Forbidden contact continues between murder suspects

By Leslie Hoffman
Tribune reporter

Murder suspects Diazien Hossencofft and Linda Henning continue to write each other letters and cards despite a judge's order to not have any contact with each other, according to a search warrant recently filed in the case.

Days after state District Court Judge Richard Knowles told the two not to have any contact, City County Jail guards intercepted several letters exchanged between the two, according to the search warrant filed last week.

"The volume is not quite as remarkable as the earlier amount but the communication continues," Assistant District Attorney Paul Spiers said Monday.

The warrant also indicates that prosecutors expect to ask for a search warrant every month to go through the pair's mail.

Attorneys for the two could not be reached for comment Monday.

Investigators began to focus on the murder suspects' correspondence earlier this year when they intercepted coded letters that they said contained apparent death threats against witnesses, police and government officials, and that warned against "warrior angels" and the "mark of death." All told, prosecutors said they intercepted about 50 letters dated January through May.

The two are facing possible death sentences on murder charges in the disappearance and presumed death of Hossencofft's estranged wife, Girly. Girly Hossencofft disappeared last September, and her body has yet to be located despite an ongoing and intensive search by police.

During a motions hearing in the case May 18, Knowles instructed the two not to write each other. He also ordered that all mail unrelated to the case be returned to Hossencofft and Henning after defense attorneys complained that all their mail was being held back by jail officials.

The latest search warrant indicates that four days later, a jail staff member intercepted more correspondence between the two. And on June 22, a jail guard "took possession of a card written by Diazien Hossencofft to Linda

Henning," according to the warrant.

Spiers would not comment about the content of the latest letters.

Prosecutors are also trying to get their hands on a copy of a taped conversation between Henning and "an associate" of the two, Bill Miller.

They say in a motion to show cause filed Monday that Miller told a special grand jury last October he returned a phone page from Henning after she appeared before a grand jury in September. He testified that he taped the subsequent conversation but has not handed it over, according to the motion.

Miller is mentioned throughout search warrants in the case, telling investigators that Hossencofft approached him on two separate occasions asking for help killing his wife.

Meanwhile, Spiers said the hunt for Girly Hossencofft's body "is proceeding with careful deliberation in a measured way."

"I think anybody who is privy to it (the search) couldn't help but be impressed by the depth and breadth," he said.

Hossencofft and Henning are expected to go to trial early next year.

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