

0300
GEGHÁWÖÁFÁECKÁÚT
SÖÖÁUWVY
UMÚÖUÜÁÁUWÜVÁÖŠÖÜS
ÖÖSÖÖ
ÖÖJÖÁKHEÍHEFÁÖCE

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON,)
)
) Plaintiff,)
) v.) No. 23-1-05030-1 SEA
)
) NGHIEP KEIN CHAU,) INFORMATION
)
) Defendant.)
)
)
)

I, Leesa Manion, Prosecuting Attorney for King County in the name and by the authority of the State of Washington, do accuse NGHIEP KEIN CHAU of the following crime[s], which are based on the same conduct or a series of acts connected together or constituting parts of a common scheme or plan: **Murder In The First Degree, Attempted Murder In The First Degree**, committed as follows:

Count 1 Murder In The First Degree

That the defendant NGHIEP KEIN CHAU in King County, Washington, on or about August 7, 2023, with premeditated intent to cause the death of another person, did cause the death of Angelina Thanh Tran, a human being, who died on or about August 7, 2023;

Contrary to RCW 9A.32.030(1)(a), and against the peace and dignity of the State of Washington.

And further do accuse the defendant, Nghiep Kein Chau, at said time of committing the above crime against a family or household member; a crime of domestic violence as defined under RCW 10.99.020.

And further do accuse the defendant, Nghiep Kein Chau at said time of being armed with a deadly weapon, to-wit: a knife, under the authority of RCW 9.94A.825 and 9.94A.533(4).

Count 2 Attempted Murder In The First Degree

That the defendant NGHIEP KEIN CHAU in King County, Washington, on or about August 7, 2023, with premeditated intent to cause the death of another person, did attempt to cause the death of Linh N Tran, a human being; attempt as used in the above charge means that the defendant committed an act which was a substantial step towards the commission of the above described crime with the intent to commit that crime;

Contrary to RCW 9A.28.020 and 9A.32.030(1)(a), and against the peace and dignity of the State of Washington.

And further do accuse the defendant, Nghiep Kein Chau, at said time of committing the above crime against a family or household member; a crime of domestic violence as defined under RCW 10.99.020.

And further do accuse the defendant, Nghiep Kein Chau at said time of being armed with a deadly weapon, to-wit: a knife, under the authority of RCW 9.94A.825 and 9.94A.533(4).

LEESA MANION (she/her)
Prosecuting Attorney



By: Brandy L. Gevers, WSBA #45234
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

1
2 CAUSE NO. 23-1-05030-1 SEA

3 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY CASE SUMMARY AND REQUEST FOR BAIL AND/OR
4 CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

5 The State incorporates by reference the Certification for Determination of Probable
6 Cause prepared by Officer Danial J Conine of the Seattle Police Department for case number
7 2023-225036.

8 Pursuant to CrR 2.2(b)(2)(ii) and (iii), the State requests that the Court set bail in the
9 amount of \$5,000,000, as was set at the probable cause hearing. There is reasonable cause to
10 believe that the defendant will commit a violent offense and poses a danger to surviving victim
11 and witness Linh Tran and witness Huong Hua and to the greater community at large. The
12 defendant is also a flight risk.

13 In this case, the defendant killed his own stepdaughter, Angelina Tran, stabbing her over
14 100 times. This murder appeared to be the result of anger at his stepdaughter for intervening in
15 the defendant's attack on her mother. Angelina Tran's intervention allowed her mother to escape
16 and hide in a nearby bedroom, but the defendant did not stop his attack. He dragged his
17 stepdaughter across the room, took a large knife from a drawer, and began to stab her in the chest
18 and abdomen. The defendant paused his attack several times: once to change clothes because of
19 all the blood, again to select a different knife (a meat cleaver) from the kitchen drawer, and
20 finally, while still armed with the knife, to go look for his wife who was hiding in a nearby
21 bedroom calling 911. By the defendant's own admissions, he intended to stab and kill his wife if
22 he had found her before police arrived and took him into custody as he was coming down the
23 stairs inside their home, still armed with a knife. Although the defendant's criminal history is

1
2 limited to a fishing violation from 2006, these facts demonstrate irrational and extreme violent
3 tendencies sufficient to justify bail in the amount of \$5,000,000.

4 The defendant also poses a flight risk. Family members reported that the defendant spent
5 the past year in Vietnam, only returning to King County in April 2023. It appears that the
6 defendant has significant financial resources and as a result of his actions charged herein, now no
7 longer has ties to Washington State.

8 For all the reasons expressed above, the State requests bail in the amount of \$5,000,000.
9 The State also requests that the Court impose a DV No Contact Order with Linh Tran, and
10 conditions of release including No Contact with Huong Hua, Do not Leave the State of
11 Washington, and Possess No Weapons or Firearms.

12 Signed and dated by me this 10th day of August, 2023.

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17 Brandy L. Gevers, WSBA #45234
18 Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

CAUSE NO. _____



SEATTLE
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

**CERTIFICATION FOR DETERMINATION
OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

GENERAL OFFENSE # 2023-225036
UNIT FILE NUMBER

That Danial Conine #6753 is a Detective with the Seattle Police Department and has reviewed the investigation conducted in Seattle Police Department Case Number 2023-225036;

There is probable cause to believe that Nghiep K Chau - A/M/ 01-30-1969 committed the crime(s) of RCW 9A.32.030 Murder in the First Degree DV and RCW 9A.32.030 and 9A.28.020 Attempted Murder in the First Degree DV within the City of Seattle, County of King, State of Washington.

This belief is predicated on the following facts and circumstances:

On 08-07-2023 at 0448 hours Seattle Police Department (SPD) Police Officers were dispatched to 5316 31 Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108 for an Assault call. Per Dispatch: "RP SAYING HUSBAND HIT HER 21YOA DAUGHTER, MEDICS DECLINED, RP STOPPED ANSWERING AFTER HUSBAND HEARD IN BACKGROUND, DISC." While enroute Dispatch updated the call with: "RP BACK ON PHONE SAYING HUSB HIT HER AS WELL."

Officers arrived at approximately 0455 hours, and after knocking at the front door were met by Linh N Tran A/F/09-16-72. Linh was visibly upset and had fresh bleeding injuries to her face. As Linh was being escorted out of the home, Linh's mother, Huong Hua A/F/ 07-26-50 also appeared at the door and was escorted outside. Linh told the officers that her daughter, subsequently identified as Angelina T Tran A/F/ 04-05-02, was still inside the home. As SPD officers entered the front door on the main level, Nghiep K Chau A/M/ 01-30-1969 came down the staircase from the upper level and confronted the officers. Nghiep was holding a large bloody fixed-blade kitchen style knife, which he dropped when ordered to do so by officers. Nghiep had fresh blood on numerous portions of his body and he had fresh bleeding wounds to his right hand. Nghiep was placed in handcuffs as other officers went up the stairs to look for Angelina. As officers reached the top of the staircase, which opened up in to a connected kitchen / dining room / living room area, they observed the stabbed and obviously deceased body of Angelina, lying on her back on the floor of the kitchen. At this point Nghiep was taken into custody and medical attention was sought for his hand wounds and for Linh's injuries.

The residence of 5316 31 Ave S was secured in anticipation of a search warrant for subsequent evidence recovery. Two search warrants for the residence were obtained from King County Superior Court Judge Aimee Sutton and an additional warrant was obtained for a sample of Nghiep's blood. During the search of the residence, an operational CCTV security camera system was found, with active cameras capturing footage from both the exterior and interior of the residence. Footage from this camera system was subsequently forensically recovered and video files depicting the initial disturbance and assault between Nghiep and Linh, in addition to the homicide of Angelina, were recovered. The residential cameras are motion activated and therefore some interruptions in the video continuity occurred, which made obtaining an accurate count of the times that Nghiep stabbed Angelina challenging. Based upon my review of the video available, Nghiep stabbed Angelina at least 107 times in the torso, using both the knife that he



**CERTIFICATION FOR DETERMINATION
OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

INCIDENT NUMBER 2023-225036
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was carrying when confronted by arresting officers, and a separate meat cleaver style knife that he obtained from a kitchen drawer.

I viewed several of the recovered video files from inside the residence at 5316 31 Av S and the following is a summary of the events as depicted in the video.

At about 0443 hours, Nghiep and Linh were standing in the kitchen area when Nghiep began to repeatedly punch Linh in the face and head with his right fist. Nghiep struck Linh about 15 times as she tried to move away from him by going toward the couch in the living room area. Nghiep followed after Linh and continued to punch her. Angelina is depicted exiting a back bedroom and approaching Nghiep and Linh. It appears that Angelina was sleeping and that she was awoken by the sounds of Nghiep assaulting Linh. Angelina confronted Nghiep and physically placed herself between Nghiep and Linh in an attempt to stop him hitting Linh. As this happened, Nghiep continued to punch Linh and also struck Angelina in the face and head with a closed fist. Linh tried to get away and the group eventually stumbled to the kitchen floor area where Linh was able to break free and run down the stairs. Angelina held on to Nghiep in an attempt to keep him from going after Linh and eventually they both fell to the ground near a folding metal dog kennel in the middle of the room. They wrestled on the floor for a few moments before Nghiep was able to get up and drag the dog kennel piece that Angelina was sitting on toward the kitchen cabinets. Nghiep then opened a kitchen drawer containing multiple large fixed-blade knives, removed one and then began to stab Angelina. She stood up and attempted to run away, but Nghiep grabbed a hold of Angelina and he repeatedly stabbed Angelina in the chest until she fell to the ground. Once on the ground, Angelina continued to try and fight Nghiep off, and at times turned her back toward him, resulting in her getting stabbed in the back. Nghiep continued to stab Angelina in the chest until she fell into unconsciousness and eventually stopped displaying any signs of life. Even after Angelina appeared to be deceased, Nghiep stabbed her over and over again, at times taking a break for several moments, to end up coming back to her body and stabbing her in the chest again. At one point Nghiep returned to the kitchen knife drawer, recovered a large meat cleaver style knife, and chopped at Angelina’s chest repeatedly.

Recovered residential video also depicts Nghiep going downstairs (during one of the breaks in between stabbing Angelina) and appearing to search for Linh in the main level of the home. In the video, Nghiep is depicted carrying the initially chosen knife as he looks around the home and even acts as if he was considering kicking in the bedroom door of Huong. The recovered video also depicts Nghiep going back down the stairs with the knife in his hand as SPD officers arrive and enter the home.

Nghiep was subsequently interviewed by SPD Detective Atkinson, with the assistance of Court Certified Vietnamese Interpreter David Neathery, because Nghiep primarily spoke Vietnamese. Nghiep acknowledged his Miranda Warnings and agreed to speak with detectives. During his interview, Nghiep explained that on the evening of August 6, 2023, he was at his home located at 5316 31st Ave S, with Linh, Angelina, and Huong. Nghiep said he went to Urgent Care earlier in the day for high blood pressure and he was having difficulty sleeping. During the night, Nghiep said he walked out of bedroom, and he started “bickering” with Linh about money in the living room area on the top floor. Nghiep said that he hit Linh multiple times in the face because



**CERTIFICATION FOR DETERMINATION
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he was angry with her. Nghiep explained that he thought Linh would divorce him and take his money. Nghiep said that Linh never said this to him, but he thought it to be true. While Nghiep was hitting Linh, she called out for help. Angelina came into the living room and blocked Nghiep from hitting Linh any further. Nghiep explained during the interview that he became angry with Angelina because she blocked him. Nghiep went to a drawer and selected a knife with a black handle at random. Nghiep stabbed Angelina in her chest multiple times causing her to fall. Nghiep continued to stab Angelina while she was lying on the floor. Nghiep said he did not know if she was moving or making any sounds while she was lying on the floor. Nghiep said he was cold because he was covered in blood. Nghiep changed clothing and then selected a different knife from the drawer. Nghiep stabbed Angelina in the chest with the second knife multiple times. Nghiep took the second knife downstairs toward the area that Linh fled. Nghiep said that he was looking for Linh so he could stab and kill her. Before Nghiep located Linh, Seattle Police arrived. Nghiep saw the police and threw the knife down. Nghiep was handcuffed by police. Nghiep told the patrol officers, "I killed somebody."

In addition to living in the same home as Linh and Angelina, Nghiep has been in a relationship with Linh for the last 19 years and married Linh last year. Angelina considered Nghiep as her father and has also been part of his family life for the last 19 years.

Nghiep was subsequently booked into the King County Jail for RCW 9A.32.030 Murder in the First Degree DV for his actions against Angelina, and RCW 9A.32.030 and 9A.28.020 Attempted Murder in the First Degree DV for his actions against Linh.

Angelina's body was recovered by the King County Medical Examiner and following an autopsy determined that Angelina died from the multiple stab wounds to her chest and vital organs. Angelina's death was classified as a homicide.

Under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, I certify that the foregoing is true and correct to best of my knowledge and belief. Signed and dated by me this 10th day of AUGUST, 2023, at Seattle, Washington.



AGENCY: Seattle Police Department	CASE NUMBER 2023-225036	FILE NUMBER	PCN NUMBER
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SUPERFORM

ARREST INFORMATION	
DATE & TIME OF VIOLATION 8/7/2023 9:23:00 PM	CRIMINAL TRAFFIC CITATION ATTACHED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
DATE OF ARREST/T ME 8/7/2023 8:29:00 PM	ARREST LOCATION 5316 31ST AVE S SEATTLE, WA 98108
ACCOMPLICES	

SUSPECT INFORMATION			
NAME (LAST, FIRST, M DDLE/JR, SR, 1st, 2nd) CHAU, NGHIEP KEIN		DOB 1/30/1969	ALIAS, NICKNAMES NGHIEP KEIN CHAU, NGHIEP KEIN CHAU
ARMED/DANGEROUS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	IDENTITY IN DOUBT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	CITIZENSHIP	

PHYSICAL DATA							
SEX M	HEIGHT 5'08	WEIGHT 172	SKIN TONE	RACE A	EYE BRO	HAIR BLK	SCARS, MARKS, TATTOOS, DEFORMITIES

IDENTIFICATION DATA							
UCN	PRIOR BA #	AFIS #	FBI #	STATE ID #	DRIVERS LICENSE #	STATE	SSN

RES DENCE				EMPLOYMENT / SCHOOL			
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS 5316 31RD AV S SEATTLE, WA 98108				EMPLOYER, SCHOOL (ADDRESS, SHOP/UNION NUMBER)			

RES DENCE PHONE (999) 999-9999				BUS NESS PHONE		OCCUPATION	
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EMERGENCY CONTACT							
PERSON TO BE CONTACTED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY			RELATIONSH P		ADDRESS		PHONE

CHARGE INFORMATION				
OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV <input type="checkbox"/> FUGITIVE Murder In The First Degree		RCW / ORD#	COURT / CAUSE #	CITATION #
OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV <input type="checkbox"/> FUGITIVE		RCW / ORD#	COURT / CAUSE #	CITATION #

WARRANT / OTHER				
WARRANT DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	OFFENSE	AMOUNT OF BA L \$5,000,000.00	WARRANT TYPE
ORIG NATING POLICY AGENCY		ISSU NG AGENCY	WARRANT RELEASED TO: (SERIAL # / UNIT / DATE / T ME)	

PROPERTY INFORMATION		
LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY LEFT FOR ARRESTEE AT JAIL		
LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY ENTERED INTO EVIDENCE (SIMPLE DESCRIPTION, IDENTIFY NG MARKS, SERIAL #)		
LIST ITEMS ENTERED INTO SAFEKEEP NG		
TOTAL CASH OF ARRESTEE \$0.00	WAS CASH TAKEN NTO EV DENCE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO AMOUNT: \$0.00	SIGNATURE OF JAIL STAFF RECEIVING ITEMS / SERIAL #

OFFICER INFORMATION		
ARREST NG OFFICER / SERIAL # Conine, Danial J 6753	TRANSPORTING OFFICER / SERIAL #	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE / SERIAL #
SUPERFORM COMPLETED BY (SIGNATURE/SERIAL #)		CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (NAME / SERIAL # / PHONE)

COURT FILE		
SUPERIOR COURT FILING NFO <input type="checkbox"/> IN CUSTODY <input type="checkbox"/> AT LARGE <input type="checkbox"/> OUT ON BOND	COURT CAUSE (STAMP OR WRITE)	
COURT/DIST. CT.NO.	DIST. CT. BONDS\$	SUP. CT. DATE

EXTRADITE				
PERSON APPROVING EXTRADITION	SEAK NG-LOCAL ONLY WACIC-STATE WIDE <input type="checkbox"/>	NCIC-W LL EXTRADITE FROM D & OR ONLY <input type="checkbox"/>	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM OR, ID, MT, WY, CA, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM, HI, AK <input type="checkbox"/>	NCIC-W LL EXTRADITE FROM ALL 50 STATES <input type="checkbox"/>
E N T R Y	UCN 10537697 WAC NCIC	DOE TOE OP	DOC TOC OP	