



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT

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There have been numerous inquiries regarding several findings in the autopsy report on Rebecca Zahau.

The information below is from Dr. Jonathan Lucas, Medical Examiner's Office:

Sticky material that appeared similar to tape residue was noted on her mid left shin and right lower leg. These were small areas (about an inch), and their significance is not clear. Their position and size would have been unusual for evidence of leg binding.

Bruises on the right side of her scalp were also seen. These were relatively minor. Because there was evidence that she went over the balcony in a non-vertical position, she may have struck her head on the balcony on the way down.

The T-shirt that was around her neck had a portion originally in her mouth that was removed by the person who found her. It is not clear why it was there, although people can place material in their mouth prior to hanging.

Blood was found on her inner thighs and the source was either menses or spotting due to an IUD (Intrauterine Device). There was no genital trauma. A small amount of blood was also noted on her big toes which appeared to be due to small scratches from the plants below the balcony.

As in any comprehensive investigation, some findings cannot be entirely explained. None of the observations listed above are inconsistent with the conclusions reached regarding the cause and manner of death of Rebecca Zahau. Our condolences go out to all of those involved in this tragic case.

For further inquiries about the autopsy reports on Rebecca Zahau or Max Shacknai, please contact Tammy Glenn at (619) 890-0778 or tammy.glenn@sdcounty.ca.gov.

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