

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3903

Washington, DC:

728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3903
(202) 224-4642

Rhode Island:

1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920-3074
(401) 943-3100

One Exchange Terrace, Room 408
Providence, RI 02903-1773
(401) 528-5200

1 (800) 284-4200

TDD Relay Rhode Island
1 (800) 745-5555

<http://reed.senate.gov>

November 19, 2009

Attorney General Eric Holder
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I write regarding the murder of Rhode Islander Jon A. LaChappelle, Jr., which occurred in Thailand in September 2006. Since that time, his family has been in contact with the FBI office in New Haven, Connecticut and the U.S. Consulate in Chiang Mai to follow the investigation and arrest of the perpetrators.

According to the information I have received from Mr. LaChappelle's family, Thai authorities have apprehended the shooter and the individual who hired the shooter, both of whom confessed to their participation in the crime. Additionally, both of these individuals told authorities that Dara Panasy, who was at one time Mr. LaChappelle's fiancée, paid them to carry out the murder. Ms. Panasy now resides in Stonington, Connecticut. It is my understanding that the Thai authorities have issued a warrant for her arrest, but have not yet pursued a formal request to extradite her from the United States for prosecution in Thailand.

I know you recognize, as I do, the anguish that the LaChappelle family feels about this situation. I respectfully request that you do all you can within your authority to properly expedite the arrest, according to the provisions of our extradition treaty with Thailand. The LaChappelle family deserves our commitment to carrying out justice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator