

Case: 254856

report number 1



UNIVERSITÉ DE NANTES

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Introduction

London, 4th of November 2019 at approximately 11pm, Dominic Perkins was found dead by one of these neighbours. The police officer, Gareth Southgate, came at 11.10 pm to record the victim's death. The body of the mechanic was discovered near to his home, at 133-135 Westminster Bridge Rd in London. When the police officer arrived in the street, already few people gathered together around the body. Only very few people saw the scene and their testimonies are not clear. At first glance, there is no indication that the victim had been brutalized. Moreover, we don't have much information about the context. None of the people near the house had seen the entire scene and nobody saw the corpse fall.

It would seem that he is not an unstable person according to his family and there was no sign of any desire to commit suicide. However, he lost his mother a few months ago and his police record is not empty. Our priority approach at the moment stay a suicide. Of course, the victim didn't leave a letter or something that could confirm this first feeling. A criminal act is not excluded because M. Perkins had some contacts with drug dealers. So we will have to be based on a new questioning of the witness and the report of the forensic experts. Therefore, an anthropologist and a toxicologist (because of the addiction of M. Perkins) have been called. A DNA analysis is also ongoing.

Physical profile:

- Name: Dominic Perkins
- Birth day: December 3, 1994, was 25 years old when he was discovered dead.
- Size: 188 cm / weight: 87,9 kg / blood type: A+
- Other: did some rehabilitation center in the past → 2013/2018



Social profile:

- Telephone number: 07046 291187
- address mail: DominicPerkins@jourrapide.com
- Come from a modest family, had one older sister and one younger brother, the mother died 4 months ago.
- Did 2 years of commercial college after he graduated from high-school.
- Was fired from his last work for disrespect of the industry's policy 10 years ago. Did a career change to become a garagist.
- According to his close family, friends and his colleagues, Dominic had a lot of capacities but these one were not exploited. He was seen as a reserved person who didn't talk a lot. Dominic always looked alone and especially since the death of his mother.

Judicial profile:

- Dominic Perkins was known from the police department for many little infractions: drunkenness on the public road, traffic and taking of many drugs...

Family testimony:

Name: John Perkins

Birth Day: June 25, 1992, actually 2 years old older than his brother (28 years old)

Address: 59 The Crescent, Congleton, near to Manchester and Liverpool Phone: 03582 564937

Situation: in couple

Relation: brother's victim

Brother Testimony: "To be honest, I broke off all ties with Dominic 6 years ago when he was a drugged man, my brother had the curse to be unlucky with his social relation. In fact, since we are young, I always protected him from other people who had a bad influence, he was mentally weak. And despite all efforts from my parents and I to protect him, Dominic fell in the world of drugs at the age of 19. It was at this moment that I gave up, I stopped protecting him and I started to live my own life, at this period, I went to the University to do management studies. However, our mother continues to help him and send him into a rehabilitation center. Since this period, I haven't seen and talked to Dominic. I was surprised to didn't see him when our mother was dead, even if my sister and I broke all ties with Dominic, we were sure to find him again. Our mother was very important to him, she was the only person to assist him all these years, I suppose the death of our mother was a huge emotional shock".

Name: Sabrina Perkins

Birth Day: January 13, 1998, the younger of all children of the family

Address: Somewhere near to Edimbourg, in collocation for studies

Phone: 09741 951753

Situation: No informations

Relation: Sister's victim

Sister testimony: The testimony reported was a phone conversation : " According to me, Dominic had some mentally difficulties, he was always in a bad situation. But from the point of view of our older brother and our mother, it wasn't his fault, according to them, he was just following some wrong person, he couldn't be bad. All these situations were hard for the family and I understand that John left the house to study, and I did the same 4 years after him. But all these years without John were complicated, the only person who seemed to understand Dominic was our mother. She had an important place in the heart of Dominic, I prefer to don't imagine his reaction when he learned about our mother's death, it must be horrific."

Conclusion on the victim profile:

In order to be objective, we can say that Dominic Perkins was an intelligent person who had many problems during his life which made it change : take of drugs, loss of his work... But it seems that the victim wants to get through this bad period of his life by the realisation of 2 rehabilitation centers in the past, and especially last year. However, the death of his mother may be a huge shock to him, he was mentally unstable at this period.

Interpretation

So, after the death of his mother, we can think that the victim did a relapse and begin to take drugs once again. He might be in contact with some dark relation linked to the use of drugs. During this period of time which make it fragile and unpredictable did he just suicide himself, is it a settling of scores in the mafia of drugs ? Moreless, if two members of a family died in such a short period of time, it can hide another problem linked to the family. However, it seems that the other members of the family didn't have any contact with Dominic even when the mother died.

Witness' testimonies

We had to hear the testimonies of 10 people who were in the street when the accident happened. Most of them were confused, incoherent, probably due to the violence of the accident which, for most of them, is traumatic. There are mainly two testimonies that drew my attention : The neighbor of the victim, and a woman who was the first to help out the deceased victim.

Witness' information :

Name : Geraint Conner
Date of birth : January 13, 1963 (57 years old)
Address : 54 Church Street SOUTH WEST LONDON SW4 1WP
Phone : 01632 960243
Situation : Divorced
Relation : Victim's neighbor



Witness' testimony : Our main witness claims that after seeing Dominic jump off the roof, he saw a caucasian male exit the building where our victim jumped. According to him, this happened 5 to 10 minutes after the accident. He said he noticed him because of his weird behaviour : "He was constantly looking over his shoulder, like someone was following him. And what struck me is that he didn't try to understand why so many were gathered at the foot of his building. This guy was really freaking me out. I think I could identify him if I saw him again." Despite living in the building, he claims it's the first time he ever saw the man.

We then ask him to tell us about the victim : Geraint tells us that he encountered Dominic once a month in the building. They had a good relationship but Geraint had known for a long time that Dominic had been using drugs : "He was mostly smoking, I could smell it from my balcony, but sometimes when I met him in the staircase, I felt like he was more on hard drugs."

He gave us a precious testimony and some characteristics to what look like our first suspect: White male, tall, casual style. The witness said he wore a cap and sunglasses, but since he saw his back, he is pretty sure he was bald. This could be useful for the rest of the investigation

Witness' information :

Name : Carmen Cruz
Date of birth : November 16, 1990 (29 years old)
Address : 92 Grange Road LIVERPOOL L92 9TK
Phone : 01632 960593
Situation : Married
No relation with the victim



Witness' testimony : Our victim asserts that she was the first to help the victim out. And surprisingly, she says that he was still alive for a few seconds after his fall. We proceed then to ask her if he said something before passing away. She answered she didn't understand it all but he wasn't asking for help or else, he just mumbled "I couldn't take it anymore, I had to do it". She then proceeded to comfort the victim but it was too late, he passed away.

Crime Scene Analysis

Due to the testimony of the witness Geraint Conner, we decided to analyse the roof of the building.



Lucky for us, rain had been sparing us for a couple of days. The place was very dusty. We couldn't find shoe print which wasn't a surprise but we manage to find 2 cigarettes butts :



Evidence 1



Evidence 2

This doesn't prove anything, someone could smoke on the roof regularly but we decided to run those for DNA anyway.

Reproduction of the scene

We decided to reproduce the scene with a dummy to determine certain details concerning the fall. We placed a dummy with the same body specifics as Dominic Perkins so we could be as precise as possible. We then attached to it blood-like liquid everywhere on his body and then, we decided to perform two tries.

First try : We proceed to give the dummy a tiny amount of cinetic speed to determine if the victim was pushed from the building. After the impact, we compared the blood spatter and the trauma caused by the fall with the one on our victim. We determine that with initial speed, the dummy landed further than expected, the trauma was more severe and the blood spatters were more expanded.

Second try : The second try was just dropping the dummy of the building, to simulate someone jumping off the building. The results of the analysis of the dummy after the impacts shows that it matches the characteristics of the fall of Dominic Perkins

So it seems like Dominic Perkins, the victim, jumped on its own. The hypothesis that he was threatened with a gun that forced him to jump is not excluded. As a conclusion, it seems like the experiment was inconclusive.

SECTION 6

Apartment's raid

To find some clues about the victim, and to learn more about his life, we started to search all around his apartment, some elements that could help us in our investigation. We used the key that we found in the pocket of the victim. When we opened the door, it was a real mess all around the flat, and it was difficult to travel around it. It seems that the victims were living in this configuration, and the mess weren't due to a burglary, a fight or an unknown other reason. We proceeded room by room, and found some details really interesting:

About the room of Dominik Perkins, we found a lot of family's picture which were hung on the wall, these were only showing his mother, who he looked really close to. And in accordance with the sister and brother's testimonies, his mother's death was an important step in his life, and it could have impacted him really hard.

In the kitchen, we found in the garbage bag, a lot of medical order, and also medicine packs that were all empty. We contact his doctor, and he confirms some of the prescriptions, but there were many of these, which he couldn't tell where it comes from. Then, we asked some pharmacists near the apartment, and they told us that these types of medical orders were used sometimes by drug users, to get easily different types of drugs, that are used basically for medical reasons, and to consume it. In details, Dominik Perkins were getting with theses ones, a lot of therapeutic marijuana, cough syrup (that are currently altered with soda to give hallucinations, it is used in a lot of americans teen's party), a pack of thirty pills of Tramadol Biogaran (this is used for pain medication, but with a different dose, it gives hallucination, to the user).

In the living room, we discovered on the ground, a strange empty bag that is commonly used to put a baseball bat in it. We saw no traces of the bat during the rest of the raid. Then we found a few elements about his life, but nothing that could help us for our investigation.

Anthropological report

INTRODUCTION

Here is the anthropological report given by the experts, about the death of Dominik Perkins, that happened the 4th of November 2019.

Right after the arrival of the victim's body, we take all the factual objects, clothes, and other non important things for our analysis things to the forensic inspector, then we start our analysis of the victim's body. Following the study of all elements we found on the victim's body, we decided to organize this report in two parts : the study of the external shell, and the intern shell of the corps. That will shape an extremely precise report about the state of the body, as it has been found.

ABOUT THE STUDY OF THE EXTERNAL SHELL OF THE BODY

Concerning the front of the corps, we noticed a lot of bruising and flesh wounds located on the upper body, the two legs and a few on the two arms. It could match with the fall of the victim, or could have come from an indefinite source that happened before or after the fall.

About the back of the corps, we found strange impacts located on the backside of the head, and another one near the kidney. On those two wounds, we found little pieces of wood stuck in the flesh, that could have come from a blow caused by a non-mortal wooden weapon.

We also noticed the presence of critical marks on the two wrists, the skin is seriously degraded. It lets us suppose that the victim could have been tied up by the hands with a tight string. Maybe these marks could come from other sources undetermined.

We can't determine precisely the consequences, about the impacts to the health condition and also the lethality, of these two shots.



ABOUT THE STUDY OF THE INTERN SHELL OF THE BODY

The study of the interne shell of the body didn't gave lot more informations about the crime, but it confirms some assumptions that we pronounced previously, for more details :

A lot of aggravated fractures were found on the ribs, the sternum, and on shoulder bones. These ones are intrinsically related to our observations of the study of the external shell. Indeed, these fractures could have been caused by the fall, as well as another indefinite source, that happened before or after the fall.

Moreover, we noticed a deep shot on the top right side of the skull, it is precisely matching with the location of the precedent mentioned critic impacts over the head. We start to examine it, and we can say that, the victim could have been fainting, right after the shot. But we can't say now, if it was lethal or not, and we can't say as well, if the shot has been given before, or after the fall.

Concerning the second impact that we talked about previously, we couldn't build a link with the elements that we have observed in the intern shell, because of the state of decomposition of this one. Indeed, due to the impact of the fall, the organs were crushed all together, and became non-exploitable and also useless for us.

CONCLUSION

To summarize about this anthropological report, we found three importants points to noticed about the victim's body autopsy :

- About the bruising and the fractures due to the fall on the front side of the body
- About the heavy thump on the backside of the head that reached the skull and probably caused the victim to faint, this one could have come from a non-lethal wooden weapon.
- About the impact located near the kidney, that we found no traces in the intern shell of the body, and also due to a non-lethal wooden weapon. We suppose that it was the same weapon for those two impacts.

Written by .. , anthropologist and surgery's expert from the university laboratory of Nantes, the 28/03/2020.



Toxicological report

Dear Mr James, (in charge of the case)

I am writing to you today to update you on the investigation into the murder of Mr Dominic Perkins .On the 4th November 2019 Mr Dominik Perkins was 25 years old when he was discovered dead.

As it has been reported to you before, Mr Dominic Perkins was found dead in Westminster Bridge Road of London on the 04/11/2019.

After hearing the statements of the victim's neighbors and acquaintance, our first presumption of the case was a suicide.

According to the testimonies received the victim was a drug consumer. Thus, The victim was presented to the laboratory within 24 hours to lessen the probability that the drugs in the body will be untraceable. We performed a test to verify if the victim was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The results show a negative test, which means that the level of drug shown in the urine sample is under the limit defined by the test.

Nevertheless, when testing his blood we found residues of Propofol. This detail struck me since this drug has as an effect to reduce the activity of the nervous system and the brain and is used in hospitals on patients to put them to sleep for surgeries and medical purposes for general anesthesia.

Therefore, I reject the hypothesis of a suicide and I suspect that the victim was drugged then tortured in his own apartment before been thrown by the culprit.

I hope this information will help you in your investigation to find the truth.

Sincerely,

Charles Smith (Toxicologist).

DNA results

Given we're still not sure if it's a murder or a suicide at this point, we weren't given the priority on the DNA analysis so the results came back two weeks after, on the 19th November. It was clear that one of the cigarette butts belonged to Dominic Perkins, our victim.

But the other one came as a surprise. In fact, it belongs to a man named Pedro Cruz. His DNA was in our database because he was arrested prior to the murder for possession of drug, extortion, and intent to sell drugs.

We looked into the man's information and found this :

Name : Pedro Cruz

Date of birth : September 15, 1988 (31 years old)

Address : 92 Grange Road

LIVERPOOL

L92 9TK

Phone : 01632 960931

Nationality : Spanish

Situation : Married



Since Mr Pedro Cruz doesn't live in the building, we can't help but ask ourselves why his DNA is on the roof of this particular building and if it is a coincidence that his wife witnessed the scene and helped out the victim meanwhile his husband could have been on the roof. Anyhow, since Mr Pedro Cruz fits the description that Geraint Conner, the neighbor, gave us, he is now our primary suspect and we decided to ask for a warrant to search his apartment.

Search in Cruz's apartment

After obtaining authorization to search in Cruz's apartment the 22th of November 2019, we went to the apartment the next day to collect some information.

It was found that Pedro Cruz and his wife continued drug business. Indeed, three kilograms of cocaine, cannabis and methamphetamine were discovered in the bedroom of the couple. The reserve was immediately impounded and given to the drug squad in order to determine the origin of these drugs. For now, we don't receive any return. A few medicines were also found. They are often used for insomnia and analgesics. In large doses, it could cause hallucination, comatose state and sometimes death. In the living room, we found fake prescriptions of medicines in a piece of furniture. It is often used to obtain medicines in a drugstore. So we can suppose that Pedro and Carmen Cruz have a middle position in a gang of drug traffickers, maybe related to the mafia. By the way, the search revealed the presence of a gun. The model is a Browning 1911 Black LABEL calibre 22. This discreet gun is very used in illegal trade so we cannot determine the origin of it. However, no one heard a shotgun just before the fall of the victim. It could be served to intimidate M. Perkins.

A detailed study is in progress in the bathroom to determine if there is the DNA of the victim. Indeed, if Pedro Cruz and M. Perkins had a fight, Pedro Cruz could have had M. Perkins' blood on his hands. It could have tried to remove it in a washstand.

Now, we are quite sure that Pedro Cruz and his wife were the supplier of M. Perkins.



First conclusion of the case

Although at first sight this investigation led us to the suicide of M. Perkins, some determining elements make the criminal act possible. This first report aims to determine if it is a crime or not. So there are still many questions. Then here is the first assessment of the situation.

Firstly, we registered a few testimonies of people who were present after the fall of the victim. According to the testimonies received the victim was a drug consumer. Unfortunately, they are not very clear and imprecise due to the traumatic shock. The credibility of the information received is questioned. Yet, a witness said that he is able to recognize a potential suspect. We have to keep it in mind and try to arrest him rapidly. Another witness noted that M. Perkins was alive after his fall and that his final words confirmed the hypothesis of a suicide. However, the victim was drugged before his death. In addition this testimony is not reliable, I will come back to it later.

Concerning the study of the body, it revealed many marks on the victim. It could be due to a confrontation with another person or mutilation because of injection of drugs. The quantity and the importance of the traces tip the scales in favor of a fight and a presence of a suspect. We have to notice that the violence of the fall makes studying hard. However, we showed that the victim jumped on its own.

A first psychological study also was made. Despite an encouraging development concerning his drug use and his emotional stability, it would seem that there was a relapse in the last few weeks. Indeed, his drug consumption would be higher than before. The death of his mother might be the reason. His brother and his sister confirmed that she was important for M. Perkins. These two deaths in a short time open the door to a familial act. Nevertheless, this study be in agreement with the theory of a suicide.

The DNA analysis turned out to be more interesting than the other studies. Pedro Cruz's DNA was founded on the roof of the building. He is the husband of a witness, Carmen Cruz. This man is known to the police for possession and trade of soft drugs. His wife was the first person to help the victim. So she could hide important clues. Moreover, her testimony confirms the theory of suicide which clears her husband. From now on, Pedro Cruz and Carmen Cruz are the principal suspects. That's why there was a raid on their apartment. It attests to the business of drugs of the couple. A gun was also founded.

To confirm our first impression, firstly we will do an in-depth study of the psychological situation of the victim before the event. From now on, our efforts will be focused on the couple Cruz. We will question them to understand why they omit to say some information and to reveal possible inconsistencies. Pedro Cruz and Geraint Conner will also be brought face to face because the witness said that it could recognize a suspect.