

HONG KONG POLICE FORCE
BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
TRANSCRIPT #1

INTERVIEW DATE: November 2, 2008 **CASE #:** 666888-51888
INTERVIEW OF: Mingcheung Yim (MY) **INTERVIEWED BY:** Officer Iwona Passe (IP)

On November 2nd 2008, Officer Iwona Passe interviewed Mingcheung Yim at the Wanchai police station. Mingcheung Yim, Male, 25 years old, University Student.

IP Thank you Mr Yim for taking the time out of your busy schedule to help us with this. Does the name Dr. Lokshi On ring a bell?

MY Yes.

IP Great. As you may have already known, Dr. Lokshi On, formerly addressed as Dr. On Fen, was under arrest last week after being found to be running a, as we suspect, an illegal euthanasia clinic for several years, where he assisted people to suicide using drugs. As for now, he will very likely be put under the charges of murder with criminal offences under Offences Against The Person Ordinance, but there are still a few more details we need to make sure before settling down the charges. Since your name came up when we were investigating through Dr. On's patient records, we presume that you could help us out. So, when did you meet Dr. On?

MY Well I met him when I was 16, so that is about 9 years ago? Yes, in 1999.

IP How did you get the information about him? From where did you hear about him?

MY I think, if I remember correctly, from the internet? [Puzzled] Does this really matter though?

IP We just want to know more about you and your relationship with Dr. On. Ok, so what brought you to him?

MY Well when I was in high school, I was bullied by my school mates, and I was quite depressed. So depressed to a point I wanted to end my life, and I heard that Dr. On provides painless suicide, and I thought, if nobody in this world cares about me, I might as well die. So I went to find him.

IP I see. Sorry to hear what you've been through. After meeting him, did Dr. On in any ways, encourage you to commit suicide, and offer to help by giving you illegal medication that are potentially lethal?

MY No. As a matter of fact, as soon as I told him about wanting to kill myself, he rejected my idea immediately.

IP [Raises eyebrows] Hmm? How so? Can you elaborate, Mr. Yim?

MY Well back then I was a silly, lost teen. Family wasn't supportive, and school life was worse. Everyday, people around me just treated me like I don't deserve to be loved, and eventually, I just internalized that thought. I wanted to die because I didn't want to continue to be miserable. But when I went to Dr On, he asked my reason for dying really specifically, and after hearing it, he told me, and to this day I still remember what he said. He said, "son, it's not your time yet. For you, suicide doesn't end the chances of life getting worse, it ends the chances of life getting better". [Smiles] He told me that I have so many opportunities ahead waiting for me.

IP And? What happened later?

MY So he refused to help me suicide. He even gave me some money and told me to get myself a hot meal and some new clothes, my old ones were trashed by my bullies. [Shakes head] He's a really good man, and I will never forget him. You mentioned that he was charged for murder?

IP Yes, I can't say much but all I can say is that based on evidence, we suspect that he has assisted 5 people in euthanasia, and now we are trying to define his crime before settling down on his charges. Do you have any other information that you can provide?

MY Well, that's all I know. But based on personal experience, I can guarantee that he's a good guy for sure. I think the definition of murder is more than just the action of ending people's life but the intention to take away people's life when he or she like, does not deserve it, you know?

IP Well right now we are still trying to define his crime, we need different perspectives so...

MY You say that he murders people as if he takes the pleasure out of killing, but he's not. He's providing an escape to those people who actually have no where out in their lives. If he's just some sort of psychopath, I won't be sitting in this room now. What he did meant a lot to me, he told me that I don't deserve to die and I deserve and can get all the better things in life. You guys might think that it's nothing, but then I was very vulnerable, this little act of kindness just reminded me that I deserved to be loved. I gotta keep looking for people that will appreciate me, I gotta keep living, you know?

IP Looks like you have a very positive opinion on Dr. On, Mr Yim. One last question, do you still keep in touch with Dr. On, after that one meeting you had with him in 1999?

MY No. When I left, Dr On told me that it's better that we never see each other again. He wanted me to leave the clinic as a new person, and put all bad memories behind.

IP I see. Well, we've got what we need, thank you very much for your cooperation Mr. Yim. We'll contact you if we have any other questions.

TRANSCRIPT #2

INTERVIEW DATE: November 2, 2008 **CASE #:** 666888-51888

INTERVIEW OF: Seunsei Ngo (SN) **INTERVIEWED BY:** Officer Iwona Passe (IP)

On November 2nd 2008, Officer Iwona Passe interviewed Seunsei Ngo at the Wanchai police station. Seunsei Ngo, Female, 71 (at the age of death), suffered from stage 4 lung cancer and the side effects of chemotherapy for 1 year. Passed away at Dr Onlok Shi's euthanasia clinic. Invited to interview as a ghost.

IP Welcome back to the living, Mrs Ngo. We are very sorry to bring you back from your slumber, but we need your help on a special case. Does the name Dr Lokshi On ring a bell?

SN Ah yes, he was the lovely doctor who helped end my misery on Earth! [chuckles]

IP I'm glad that you still remember. So, you probably didn't know this, but Dr. Lokshi On, formerly addressed as Dr. On Fen, was under arrest last week after being found to be running an illegal euthanasia clinic, where he assisted people like you to suicide using drugs. As for now, he will very likely be put under the charges of murder with criminal offences under Offences Against The Person Ordinance. So according to our investigations, you were one of his patients. So, How did you come across Dr On?

SN [Gasps] I wouldn't put it as murder, that's absurd! Dr. On did me a great favor you know, he's very kind and sweet...

IP [Cough] Well, we are still trying to define his crime, so we wish you could answer our questions. How did you come across Dr. On?

SN I was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer back then, which spreaded to my whole body! God, I was in so much pain all over and could not bear another chemotherapy session again. It wasn't helping me at all! You know those IV dripping sounds, drip drop, drip drop [shivers], I felt like everyday I was just prolonging the inevitable, I don't wanna live just to, like, not die. So I was looking online for suicide methods when I came across his website, so I contacted him immediately. He was so nice to me and listened to me.

IP Do you recall how he introduced you to euthanasia? If yes, please specify the details.

SN Dr On was very understanding towards my reasons for wanting to end my life. He did not suggest me to undergo euthanasia right away but asked me why I went to him.

IP So, what did you say?

SN I told him that I know perfectly that I would not have a chance to recover and I could not bear the pain that I was going through at that time. Can you imagine? Staying in bed everyday, looking at those weird tubes pumping drugs in my body everyday just so I could live in pain for a few more days? It was literally a whole lot worse than just dying. I had a great life that I was satisfied already, there was no

reason for me to keep living that miserable life, I was just waiting for the sweet, sweet relief of death, it was all I needed and wanted.

IP And then?

SN He asked me whether I had a guardian or friends and relatives who knew about my decision, but I told him I was totally capable of taking care of myself and that I could make my own decision, I mean, I was sick but my brain was still sharp. My friends and family would just sob and tell me not to do it... and I knew it would be hard on them, but it's a decision that I had to make. Then, he explained the process and procedure of how the euthanasia is carried out, step by step. The procedure was very easy to understand and I was looking forward to it. He was very detailed about it. Afterwards, he asked me to repeat the information once to him. So I did. Then, he asked me to sign a consent form.

IP Hmm...So this consultation was done all within one day? Don't you need a minute to think about it? Did you once have second thoughts on euthanasia? After all, you were facing death and it can be quite unsettling to envision the process of your own death. Actually, we suspect that Dr On put pressure on you in any way to make sure you followed through with euthanasia. Did you feel like you were persuaded or forced in any ways?

SN [Disbelief] No way. What? Do you think he forced me into this? No no no officer! This decision was entirely within my discretion. Are you doubting my competence because I'm 71? Son, I was running a business and feeding a family when you were still pooping in your diapers. [Chuckles] I tell you what, I definitely am more than capable of making this decision. Don't make Dr On the devil just because you don't know him. You don't know him, and you definitely don't know what I was going through. He was a sweetheart and I am so grateful to him.

IP Well, to you he might have been a sweetheart, but this act of euthanasia is illegal in HK and he should not have done it for you; no matter "kind" this act might be for you. Did you know this clinic is illegal and unlawful?

SN [Rolls eyes] Yes, I know that it was illegal. I'm not clueless, you know, I did my own research. But it really shouldn't be illegal at all. You just don't understand what euthanasia truly means! It lets us die prepared in a dignified manner - to me it's a blessing. You know, we have the full right and freedom to make decisions about our own lives, either living or dying. Dr On just played the role of a facilitator. [Pause] You won't understand how much pain that stupid cancer has caused me, and you won't understand why I wanted to end my life until you've experienced it yourself. Dying brought me relief, I felt so at peace when I left this world. Look at me now, I am free of pain and enjoying my new life as a ghost!

IP I see, well, I think we've got enough information, thank you for your time Ms Ngo.

TRANSCRIPT #3

INTERVIEW DATE: November 2, 2008 **CASE #:** 666888-51888

INTERVIEW OF: Dr. Christian Goodman (CG) **INTERVIEWED BY:** Officer Iwona Passe (IP)

On November 2nd 2008, Officer Iwona Passe interviewed Christian Goodman at the Wanchai police station .

Dr. Christian Goodman, male, 45, a previous colleague of Dr. On Lok Shi (formerly known as Dr. On Fen) when he was still working in the public health sector.

IP Have a seat please, Dr. Goodman. We understand that you are a busy man and we appreciate you taking some time out of your busy schedule to help us. The interview won't take you too much time, I just need to ask you a few questions about Dr. On lok Shi.

CG [Blank] Dr. who?

IP Dr. On lok Shi, who was a former colleague of yours, does the name mean anything to you?

CG Dr. On Lok Shi? No the name doesn't ring a bell.

IP Well, how about Dr. On Fen?

CG Oh yes Dr. On! I know him, he was an old colleague of mine! A real hard working lad... bit of an odd duck though. What happened to him?

IP Well, Dr. Lokshi On, formerly addressed as Dr. On Fen, was under arrest last week. We suspect that he has been running an illegal euthanasia clinic for several years. I'm sure you are very familiar with how the law in Hong Kong treats euthanasia, so he will very likely be put under the charges of murder with criminal offences under Offences Against The Person Ordinance, but there are still a few more details we need to make sure before settling down the charges. Do you know him well? How will you describe him as a doctor?

CG Golly! Well... Dr. On and I did go to the same medical school together, but - how should I say it - he and I, we just don't get along very well. You know, probably just because we're not the same type of people. As a doctor, he was not as friendly as I am to every patient ... he's more of a glass half empty dude, you know?

IP [Leans forward] So you're saying he's more of a pessimistic person and not friendly to patients? What do you mean by that?

CG [Clears throat] Well, I tend to think that life is a gift from God, and no matter what happens, God has a plan for each of us. My job is to simply help people preserve that gift. I like to think of the bright side, and I never deny the possibility of hope for my patients. But Dr. On, on the other hand, he's more

realistic I guess... I guess he thinks that we should have a saying in how our lives end... actually, come to think about it, Dr. On wasn't always like this.

IP Hmm? What happened that makes you feel like that? Care to elaborate?

CG Couple of years ago, he had a patient, a little boy, about like ten years old? An adorable kid, we all liked him a lot. He had some kind of a really rare and incurable disease, poor little fella. May God bless his innocent and kind soul. They had a really good relationship together - the little boy didn't have a good family, so obviously, Dr. On saw a son that he never had in the poor little boy. It's always very hard on doctors to see their patients slowly die in front of their eyes, but I guess Dr. On took that pain to another level. During that boy's last days, he was so in pain that it broke all of our hearts, especially Dr. On's. He couldn't bear seeing how much suffering he was in, and I guess it was actually really, really hard on him. After that, he was like a totally different person. Still very hard working, but I guess his sympathy for terminal patients overwhelmed him. He left the hospital not long after that.

IP [Nods] So, do you think that is his motive to start that euthanasia clinic?

CG I do believe so.

IP Were you aware of that? Did you guys still keep in touch after he left the hospital?

CG Dear lord no. If I had noticed this, I would've stopped him long ago. He disappeared after leaving the hospital, none of us knew where he went - we all assumed that left to heal his trauma - none of us knew he would be doing that! As I said, I think our lives are gifts given to us by God, any attempt to take that gift away from other people is a terrible sin. What Dr. On did was trying to play God, and if I had known anything about it I would've stopped him for instance.

IP I see. So, Mr. Goodman, you weren't in any ways associated with Dr. On's euthanasia clinic, is that right?

CG Of course not! Goodness gracious. Why would I do that? I live by not only my religious belief but also by the moral duty of a doctor. As a doctor, your job is to preserve life, not to end it. And I think Dr. On should know it as well as I do. Dr On's action is an abuse of his power and this will undermine the image of doctors being righteous and honest in their practice. He thinks that he's helping other people by ending their suffering, but it's never our job to decide whether a person should live or not. I will help my patients live their life to the fullest extent, the rest is up to their own fate.

IP [nods] I see Mr. Goodman. Sorry for such an abrupt question, it's just part of the procedure. Well I guess that's all for today. Thank you so much for your time and patience. Please contact me if you can think of anything relevant.

CG [Stands up, sighs again] Good luck. May God forgive his misguided soul.

TRANSCRIPT #4

INTERVIEW DATE: November 2, 2008 **CASE #:** 666888-51888

INTERVIEW OF: Dr. On Lok Shi (OS) **INTERVIEWED BY:** Officer Iwona Passe (IP)

On November 2nd 2008, Officer Iwona Passe interviewed Dr. On Lok Shi at the Wanchai police station. Dr. On Lok Shi [suspect], male, 42, formerly addressed as Dr. On Fen, suspected to be running an euthanasia clinic.

IP On Lok Shi, you are charged with first degree murder with criminal offences under Offences Against The Person Ordinance. You are not obliged to say anything unless you wish to do so, but whatever you say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. Lets begin. Are you aware that the euthanasia clinic that you run is unlawful and very detrimental to the vulnerable?

OS [Cleared his throat] Officer, I wouldn't quite say that it was unlawful nor detrimental. I'm sure you would have interviewed some of my patients. Do you really think I ruined their lives?

IP I am asking the questions here, but did you wonder how their lives could have been if they were given another chance in life? If you didn't intervene at all?

OS [Shakes head] They were in pain all over! Endless days in hospitals - there was no chance of recovery. Yes, they were given palliative treatment but it is *so* vain and futile. Pain relief is not a real solution to their problems!

IP Oh, so you think modern medical care is "vain" and "futile"? Has this always been your personal belief when you entered medical school and wanting to take things into your own hands because you don't agree with the current system?

OS Do you want to know the worst and the best moment in my years of practice?

IP [Annoyed] Again, I am the one asking the questions, but in fact I was curious to know the answer.

OS [Smiled and continued to speak] The worst moment of my life was the moment I saw my one of my youngest patients, a little boy - suffering from a disease no one had control over. It took over his exhausted, frail body and left him slowly dying in the hospital. I always visited him and every time his suffering and pain only got worse! He told me he didn't want to live anymore. I was still practicing at the local hospital, so I couldn't do anything to make it better. Watching him, I felt so powerless - I studied so hard to be a doctor and yet I could not end it for him. A similar thing happened to my wife too. This time, I knew better and I helped her end her life. I lost her, but it gave me so much happiness to know that she is free from suffering now. So yes, I guess I don't believe in the current medical system. [Firmly] I have no regrets at all, none whatsoever. I am proud of what I did.

IP Being trained in medical school, I am sure you have been told to save -

OS [Interrupting IP] Well, well officer -

IP [Interrupting OS] *Can* euthanasia save lives?

OS [Surprised] Well, if you mean the typical 'saving life' concept we were taught in medical schools back in the days - then NO! But in my point of view, saving life is much more than keeping patients physically alive, don't you see it in the same way? Euthanasia ends pain and suffering. Just so you know, I did try my best to save patients' life when it comes to curable diseases but for my patients suffering from terminal illnesses, nothing I can do to save them but see them getting weaker and weaker everyday. At last, it is them to tell me they wish to die. All I want to tell you here is people have their rights.

IP In times of desperation, people may make decisions they regret. This isn't about deciding whether you want a cup of coffee or tea. These decisions about euthanasia are forever.

OS I agree. Patients asking for euthanasia should think it twice before making decision, but it doesn't mean euthanasia is not right. Officer, I am pretty sure your life has been well paved and you have been well loved, but have you ever put yourself into the shoes of those who haven't?

IP [Remained silent]

OS [Continued to speak] Many people just don't get it when they are healthy and when they feel no pain. Let me tell you. You're gonna change your mind when you're lying on the hospital bed with no dignity and with all the tubes punctuating into your different parts of the body.

IP I believe you know this doctor named Dr. Christian Goodman. He should be one of your old colleagues. Is he, in any sense, involved or related to your clinic?

OS [In a sarcastic manner] Oh Christian Goodman, I have to say he and I are very different, I mean very very different. Whenever patients pour out their sufferings and concerns in their daily lives, I don't think he takes these into his heart. He can't feel the patients' pain and understand their concerns. How good a doctor is that? I was the one who truly understood their frustrations. I guided them through their adversities, I mean, look at James Yim - he was frustrated, he nearly ended his life, and yet I stopped him from dying! What an irony that I'm gonna get locked up behind bars because of doing good [Sigh]

IP Okay, Dr. On. But you should know euthanasia is not legally approved yet in Hong Kong. What you have done is still illegal. So you do admit what you have done with no regrets?

OS [Nodded determinedly] If I have got a second chance, I'll still do it anyway.

IP This recording will be the proof of your confession and we will see you in the court soon. For the time being, you will have to be held in custody until our next questioning.

Annotation

Title

To Be Or Not To Be?

Group Members

Name	Roles
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About the Transcript

In this transcript, we focus on the theme “*Living & Dying*”. More specifically, it is related to active choice of life and death, *euthanasia*.

Whether euthanasia is considered ethically and legally acceptable has ignited many debates over the world. While euthanasia seems like a distorted method to deal with pain and negative emotions, it is arguable to say that euthanasia provide beneficence to people under particular scenarios. At different life stages and with different sets of value judgement, individuals can share opposite views on the practice of euthanasia.

This transcript aims to explore the different views on the choice of life and death made by individuals coming from various backgrounds. Four interviewees will be introduced under the setting of a fictional police interrogation. They will express their opinions and strong reasoning on euthanasia with the support of their unique life experiences. We hope that we can provide various perspectives and more insights on the practice of euthanasia in order to provoke thinking on the meaning of living and the choice of end of life.

Despite the ethical and legal issues, it is believed that the responsibilities of carrying out euthanasia will eventually lie on doctors, who are regarded as service providers and final decision makers. We hoped to explore the role of a doctor in clinical settings and how the behaviour of doctors and advice given will

make changes to the life choice of patients, eventually emphasizing the significance of the roles of doctor in patient-doctor communication.

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