

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

Exhibit 111 TR-2

Transcribed Testimony of Xiao Zhang on October 26, 2018

UM: AUSA Eugene Miller
MI: Male Interpreter
ZX: Xiao Zhang

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

MI: Your name, tell...please tell us your name.

ZX: ZHANG Xiao.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *How old are you?*

MI: How old are you?

ZX: 28.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Where do you currently live?*

MI: Where do you currently live?

ZX: Guiyang [PH] City, Guizhou Province.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *All right, could you please describe for us, um, when you first met Yingying ZHANG? Including when and where.*

MI: Could you tell me how you met ZHANG Yingying? Including time and location.

ZX: Ah. We first met at the end of August 2013, at the Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School. Because we were roommates, so we met before school officially started. Then we had a meal together and took a look at the dorm. That was the first time I met her.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *What was your first impression of Yingying?*

MI: What was your first impression of ZHANG Yingying?

ZX: First impression was...although she and I were, you know, about the same height, and she was much skinnier than me, I thought she... I mean, I mean, because we rearranged the furniture at the dorm together, and I felt that she was pretty independent.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *It sounds like, um... You said capable, did she... She was strong for her size. Could you describe that for us?*

MI: Can you...I mean, how do you, uh, I mean, why do you say she, it seems she was petite and yet very capable and very-very strong, can you--

ZX: [OV] Because--

MI: [OV] --describe that?

ZX: [OV] --because we noticed that, in the dormitory, I mean, the beds and desks were not placed very neatly, and she suggested that we could move them around together, and we did. I felt they were quite heavy.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Can you describe for us how your friendship with Yingying ZHANG developed, um, during your time together?*

MI: Can you describe for us how your, uh, friendship with ZHANG Yingying started and developed?

ZX: Because we were roommates, at the very beginning we went to classes together, basically we went to classes together and had meals together, and leave school together. Sometimes we were in the same *PPT* group, too, and we studied together, presented *PPT* together, and so on. It was mainly school and study the first year, so we, you know, spend a lot of time together.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

ZX: [OV] Right, always, for the first year of graduate school. And first...after the first year of graduate school, we visited Guilin, Guangxi together. We went there together for sightseeing, for about three days.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Um, do you have any s--, maybe pecial stories about Yingying during those, um, sightseeing trips?*

MI: Do you have any, uh m-memorable stories about Yingying during those sightseeing trips or anything you'd like to share with us?

[Pause]

ZX: Because I-I-I am kind of... kind of dull, I don't know how to say it, I mean, I am rather... rather introverted, so I was rather quiet when we went out. But she was... When we went out and play, she was like, I mean, re-- more relaxed, and she led the group at--at Lijiang. I mean, we were on the boat, and she kept...she led us sing and stuff. It was happy times. I mean, in the past, if I were to...to go out for a trip by myself, I would simply do some sightseeing, but I felt going out with her was... was just to have fun, I was especially happy.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Could you describe Yingying's relationship with her family?*

MI: Could you describe Yingying's relationship with her family?

ZX: Family? She just...called her mother often. And... it feels that she and her mother are like friends. She said her mom wouldn't let her... I mean, [her mother] asked her to address her [mother] as sister, I don't know why. And... um...she... joked

back and forth with her younger brother. Anyway, it feels that she had a good relationship with her family, they were close.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *Could you tell us more about Yingying's singing?*

MI: Could you tells us any about Yingying's singing?

ZX: Singing? Uh, she joined a campus singing competition back then. I accompanied her to the preliminary competition with her. She sang on stage by herself with no music, I listened to her sing... "Dancer" by Jolin Tsai. I was like... getting goosebumps listening to her singing. And then... she was candidate for the preliminary competition, but she was eliminated during the second round; however, it seems... She didn't give up after all. She organized a band, called "Cute Horse", and she was the lead singer. She learned how to play the guitar while she was the l-lead singer. She was with her band members a lot during that period of time.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: [OV] *Oh, Okay, very good. Um... Uh...what did Yingying study at Peking University graduate school?*

MI: What major did she study at Peking University graduate school?

ZX: Environmental Engineering.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: [OV] *How did she do academically in her graduate studies?*

MI: How were her grades?

ZX: Her grades were quite good. She received "Outstanding Graduate" award, and she received scholarship every year.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

ZX: You know... I believe she got the “excellent award” three years in a row. We have excellent, first grade, and second grade. She got excellent for three years in a row. And... as far as “Outstanding Graduate”, there were... 50 to 60 people in our major, and only a couple of people would receive the “Outstanding Graduate” award.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *How did you feel about Yingying studying in the United State?*

MI: How did you feel about Yingying studying in the U.S.? What did you think?

ZX: I do--I do admire her. Because... Actually I had thought about studying aboard myself, but I gave up after thinking about all the *GRE* tests, they were difficult. Plus, I thought it was also good to find a job after graduation. But for her, she had... had a dream, so she really wanted to go to the U.S. She thought she had to study in the United State. Everyday... besides her own research, she would have to prepare for *GRE*, *TOEFL*, stuff like that.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

ZX: This is from our graduation. The four of us, I, Yinging, WU Shuang and ZHAO Kaiyun were very close, so we went to take these artsy friendship pictures. This is one of them. We also have albums and large posters.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

UM: *... Okay, sorry, her loss has impacted her personally.*

MI: How has her--her passing impacted you personally?

ZX: I lost a very good friend. [Cries]

MI: *I just felt she...*

UM: *Stop, let her...*

ZX: Excuse me. [Cries] For a long time I felt she... I did not believe this is real, I felt that she is somewhere out there, and we will find her. But today... today when I was asked to have an interview I realized that she's really no longer with us. I

have always thought this was fake when I think of this topic. I thought she didn't have time to contact us because she was too busy, because I have a lot of, uh, good friends whom I don't have contact with for long period of time, I mean, we don't see each for a long time. And, I-I... I of-often tell myself that she will probably be found. And... there are some... rumors on the internet, I mean, dark web, and I wanted to believe it if they could lead to finding her. Because she cannot be found now, even if you say she has passed away, but you have not found her body yet. So... I feel she might still be alive.

MI: *Yeah, so—*

ZX: [OV] Because she is... she is the first one among the people I am close to who had an accident like this, I feel... And I'm... I'm still in shock. I just think she... was a good person with a good heart, and she was... also motivated and... she worked pretty hard. That's it... It's just... She... I feel... I just feel such a thing is impossible. Probably... it's probably also because I have never been through this kind of difficulties, it is hard for me to accept this.

[BREAK IN AUDIO]

[END OF INTERVIEW]