

A-2015-422

Gauthier, Justin -DCC

From:
Sent: May-08-14 11:03 PM
To: MIN Dfaitmaeci -MINA
Subject: RE: Investigation of Dave Walker's Death In Cambodia

Mr John Baird
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ottawa, ON

Dear Mr Baird,

Dave Walker, who as you may know was found dead at the Angkor Wat complex in Siem Reap last week.

I would like to urge the Canadian government to use all possible tactics to lean on the Cambodian authorities toward making Mr Walker's death a proper criminal investigation, and also allow Canadian forensic and other investigative personnel access to Dave's remains.

I also urge you to engage CSIS on why it wanted information withheld from both your office and the Edmonton Police regarding Dave's ties to CSIS upon its learning of his disappearance.

I don't have reason to believe Dave was up to anything dodgy beyond running a film company and small farm there -- and would hate to think that his death would not be taken with anything but the utmost seriousness by Canadian authorities.

Here's hoping the right thing gets done here

Thanks,

(MSFA)
CND/CNO
A 06.433.2014
cc: o/MSFA

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MINA/R MAY 09 2014

Minister of State
(Foreign Affairs and Consular)



Ministre d'État
(Affaires étrangères et consulaires)

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

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JUN 06 2014
CSIS / SCRS
18628
JUN 19 2014

MCU PS / UCM SP Received / Reçu JUN 18 2014

ADP / DAP

Dear

Thank you for your email of May 8, 2014, addressed to the Honourable John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs, regarding the death of Mr. David Walker in the Kingdom of Cambodia. I am responding as Minister of State responsible for consular affairs.

While the *Privacy Act* limits the amount of personal information I can share on this case, I can tell you that Canadian officials in Ottawa and at the Embassy of Canada to Thailand, which is responsible for Cambodia, are providing consular assistance to Mr. Walker's family during this difficult time.

With regard to your question concerning the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, this matter falls under the purview of the Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. I am therefore forwarding a copy of your correspondence to him for consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to write on this important matter.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Lynne Yelich, P.C., M.P.
Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Consular)

c.c. The Honourable Steven Blaney, P.C., M.P.

DOC No	BLA 004527	
AGENCY	CSIS	
BF	18/07/14	
SIGNATURE	MIN	ACB
FILE No	6500-1	

Canada

Edmonton filmmaker found dead in Cambodia had CSIS ties, friend says

By Brent Wittmeier, Edmonton Journal May 3, 2014

Dave Walker is shown in this undated handout photo. The family of Walker, an Edmonton-born Canadian filmmaker who went missing in Cambodia in February, says he was found dead today.

Photograph by: Tom Rowsell, Supplied

EDMONTON - An Edmonton-born journalist found dead in Cambodia had ties to Canada's spy agency, his friend says.

Ten weeks after he stepped away from a room for cleaning staff, Dave Walker's remains were found Thursday morning outside a gate to the Angkor Thom temple complex, about 12 kilometres away from the guest house where he was staying.

Cambodian officials told local media that there were no obvious signs of trauma to the 58-year-old's body. But Peter Vronsky worries the statement is an indication that local police won't properly investigate.

"I already am hearing spin coming from the Cambodian authorities," said Vronsky, a Toronto filmmaker and sessional instructor at Ryerson University. "You cannot see any obvious signs of trauma, but that's only because the body is in an advanced state of decomposition."

Out of fear his friend's death won't be properly investigated, Vronsky is touting Walker's connections to Canada's espionage agency in the hopes of spurring Canadian officials to properly investigate Walker's death.

Born and raised in Edmonton, Walker joined the British army in the late 1970s. He later became a private investigator and began visiting Southeast Asia.

In the late 1980s, Walker's interest in Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge regime grew after he helped reunite the family of a young Cambodian girl with her family in Canada. At the time of his death, he was working on a film about a man who saved more than 100 families during the brutal regime.

In 1997, Walker co-ordinated a meeting between Vronsky and a Canadian Security Intelligence Service officer after Vronsky told him about his experiences working on a documentary piece on the smuggling of nuclear weapons out of Chechnya. Vronsky initially took his friend's suggestion with a grain of salt.

“Dave said to me, ‘CSIS would be interested in hearing about my experiences,’” said Vronsky. “I kind of nodded, ‘yeah, sure,’ never thinking there would be anything out of it. And then very shortly afterwards, he called me up and said, ‘OK, we’re on.’”

Since Walker had said little about CSIS, Vronsky doesn’t know the extent of his relationship with the spy agency. But given his interest in the Khmer Rouge, Vronsky believes Walker provided Canadian officials with information about former regime members seeking refuge in Canada. In the years since, many Cambodian immigrants have returned home.

After Walker’s disappearance, Vronsky says he contacted CSIS to encourage their participation in the investigation. At a meeting a few days later, officials with the agency urged him not to talk to the media or other agencies about Walker’s CSIS.

Canadian medical officials are en route to Cambodia to conduct an autopsy, Walker’s family has said.

Vronsky said he’s coming forward because he’s seen no indication the Canadian government is actively involved in the investigation.

CSIS couldn’t be reached for comment. A spokesperson for foreign affairs issued a written statement with little information, citing privacy concerns.

“Consular officials are providing assistance to the family during this difficult time and are in contact with local authorities to gather more information,” the statement said.

bwittmeier@edmontonjournal.com

twitter.com/wittmeier

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Canadian found dead in Friend

BY CHRIS DOUCETTE, TORONTO SUN

FIRST POSTED: FRIDAY, MAY 02, 2014 07:34 PM EDT | UPDATED: FRIDAY, MAY 02, 2014 07:41 PM EDT



Dave Walker, a Canadian filmmaker and former journalist, disappeared on Valentine's Day 2014 while in Cambodia working on a movie. (Tom Rowsell photo)

Article

TORONTO - A missing Canadian journalist found dead in Cambodia this week quietly "served his country" by helping intelligence agents root out war criminals, friends say.

They've been tight-lipped about Dave Walker's ties to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service since his suspicious disappearance in mid-February, fearing if he'd been kidnapped his captors would kill him but one longtime pal is now breaking his silence.

Dr. Peter Vronsky, a Ryerson University professor, said his friend "deserves better" than to be treated like a "bumbling tourist" who wandered off in a foreign land and ended up dead.

"Dave wasn't a sex tourist or some whack-job ex-pat retreating from life; he was living life," Vronsky said Friday. "He was a great guy and he didn't deserve to die like this, in the jungle on his back."

"He contributed to Canada's national security and he deserves the absolute best," he added.

The 58-year-old Edmonton native, who lived and worked in Cambodia for years, vanished Feb. 14 after leaving his hotel room in Siem Reap so the maid could tidy up.

Local police treated it as a missing person's case, but friends were immediately suspicious after learning Walker left his cellphone and laptop in his room.

Vronsky said kids found the body Thursday off a trail near the Angkor Wat temples, some 12 km from his hotel.

Cambodian police reportedly found no visible signs of trauma or obvious cause of death so they are continuing to treat it as a missing persons case and not as a suspicious death.

But Vronsky and others are convinced Walker was murdered and they're upset local authorities refuse to launch a criminal investigation.

"His body is so badly decomposed, of course there were no visible signs of trauma," said Vronsky, who has seen photos of the remains and feels "an experienced pathologist" is needed to determine cause of death.

Vronsky wonders if "someone was sending a message" by leaving his friend's body near the well-known Gate of Death.

He said there are numerous reasons someone may have wanted Walker dead.

For starters, he was working on a film about "a Schindler figure" who saved countless people from the Khmer Rouge regime's genocide in the 1970s and the project may have angered former regime members still in Cambodia.

Vronsky said Walker's work with CSIS may also have led to his demise.

He said his friend told him he'd advised the intelligence agency over the years about possible war criminals infiltrating Canada as refugees.

And he claims one ex Khmer Rouge member who made it into Canada, became wealthy and returned to Cambodia where he now owns karaoke bars and is a high-ranking cop in the police service probing Walker's death.

Vronsky was unclear how often or how recently Walker worked with CSIS and the agency could not be reached to confirm the relationship.

But Vronsky recalls Walker suggesting he talk to CSIS in 1997 about work he'd done in Chechnya while making a documentary on nuclear weapons smuggling. Within a few hours, Vronsky was sitting down with a CSIS officer at a Toronto bakery and he still has the agent's business card.

There are other possibilities, such as Walker's dealings with the IRA as a British soldier in his youth, he said.

Regardless, Vronsky feels Canada should be more motivated to find out what happened.

"We need Foreign Affairs to press the Cambodians to either investigate this more vigorously or stand aside and let Canadian police handle it," he said.

Canada's Foreign Affairs maintains it is doing all it can.

"Consular officials are providing assistance to the family during this difficult time and are in contact with local authorities to gather more information," spokesman Saro Khatchadourian said. "Due to privacy concerns, we cannot provide more information."

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Info request on alleged Service contact (deceased Canadian citizen)
Sun Article May 2.docx; Ed Journal Article May 3.docx; 14-18628_

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Hello,

We ([redacted] at NHQ) have received Ministerial correspondence relating to the death of a Canadian citizen, David WALKER, in Cambodia in May 2014. Minister of State Lynne Yelich replied to the correspondent, [redacted] (see enclosed) in June 2014, cc-ing Minister Blaney. Between these dates, there had been two media articles in which a friend of the deceased, Peter VRONSKY, alleged that WALKER was related in some way to the Service and that he had "served his country" and "contributed to Canada's national security" (articles also attached).

Our resulting questions are four-fold:

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Thank you all for assisting us on this. Feel free to contact me for clarification as needed.

Analyst

SPFR Branch
NHQ

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Hi

Thanks for the thorough return ref the below; it'll be more than sufficient to reply to our correspondent. Please relay my gratitude to your team.

3-Sep-14

For Desl review and action // Info request on alleged Service contact (deceased Canadian citizen)

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Hi

Attached is the response from [redacted] Looks like it reached [redacted] and [redacted] through others.

Regards,

3-Sep-14

For Desl review and action // Info request on alleged Service contact (deceased Canadian citizen)

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Back at you

2-Sep-14

RE: For Desl review and action // Info request on alleged Service contact (deceased Canadian citizen)

I know this was a pain to go through, but you've answered the questions perfectly. As you progress through your career, you'll be confronted with more and more of this!

2-Sep-14

RE: For Desl review and action // Info request on alleged Service contact (deceased Canadian citizen)

Hi all,

In response to the questions below:

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I hope this answers the questions sufficiently. Please give me a call if you'd like to discuss the matter further.

29-Aug-14

RE: For Desl review and action // Info request on alleged Service contact (deceased Canadian citizen)

from VRONSKY,
is back from leave on Tuesday

29-Aug-14

FW: For Desl review and action // Info request on alleged Service contact (deceased Canadian citizen)

Please see the attached from [redacted] requesting further information on Canadian citizen David Walker who was found dead in Cambodia circa late 2014 02. WALKER's associate (VRONSKY) is claiming that WALKER had a relationship with the Service.

I'm not sure yet who is [redacted] who in the attached is claiming that that the Service withheld information from the Minister's office and the Edmonton Police.

Thanks,

A/HEAD

28-Aug-14

For Desl review and action // Info request on alleged Service contact (deceased Canadian citizen)

Hi

[redacted] needs the Desk assistance with Ministerial correspondence relating to the death of a Canadian citizen, David WALKER, in Cambodia in May 2014.

An email was sent to Minister BAIRD and Minister of State Lynne Yelich replied to the correspondent, [redacted] (see enclosed) in June 2014, cc-ing Minister Blaney. Between these dates, there had been two media articles in which a friend of the deceased, Peter VRONSKY, alleged that WALKER was related in some way to the Service and that he had "served his country" and "contributed to Canada's national security" (articles also attached).

[redacted] has the 2 following questions:

Grateful if you could look into this issue and forward the Desk response to SPFR

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any question regarding this request.

Thank you.

Analyst /
Analyste

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Thank you all for assisting us on this. Feel free to contact me for clarification as needed.

Analyst

SPFR Branch
NHQ

RE: Info request on alleged Service contact (deceased Canadian citizen)

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Thank you, Our picture of this matter is now complete.

Appreciate the prompt turn-around and research as well.

3-Sep-14

RE: Info request on alleged Service contact (deceased Canadian citizen)

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Hello,

I believe that most of the questions noted below have already been addressed

Please direct any further inquiries

Thanks

A / HEAD

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