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10611 / STX / JESSICA KINDER / 409 / MPJ328 / 040311 / CBD / MSI / DSX / FRX / USX / EVX



Location Missing Person Last Seen

INFORMANT DETAILS:

NAME: Jessica Leigh KINDER
DOB: 9 August 1986

I am speaking to Detective Michael PHILLIPS regarding (Missing Persons Name) Rachel Elizabeth CONLEY.

I last saw Rachel Elizabeth CONLEY on 22.02.2011 at approximately 1250 hrs.

I can confirm that I saw Rachel in Southern Ink Tattoo Parlour in Colombo Street in the Christchurch CBD, on the corner with St Asaph Street. We had just walked out of the tattoo parlour and Rachel was about one shop down Colombo Street when the earthquake struck and she was buried by a huge concrete slab and rubble that fell off the building she was standing next to. I think it was the building next to the parlour but towards the Square.

Signed: Jessica Leigh Kinder
Name: Jessica Leigh Kinder
Date: 04.03.2011

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. It has been made by me knowing that it may be admitted as evidence in criminal proceedings and that I may be prosecuted for making a statement known by me to be false and intended by me to mislead.

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10612 / STX / 409 / JESSICA KINDER / RACHEL ELIZABETH CONLEY / KDJ358 / 050311 / CBD / MSI / DSX /
FRX / USX / ATT / EVX

5 March 2011
10.30 am

Jessica Leigh KINDER states:

That is my full name.

My date of birth is the 9th August 1986 making me 24 years old.

I am originally from the United States

I am making this statement to Detective Kevin DILLON of the Christchurch Police about my friend Rachel Elizabeth CONLEY.

I came to New Zealand on the 25th of February 2010 on a working holiday.

I got a job as a nanny in Wellington and about a month after I arrived I met Rachel.

Jessica Leigh KINDER further states:

Rachel was working as a receptionist at Rowena's Hostel in Mt Victoria, Wellington.

Rachel is an American too, she is from Ohio.

We quickly became friends. We hung out a lot together, having coffee and just enjoying living in Wellington.

Around the beginning of February this year we decided to travel around the South Island as our visas were running out.

After that we were planning to travel to Brisbane, and then on to Asia, to do some more travelling.

We went travelling through the South Island from the 14th of February and came to Christchurch on the 20th of February a Sunday. We were booked to fly out on the 23rd.

We went out to Sumner on the Monday and mucked around. And on Tuesday we came into Christchurch. So the 22nd was actually the first day we actually had in Christchurch.

We had decided that we would both get tattoos in Christchurch that day. Rachel had looked up the addresses of some tattoo shops on the computer before we left. One of these shops was called "Southern Ink" in Colombo Street.

When we got to town we went to the Salvation Army and dropped off some clothes.

Then we went to the Westpac Bank and got some Australian money.

Jessica Leigh KINDER further states:

Rachel would have had \$800 on her. This money would have been wrapped up in her bank statement and in her bag that she was carrying.

This bag was a purple coloured cloth shoulder bag that she had brought in Asia, I think Nepal. The bag had little tiny stripes through it. These stripes were coloured maybe green or blue, but it was basically a purple coloured bag.

Rachel wore this bag diagonally across her chest usually.

Also in this bag would have been her New Zealand driver's licence, her little silver Canon camera, her cellphone, I think it was coloured black, it was new. I'm not sure if it was a block type or maybe a slide.

The camera might have been a Sony. Also in the bag was her bank, it was a Westpac Visa debit card. It would have been in a similar style knitted pouch.

We went to one tattoo parlour but they didn't have an appointment, so we left and kept walking on Colombo Street until we found "Southern Ink".

We found that the next available appointment was at 3.00 pm. We had to drop the rental car off at 2.00 pm so we figured we could drop off the rental car and get back to Southern Ink by 3.00 pm. We set up the appointment and then left.

Rachel walked out first, I was behind her. The door to the tattoo shop was a quite heavy glass sliding door.

As we left the shop, I paused as we left and turned and closed the sliding door. The door was quite heavy and I didn't want to slam it so I close it slowly.

Jessica Leigh KINDER further states:

While I was closing the sliding door Rachel continued walking away from the tattoo shop. The direction Rachel was walking was away from the corner of Colombo Street and St Asaph St.

After I closed the door I looked at Rachel and saw that she was about three metres ahead of me.

For some reason after I closed the door, for some reason I turned away from the tattoo shop and sort of veered slightly towards the roadway, away from the building.

Just at that moment the earthquake struck. As it started shaking I looked at Rachel and I saw her standing still.

I have a memory of trying to reach out to her but she was well away from me.

I took a couple of steps, running towards the road and as I did so I looked at Rachel, sort of over my shoulder. She was standing still, just at that very moment I saw a large slab of concrete fall right on top of Rachel. This was followed immediately by a large amount of what seemed like rubble which also fell on the spot where Rachel had been standing.

I didn't see the material hit her face, I saw her torso hit and then she has immediately become buried.

This all happened extremely fast. The force of the force was extremely strong, I couldn't stand up straight, it was like the ground was moving up beneath me, and it was extremely loud.

The force of concrete hitting Rachel was horrible, it happened so fast, she wouldn't have had time to move. As soon as I saw her get hit I knew instantly that she would have been killed.

Jessica Leigh KINDER further states:

I was on the road by this time and I knew there would be a huge blast of dust and debris following the building falling. I braced myself against the side of a car to protect myself from this.

After the dust had blown through I turned to look at where Rachel had been.

I stood there yelling for Rachel even though I knew she would have been killed.

A group of guys gathered and said "Where is she". I indicated to the big pile of rubble where she had been.

There was a car parked pretty much right beside where she had been standing.

These guys started pulling rubble away from the spot. It took maybe a couple of minutes. They worked quite frantically. After a few minutes they started calling her name more enthusiastically so I knew they had found her.

They found her arm, a guy checked her pulse but I could tell from his reaction that he knew immediately that she was gone.

When the earthquake struck, Rachel would have been about one shop further up Colombo Street moving away from St Asaph Street.

Rachel was wearing a plaid shirt, in New Zealand, I think you'd call it a check shirt maybe, it had long sleeves, and a collar and buttoned up the front.

The shirt had thick green and bluish stripes where they crossed other stripes the colour changed.

There might have been thinner orange stripes the thick stripes were about 7cm thick.

Jessica Leigh KINDER further states:

Rachel was wearing black corduroy pants, the cord was a thinner style.

She was wearing silver coloured jandals, they were 'Havianas' brand, with the word Havianas and a small Brazilian flag on the strap of the jandal.

She might have also been wearing a thin, fine beaded bracelet with tiny yellow beads that was wrapped around twice. This was on her right wrist.

She might have been wearing a greenstone pendant as well. This pendant had a black cotton lace around the neck and the pendant itself was a sort of twisted design, representing the intertwining of two cultures I think. At the bottom of the pendant is a small piece of pãua shell.

Rachel is about 5'5" tall. She is a medium build, about 150 lbs, maybe 140 lbs.

Her hairstyle was quite distinctive, it was shaved on the left side of head and long on the other side, just past her jaw line.

I don't believe she was wearing a watch at that time.

Rachel had three tattoos. I will draw a picture of each one. There was a small one on the underside of her left wrist. It was a curved shape about 2 cm wide with two little squiggles in the middle. The curve was towards her hand.

The second one was a sort of Celtic design on her shoulder blade on her back, it was about 5-6 cm high.

The third tattoo was a Celtic knot on her right pelvic bone. This was about 4cm in diameter.

Jessica Leigh KINDER further states:

I have previously given to the Police a photo of Rachel in India, wearing the clothes she was wearing when she was killed. I have provided an electronic copy of this photo to Detective DILLON today, along with another photo of her wrist tattoo.

My drawing of her tattoos is attached to this statement.

I have read this statement and it is true and correct.

(Sgd) Jessica Leigh KINDER

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Detective Kevin DILLON, 1300 hrs 5/3/11.