

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

Exhibit 108 TR-2

Transcribed Testimony of Yanyu Li on October 23, 2018

UM: AUSA Eugene Miller
FI: Female Interpreter
MI: Male Interpreter
LYY: Yanyu Li

UM: *Could you please tell us your name?*

FI: Please tell us your name.

LYY: My name is LI Yanyu.

MI: *My name is LI Yanyu.*

UM: *How old are you?*

FI: How old are you this year?

LYY: I am 28 years old this year.

MI: *28 years old.*

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Could you please uh, tell us uh, about your education?*

FI: Could you tell me your educational background?

LYY: Uh, I... studied in Jianyang from elementary school to high school. Then, after graduating from high school, I went to, uh, Dongbei University of Finance & Economics for undergraduate studies; then, uh, during my undergraduate studies I went to the United Kingdom as an exchange student for two years. And then in the United Kingdom, and then I did my graduate studies at the University of London in the United Kingdom.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]



UM: *Oh, uh, where did you first meet Yingying ZHANG?*

FI: When did you meet ZHANG Yingying for the first time?

LYY: Um, ZHANG Yingying and I were fellow students in high school. We first met when we were in the first year of high school in class. It was in 2006.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *And um... [Pause] Uh, how would you describe your relationship with... Yingying?*

FI: Uh, how would you describe your relationship with her?

LYY: Um, I mean, she was one of my very, very best friends. And I... We shared the same desk for a long period of time in high school. And because when we were in high-high school, I, um, didn't have good grades probably because I was under too much stress for a period of time, and she kept helping me; and, for example, uh... I mean, uh, I would often go to her home on weekends to have meals and study, that is, I became very familiar with her family members, and our relationship was as close as sisters.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Uh, what... what types of things did you do together as best friends?*

FI: Uh, as best friends, what did you usually do together?

LYY: Uh, I mean, we studied together, and, chatted, for example, watched TV, and played at her home during the New Year celebration, played cards with, with her family members. And, um, in the evening, for example, during the Chinese New Year celebration we watched the fireworks and such. I mean, anyway, we also went out strolling down the street, all kind of stuff.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Uh, could you, um, describe Yingying's relationship with her family?*

FI: Uh, can you tell us about how her relationship with her family was?

LYY: Uh, as far as her family, there were father, mother, her, and her younger brother. She, I mean, she was, I mean, she always showed filial piety to her parents. Though, uh, I mean, she, well, during the time of her studies, but, uh... Her

younger brother... was probably, I mean, he wasn't doing as well academically, she, uh, Yingying had to also, I mean, uh, tutor her younger brother in addition to her own study, or, I mean, if her younger brother wasn't very willing to get her help, she would also, I mean, ask other, uh, fellow student to tutor her younger brother. And her... her mother, her mother was... was at home, I mean, a housewife, and, I mean, Yingying, I mean, would, for example, not let her mother do all the housework, and would, would also help with some of the housework. That's it.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Uh, could you describe um, the challenges she faced in going to the United States to study?*

FI: Could you talk about the challenges she faced going to the States, in order to go to study in the States?

LYY: Um, she-she-she might have, probably, difficulty with the language. Uh, I mean, she... probably took some English tests for that, I mean, she should've prepared for that. She probably prepared for a while and took some tests. And the challenges, uh, the challenge was probably, I mean, she lived in a new place with strangers all around. She also told me in the very beginning, I mean, when she went there, I mean, she should... Uh, I mean, we talked about it, and I told her to pay attention to safety, that's it.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *And what did she tell you about safety and security issue?*

FI: What did she say to you concerning safety issues?

LYY: Um, it was before she went, I mean, we... I said before she left... Since I studied in United Kingdom, you know, but... I mean, there's some... Because probably... we are rather petite, short and petite, so probably... Foreigners are bigger and taller, and sometimes I got a bit...scared when, for example, there were only a few people on the street. And... Uh, so I told her, I mean, when walking down the street and if there aren't many, I mean, not to go out if it's too dark or too late. Also pay attention to...surrounding observe the people around you. That's it.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *And how has...How has that over the, over this time impacted you?*

FI: For you, during this period of time...What is the impact of the whole incident on you?

LYY: Um, the impact? I mean, I mean, in the very beginning it's very...I mean...I so wanted to... In the very beginning, nobody was sure and we all wanted to do our best, you know, we were very anxious and wanted to...find her fast. And later... We knew, I mean, and the police also, I mean, also told the family and confirmed...The outcome might not be good. And then... I just felt... Uh... I just-just felt... Um, I mean, I would always think of, I mean, uh, I mean, I mean, she and I, I mean, the things we got-got through to-together, I mean, I mean, they are all gone with her disappearance. [In broken voice] That's it. Moreover, she was... I mean, she was really nice to me. And so, I mean... [In choked-up voice] I mean, so she... I mean, I really... I just felt... Why did this kind of thing happen to such a decent person? I mean, so... I mean, because she treated me really nicely and...[crying] So her...,I mean, whatever her parents need, I mean, my family and I would-would-would, I mean, do our best to help. And..., I mean...The impact on me is just... Um... I mean, I'm very, very sad...

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Show it to the camera, can... If you could tell us, uh, the circumstances that picture was taken.*

FI: Um, can you show it to the camera, and can you tell us what happened...the circumstance when it was taken?

LYY: This, I mean, might have been during her, I mean, her graduation, I mean, possibly, I mean, her graduation trip, she did-did study very-very-very hard and then took a trip, and it says...She wrote "all the hard work was worth it, so much beauty cannot be taken away." Uh, "cannot be taken away", that's it.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Um, what do you miss the most about Yingying?*

FI: Um, what do you miss the most about Yingying?

LYY: Uh, I feel... Um, I mean... I mean, her innocence, I think. I mean, I just fell, she... I mean, it seems... I mean, because she, she, I mean..., umm, I mean, it seems, I mean, um... I mean, she's rather... simple, I mean, I mean, she has

always been studying, and, I mean, she has no ill intention towards others, I mean, and... When I need help, she would help me, I mean, no matter how busy she was herself. I mean, um... I mean, she is definitely the simplest and most innocent person I have ever met.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

LYY: Also, I mean, she was very good at taking care of others, probably because she had a younger brother. She... I mean, for example, when she and I went out for meals, she would, uh, look... I mean... I mean, not just to her younger brother, she, because she had a younger brother, she form-formed the habit of taking care of others. After our meal together, I mean, on the way back, she would-she would also, uh, buy take some food for her roommate, that's it, that was when we had the meal in Beijing.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Just... Is there anything else you would like to share about how Yingying's loss has affected you, or others?*

FI: Is there anything else... Would you like to share with us anything else about ZHANG Yingying's loss?

MI: What impact does it have on you? [UI] what impact--

FI: [OV] To your life, your mind, to your work. To your life, your work, your mind.

LYY: Um... I mean... I would like to, I mean, show you this, I mean, a gift she gave me.

MI: *I want to show you a gift that she gave me.*

LYY: [In choked-up voice] Um, um, this is it. Because I... Because I knew I was coming here, I had my mom m-mail-mail it to me specifically. I mean, um...

MI: What did you say? What was mailed to you?

LYY: I meant, I meant this came from my home, and my mom... I asked my mom to mail it to me.

MI: Oh, you asked your mom to mail it to you--

LYY: [OV] Uh, right, because I thought, I mean, because I thought this is a gift from her to me. [In choked-up voice] I mean... Um... Uh... I mean... It wasn't my birthday or any other circumstance, I mean, when she... went window shopping, she just... just... Because we didn't have big allowance in high school, and probably, this probably cost RMB 40 or 50, but it was still a lot of money for her. So, once she went shopping, and... she just... She just told me the next day that she, uh... She said she would give me a gift that she thought... I mean, she said she saw this gift and thought it fitted me, a gift that suited me so well, and... And-and-and she gave it to me. And she said, she said... I mean, uh, I mean, "I thought it's very pretty", and she thought it suited me, and it's very beautiful. And... So I was touched, because it wasn't my birthday or anything, and she was willing to spare her allowance, you know, to buy me a gift, to get me a gift. So I thought... What I wanted to say is, I mean, she is such a wonderful person, such a motivated person, I mean... I mean, I... um, but... but this type... of thing... uh....

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

[END OF INTERVIEW]