I was pregnant, she was more excited than I was. [Crying] At that time, I mean, when that thing happened to her, I was six-month pregnant. She often... even she went to the U. S. already, she would send me messages on Wechat every now and then, saying, "How's the baby doing? How's my godson doing?" I think... Really, as a, you know, as a friend, she was more excited than I was. And during that time, she would describe to me her expectation to become a mother one day. She was looking forward to a new life, but now, all those... are impossible. So I... I'm sorry, I'm really emotional. [Crying]

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *And how often and how did you keep in touch?*

MI: How long, how often, or, and also, I mean, how did you keep in touch?

FLS: After graduating from university, we mostly contacted each other using Wechat, but regarding the frequency, it's hard to say. I mean, for a while we were like, for instance, whenever I had hard time, or she had some problems, we would contact each other more, you know, frequently, we would chat until one or two o'clock in the morning. Sometimes, I mean, at that time, I remember we would chat more about her conflicts with her boyfriend, and stuff like that, uh, because the two of them were not together, so it was easy for them to have conflicts. At that time, due to that, we talked more about these topics. And after I graduated, I mean, because after I graduated, we talked more about, I mean, I started to work, and she was still, I mean, she was still studying at college. So she would be curious about how my work was like, and I would like to know the progress of her study, for example, whether she would graduate, or things like that. Uh, our communication was about such topics for a long time. And since... After I became pregnant, we contacted each other more frequently. Every now and then, she would ask me, uh, such as, how big the baby in my belly was, or, for example, whenever I had an ultrasound and saw the image of the baby, I would send her the image. She would be... very, very excited. Once she told me that she, uh, she... I mean, every time she would be very excited and said, "Wow, it has grown so big!" I mean, she hoped to have her own baby in the future, too.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *How did you feel about her going to study in the U. S.?*

MI: What were your feelings about her going to study in the U. S.? Happy?

FLS: Uh, from... If you want to know my real feelings, I really didn't want her to go to the U. S. Uh... the first reason was that, Yingying, Yingying, you know... was rather innocent, and I think sometimes she's too kind, and at the time I considered, I mean, I was worried about her safety. That was my first reaction, and that's why I tried to talk her into reconsidering the deci-- the decision of going abroad. And another reason is that, she's already... Considering from the aspect of a girl's age, she was reaching the age to get married, and I was... I mean, maybe I had the same thought as her mother's, we wished she would get married and have a stable life, because, to be honest, it's such a long way to go to the U. S., it would take quite a while before she could get married and become a mother. But, to tell you the truth, since this is something she had been working hard for, I was also really happy for her. She put in so much effort for so many years in order to get higher education, and now her dream came true, so I was also... really happy. So we were having mixed feelings at the time. From one aspect, it's a long way, and she's not that young any more, and, actually, our main concern was the safety, you know, we were having mixed feelings. We didn't want her to go at the time, but on the other hand, we really... we were happy for her seeing that she's got the scholarship.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

MI: *Did you have the opportunity to have contact with her after she went to the United States?*

FLS: Yes, but after she went to the United States, due to the time difference, and because she just got there and had to settle in and get familiar with the environment, etc., our c-contacts were probably slightly less, for instance, for every two or three weeks, she might... I might send her messages, and she might send me messages, something like that. Uh, but... I remember from what she sent that she was very happy, every day, I mean, because when it was a new environment. She was like, when she's in a new environment or when she encountered a new challenge, she would be very energetic. Every day she would be like... The messages she sent to me would be like, "Look, this is the meal I made. Isn't it delicious?" "Look, I came here to collect experimental data. Isn't

the scene beautiful?” So my feeling at the time about her was, although she was in a new environment and she might encounter difficulties and challenges, I felt she was very excited every day, I mean, she was looking forward to whatever came up next.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *What were some of those challenges? Can you tell?*

MI: Can you tell me what some of those challenges she had were?

FLS: Uh, I remember she told me at the time that, uh, the first challenge she faced was the language. I mean, to be honest, I mean, although she passed the EIS exam to go abroad, I mean, when she went abroad and live in English-spoken environment every day, she said she realized her lack of ability in English, and she had to study hard. Another one was that... According to her, the transportation overseas was probably... not as convenient as in China, there might be some, I mean, when she went out, or, she told me, I remember she told me that it's not as convenient, and sometimes she had to walk, things like that. Uh...I remember there's one more, I mean... the third one should be daily life. What she told me mostly was about life, daily life. For instance, she might need to decorate the place where she lived, or get it organized, and, for instance, it wasn't very convenient to go out shopping and stuff. And, another thing is cooking. Sometimes she might cooked but it didn't come out as delicious as she had expected. Sometimes she would send me a message, saying, "I cooked this today but failed. I will continue to improve tomorrow." And so on. Uh, others... These are mostly what she told me about, not much about other stuff.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Do you recall the last time you had any contact with, uh, Yingying?*

MI: Do you recall when the last time you had any contact with her was...? Uh, you said... *Did you say the time? Time--*

UM: [OV] *Does she remember the last time? Does she--*

MI: [OV] Oh, do you remember the last time you had contact with her?

FLS: The date I recall was back in June, early June.

MI: Uh, which year?

FLS: It was when... Last year, early June of last year.

MI: *Uh, the date I recalled was back in early June 2017.*

UM: *And do you recall anything about that?*

MI: Do you recall anything about that, how did you contact her?

FLS: At the time, because I was at the fifth month of my pregnancy, the topic we had at that time was mostly about, uh, my baby. Uh, it was like this back then. At the time, I was pregnant, and she kept encouraging me to educate the baby while it's in the womb. So she... at the time, mailed a music CD and a book to me. At the time she, I mean, told me, "Pay attention while listening to the music, because when you are listening, the baby is listening too. You have to tell me how you feel after you listen to it." That's what we talked about mostly at the time. The other thing is, since she cared a lot about me, she asked if she could bring some mother-baby products from the U. S., and, if I needed them urgently, she could mail them, and if not, I could wait for her, before I give birth, to return to China in October, so that she could see me and the baby in person.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *How, uh... how has Yingying's loss impacted you personally?*

MI: How has Yingying's loss impacted you?

FLS: Yingying is gone. To be honest, I felt I lost a... friend with whom I can have heart-to-heart talk, I just felt... I mean, it's like losing a sibling. At the time... when I saw the report with that conclusion at the time, I cried for about three days, you know, I was unable to accept the fact. But... but, I mean, like what they say, life must go on, I mean, how to say this, I mean, I can't keep crying like this. Life must go on, and my family would be worried. Also, as a friend, I felt maybe... About her parents, we would be worried about her parents, because... you know, regarding Yingying's family condition, her parents have reached a certain age, and their family's financial situation isn't that great. So we are worried about her parents. Uh, we would be... But what we can do is limited, just... The only thing we could do is donate some money to her parents, something like that, because we are not there with them, what we can do is very

limited. Since Yingying... After Yingying's incident, I felt... I'm very... very sad every day, I mean, I feel like, I want to do something for Yingying or her family, but I can't really do anything. I want to say something, but there's really nothing I can say...

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

[END OF INTERVIEW]