

S.G. #2090

Cause Number: **D1DC16202288**

**THE STATE OF TEXAS**  
**COUNTY OF TRAVIS**

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**403<sup>rd</sup> DISTRICT COURT**  
**CITY OF AUSTIN**

**AFFIDAVIT FOR WARRANT OF ARREST AND DETENTION**

Undersigned Affiant, Who After Being Duly Sworn By Me, On Oath, Makes The Following Statement:

I have good reason to believe and do believe that **Meechaiel Khalil Criner B/M 06/30398**,

On or about the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2016, in the incorporated limits of the city of Austin, Travis and the State of Texas, did then and there commit the offense of:

Filed in The District Court  
County of Travis County, Texas

**Murder (PC 19.02) - 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Felony**

APR 08 2016

At 1301 M.  
Velva L. Price, District Clerk

My belief of the foregoing statement is based upon information provided to me by Austin Police Homicide Detectives, APD Crime Analyst Pam Mazak #5099, Witnesses, Austin Police 16-0960703, University of Texas Police Report 16-03654 and Travis County Medical Examiner Report 16-01479.

Affiant, Detective Anthony Nelson #3772, is employed by the City of Austin Police Department Homicide Unit and currently assigned as the Lead Investigator into the death of Haruka Weiser, white female, born 06/20/1997. Affiant has been a Peace Officer with the Austin Police Department for approximately 18 years.

On Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2016, Haruka Weiser placed a telephone call to her friend Sylvia Feghali, at approximately 2130 hours, to advise that she was "on the way" following conclusion of her class at the F. Loren Winship Drama Building located at East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and San Jacinto Boulevard. The telephone call was placed to Feghali from Weiser's Apple iPhone 6.

On Monday, the 4th day of April 2016 at 1102 hours, The University of Texas Police Department received the report of a missing person when Haruka Weiser did not show up for her Monday morning classes in Austin, Travis County, Texas. According to her roommate and friends, Weiser was last seen wearing a long sleeve black mock turtle neck shirt, black stretch pants, and brown Doc Martin shoes. Her roommate also stated that she left their dorm room carrying a blue duffle bag. Inside the duffle bag was her Mac Book Computer, her iPhone 6, an extra jacket and study materials for school. UTPD officers conducted a cursory search in Waller Creek for Weiser but did not locate her.

On Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016 at approximately 9:45am, UTPD Police began to cavass and search in the area Haruka Weiser was known to walk. This route was known by her friends as the path she would use to get back and forth from her dorm to some of her classes. While searching the area they found the remains of a young female with obvious trauma to her body. The Austin Police Homicide Unit was notified by UTPD personnel that a deceased female of comparable stature was discovered behind the UT Etter-Harbin Alumni Center at 2110 San Jacinto Boulevard in Austin, Travis County, Texas.



The body, which was later identified as that of Haruka Weiser, was pronounced deceased by Austin-Travis County EMS Medical Director Dr. Ackrell on this date at 1045 hours. On Wednesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016 the autopsy of Haruka Weiser was conducted by the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office. Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. Kendall Crowns noted obvious trauma to the victim's body and ruled the death as a homicide.

Austin Police Homicide Detective Ray Tynes #4415 was in charge of processing the scene where the victim's body was located. The items that were described as being in the victim's possession were not found on scene. Detective Tynes was able to seize swabs of suspected biological matter from the scene as evidence for future analysis.

As investigators continued the investigation, UTPD detectives began to look at surveillance video along the route that Weiser usually took from Winship Hall to her dorm near 21<sup>st</sup> Street. While reviewing the surveillance video from the College of Liberal Arts building, they observed a suspicious black male ride up on a red or pink women's bicycle attempting to open the doors of a van that was parked in the bay area. The black male was dressed in a black jacket (possibly motorcycle type jacket with shoulder pads and white strips on the sleeves), orange shirt under jacket, grey pants (possibly sweat pants), red or orange athletic shoes with light colored stripe or design on the sides and a large back pack on his back. The suspect appeared to be around 6'0 feet tall, athletic build, wore glasses and looked as if he were a student.

The suspect initially arrived at approximately 9:20 pm. The suspect continued to look around the area and then got back on the bike to leave this location. The video then showed him returning to the van at approximately 9:38 pm. As the suspect returned to the location on his bike, the figure of a female dressed in all black and looking at her cell phone could be seen walking toward the alumni center. As the figure passed the suspect and continues toward the bridge, the suspect watched her, puts the kickstand down on the bike, reaches into the back of his pants with his left hand and pulled out what appeared to be a shiny rigid object. The suspect then followed the female across the bridge and onto the sidewalk that extends behind the Alumni center and runs along the west bank of Waller Creek.

The suspect is not seen again until 11:47pm. In this portion of the surveillance footage the suspect is seen walking along side of the same bike, eastbound up 23<sup>rd</sup> Street with a slight limp. From the footage it appeared as if the suspect suffered from some type of injury to his left leg. The suspect was also now seen in the footage carrying another bag that was not seen in the video before. This new bag looked to be a small duffle bag. This suspect was last seen in camera footage walking northbound on Robert Dedman from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

On Thursday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016, a portion of the video footage was released to the public in hopes of eliciting leads as to the identity of the suspect. At approximately 4:08pm Austin Fire Department Captain Lenard called the Austin Police Homicide Unit. He informed Investigators that on Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016, at approximately 8:21am firefighters were dispatched to a fire call at 2911 Medical Arts Street. This location is in the same direction the suspect was last seen walking towards. (See Austin Police CAD call 16-0950373)

Captain Lenard continued by saying that this address was an abandoned building and a young black male was found inside, burning items. The fire was put out and Austin Police were called to the scene because the young black male stated that he was 17 years of age and homeless.

Captain Lenard also stated that they took custody of the young man's bicycle for him for safe keeping. The bicycle matched the one seen of the footage and was being held at this time at Fire Station Number 3.



When Austin Police arrived to the scene they were able to identify the subject as Meechaiel Khalil Criner B/M 06/30/98. Officers agreed to transport Criner to LifeWorks because of his lack of a place to stay. Before transporting Criner, Officers seized what he stated were his belongings for transport. These items included several bags and a back pack. He was then transported to 3708 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (LifeWorks) and assigned to live in room number 9. The interaction with Criner and Austin Police was recorded on in-car digital video.

Affiant observed the police in-car video and noticed that Criner was wearing the same pants and shoes as seen on the UTPD surveillance footage. Affiant also noticed that Criner matched the physical description as the suspect in the video. Affiant then observed that one of the bags that Criner claimed to be his was a small blue duffle bag. Affiant was able to capture a still photograph of this bag and show it to the victim's roommate, Sylvia Feghali. Sylvia was able to show the photo to the victim's friend Ginnifer Joe. Ginnifer, a friend of the victim, was in the same dance class with the victim on the night of her disappearance and observed the victim with the bag. Affiant spoke to Ginnifer and asked if she recognized the bag. Ginnifer immediately stated that the bag depicted in the photograph belonged to the victim and was the one she had with her when she left the dance building.

With this information Detective Tynes went to the abandoned building located at 2911 Medical Arts Street. There he located the scene where the fire was set. Inside of the ashes Detective Tynes immediately observed a one shoe that he recognized as a small sized Doc Martin brand. Detective Tynes also found a burned notebook that had college level course work inside. Detective Tynes then located a black jacket identical to the one seen on surveillance footage. This jacket was located near the burned items. The bicycle was then seized at the fire station. It too was identical to the one seen on the surveillance footage.

At approximately 5:20pm, Officers from the Lone Star Fugitive Task Force located Criner at LifeWorks (3708 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Travis County, Texas). He was detained for the suspected tampering with evidence and transported to the Austin Police Homicide Unit. Officers were informed by LifeWorks staff that Criner was issued room number 9 that he shared with another male. Inside of this room Criner was assigned a beige steel stand up locker to the right of the other. Criner's locker was pointed out as having a combination lock with a purple dial. The room was secured by Officers and a search warrant was obtained.

The search warrant for the residence of Criner was reviewed and signed by Travis County District Judge Brenda Kennedy. When searching the room Investigators found shoes identical to the ones observed on the surveillance footage. They also found an article of evidence that matched the same texture, age and appearance of an article seized on or near the victim's body. Detective Tynes the located a Mac Book with a sticker placed on it that mentioned the city of Portland. The family of Haruka Weiser previously informed Detectives that a Portland sticker was on her Mac Book.

Affiant believes that there is sufficient probable cause to support the charge of Murder (PC 19.02) including, but not limited to, witness statements and physical evidence which implicates Meechaiel Khalil Criner of knowingly and intentionally causing death to the victim, Haruka Weiser.



*AN* #3772

AFFIANT

Det. Anthony Nelson #3772

Sworn And Subscribed To Before Me By The Said Affiant On This 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016.

*Brenda P. Kennedy*  
403<sup>rd</sup> District Court,  
Travis County, Texas

*Brenda P. Kennedy*  
Printed Name

On This 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016, I Hereby Acknowledge I have examined The Foregoing Affidavit and have Determined That Probable Cause Exists for the Issuance of an Arrest Warrant for the Individual Accused Therein.

*Brenda P. Kennedy*  
403<sup>rd</sup> District Court,  
Travis County, Texas

*Brenda P. Kennedy*  
Printed Name

*Bond set at \$1,000,000  
Brenda P. Kennedy  
April 8, 2016  
403rd District Court*

