Letters between homicide suspects apparently threaten witnesses, officials

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Jailhouse letters between defendants in the bizarre slaying of a missing



Hossencofft



Henning

Albuquerque woman reveal apparent death threats against witnesses, investigators and government officials, warning them with the wrath of "warrior angels" and the "mark of death," newly released court documents indicate.

Mayor Jim Baca, District Attorney Jeff Romero, Albuquerque police Chief Gerald Galvin, an FBI agent, "all city administration heads" and two witnesses involved in the case are among those apparently targeted in letters between Diazion Hossencofft and girlfriend Linda Henning, according to a search warrant affidavit filed Tuesday in state District Court.

"There is language in these letters that could conceivably constitute an expressed or implied threat to me or other individuals," Romero said.

Hossencofft, 35, and Henning, 46, each face first-degree murder and dozens of other felony charges in connection with the September 1999 disappearance and presumed homicide of Hossencofft's 36-year-old estranged wife.



Girly Hossencofft

Prosecutors say the two conspired to have Girly Hossencofft killed. Her bloody clothes were found strewn along a highway near Socorro the day she disappeared, but her remains have never been located.

Prosecutors also say they will seek the death penalty against the two. Their case is not expected to go to trial until the end of this year.

The latest search warrant details dozens of chilling letters written between Henning and Hossencofft from February to this month, despite a "no contact" court order prohibiting them from communicating with each other.

The first letter intercepted apparently was written by Henning to Hossencofft when he was incarcerated in the Torrance County Detention Center near Estancia and she was behind bars at the City-County Jail in Albuquerque, the affidavit states.

The typewritten letter is addressed "Message to All Concerned" and states that those involved in the case will die if Henning and Hossencofft receive the death penalty, the affidavit indicates.

Two witnesses in the case "will wear the mark of death, as well as their families," the letter states.

The letter also threatens "the mayor of this city, along with the chief of police, and all city administrative heads," the affidavit states.

The letter continues with a list of demands to be met by 9:44 p.m. March 20. If the demands are not met, the letter states:

"Once the final sentencing has occurred, no power on this earth will terminate the sentence. Judgments will be carried out by warrior angels. No human will be involved."

The demands or whether they were met are not detailed in the affidavit.

The letters apparently continued after Hossencofft was transferred in March to the City-County Jail, the affidavit states.

Jail officials provided 22 letters to Albuquerque police detectives in April, the affidavit states. Four more letters were handed over Monday.

The letters are often cryptic, occasionally using unidentifiable symbols or a series of capital letters for names.

In one letter, Hossencofft writes that he will refer Henning's request for a "wakeup call for Jeff R and M. Aragon" and one unnamed FBI agent to "the council," the affidavit states.

Officials would not speculate who M. Aragon or "the council" might be.

Hossencofft also tells Henning that she has "more upgrades in comparison to last QN ZYZZYVA," an apparent reference to his missing wife.

"You are comparable in size and weight to her," he continues. "Though she may have had longer hair than you. She was considered a great learner."

The jail letters initially were sent by regular mail but were confiscated because of the "no contact" order, jail spokesman Lt. John Van Sickler said.

The two apparently continued their communiques by mailing their letters to a third party, who would then mail the letters under a separate cover to the other, jail officials said.

Both are on a "keep-away list" in jail, meaning that the two are never in the same proximity or are transported together, Van Sickler said.

Hossencofft remains in protective custody in one tower of the Downtown facility; Henning remains in a separate tower that houses women inmates, Van Sickler said.

"There is no chance meeting in the halls," he said. "And they can't call each other, either."

District Attorney Romero said he could not discuss whether the threats or the letters could result in additional charges, but added that his office takes "any kind of implied or express threat seriously, especially in light of the charges against these two individuals and his alleged ability to influence the actions of others."

Tuesday's affidavit also provides several more unusual details in a case already considered one of the most bizarre in recent memory.

"I've never seen a case like it," Albuquerque police Detective Mike Fox, one of the lead investigators, has said.

Among the latest:

- A voice mail received Oct. 23, 1999, by an Albuquerque Police Department secretary states that police missed two gold CDs that are "crucial" to the case.

  The voice is believed to be that of a friend to both Henning and Diazion Hossencofft who detectives say was hired as the "hit man" to kill Girly Hossencofft.

  The man has not been charged in connection with the homicide.

- An anonymous letter Nov. 8, 1999, targets Henning as an accomplice in the homicide and indicates that "top secret documents," weapons, gold CDs with "damaging information" and "maps (with) potential location of wife and son" are in her home.

- Flecks of glitter and colored crystal flakes found on Girly Hossencofft's bloody clothes and a tarp found along the highway are the same type of glitter and flakes found in the interior and trunk of Henning's car and in containers found in Henning's home.

- Animal hair and fibers found on the bloody clothes and the tarp were also found in Girly Hossencofft's apartment and Henning's car.

Meanwhile, Albuquerque police continue to search for the main clue missing in the case: Girly Hossencofft's body.

"The department gets leads continually and we investigate them at the optimum level," Albuquerque police Detective John Walsh said. "The search will not cease until we find her."

Girly Hossencofft, known to her friends and co-workers as a caring, bright and conscientious person, had been in the midst of a turbulent divorce from Diazien Hossencofft when she failed to show up for work Sept. 10. Co-workers said she had warned them that if anything ever happened to her to fear the worst.

Court records indicate that Diazien Hossencofft had once told a Bloomfield woman he met on the Internet that he was going to have his wife killed once the couple resolved a contentious custody issue, and that he would pay for his wife's murder with a bag of diamonds.

The short, dimpled man, whose name had been Armando Chavez before it was legally changed, claimed to be a doctor and geneticist who met women in Internet chat rooms by promising to extend their lives by giving them "genetic shots."

On Sept. 10, the day co-workers reported her missing, Albuquerque police found evidence of large pools of blood that had been wiped away with bleach in Girly Hossencofft's apartment in the 8400 block of Spain Northeast.

That same day, police found Diazien Hossencofft's home at 3900 Moon N.E. vacant and being worked on by a cleaning crew.

He was later arrested in South Carolina.

Police said Henning became involved with Hossencofft after he had separated from his wife, but an attorney for her has said that she

had nothing to do with the disappearance of Girly Hossencofft.

Tribune reporter Leslie Hoffman contributed to this story.



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