

Can you forgive the killer?

Murder of a female high school student in Kamihera, Hatsukaichi City

SEEKING INFORMATION!

Summary of the case

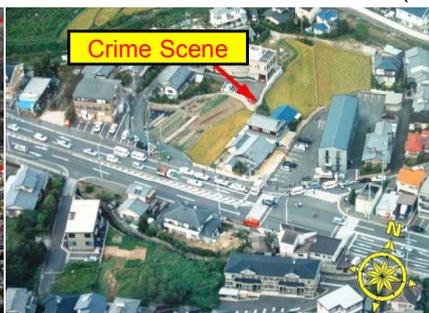
On Tuesday, October 5, 2004, at around 3:00 p.m., Satomi KITAGUCHI, a 17-year-old Hatsukaichi High School student was fatally stabbed by an unidentified young man in her room after she came back from school. The suspect also seriously injured her grandmother who heard screams and rushed to the scene. That day, all of the second-year students at her school had finished their exams and went back home before noon.



She used to ride a silver bicycle for about 3 km to go to school. She also attended a cram school in Miyazono house complex.

Scene of the murder

The scene of murder is in Kamihera area, Hatsukaichi City, about 20 km from the center of Hiroshima City. The house is located beside Route 433, where you can come — if heading for Iwakuni from Hiroshima on Route 2 (also known as Nishi-Hiroshima Bypass) — after turning right at Kamihera intersection into Route 433 for Hayatani shrine. There is a large housing development across the road. The route also leads to Akiota-cho (former Kake-cho) and Arcadia Village spa facility.



Victim's house



Description of the suspect as of October 5, 2004



Age: Around 20 (mid-30s now?)
Height: Around 165 cm
Build: Solid
Features:
Narrow eyes
Some brown hair
Pimple marks

This is the sketch of the suspect based on witness testimony. He would now be in his 30s. His appearance including body built, hair style, and pimple marks etc. may have changed over the year. However, the impression of the shape of his eyes remains the same.



Description of the shoes worn by the suspect on the day of the incident (based on the footprints)

Sneakers manufactured by Dunlop, and were 26 cm to 27 cm in size. They have several types of uppers. These models were made in China and were sold more than 760,000 pairs throughout Japan for ¥5,000 to ¥6,000 each at that time.



A motorbike and a possible suspect were seen near the crime scene



A scooter-type motorbike was seen near the scene on that day. Eyewitnesses reported seeing the following: a young man riding a motorbike on a sidewalk near the scene while looking over his shoulder behind him; a motorbike going down the wrong way on a street or a sidewalk near the scene; and a man fleeing the scene on foot. Did you see anybody fleeing the scene?



Potential suspect motorbike

Were you almost hit by a man or a motorbike coming out of the street?

Additional information

The victim was good at mathematics and had a dream to become an architect, like her father. She was preparing herself to get into a science or mathematics university but her dream was never realized. Do you know someone who vanished abruptly just before or after the incident? Do you know someone who had free time loitering or roaming in the daytime? Did you see someone who was checking the crime scene before the incident?

If you have any information that can lead to the apprehension of the male suspect, please contact us.

If you have any information about the male suspect in the sketch, please contact us.

Note regarding the Investigation Special Cash Reward Program

Reward of up to 3 million yen

A cash reward will be paid to those who give the most valuable information to the Special Investigative Team at Hatsukaichi Police Station, leading to the arrest of the suspect or resolution of the case. If there is more than one recipient, the total amount will be divided among the them within the limit of maximum amount, in proportion to the contribution of each to the investigation. We will not disclose the names of persons who provide the information, so please give us your name and address. (We will not pay to those who remain anonymous.)

Application period: From March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017

Contact Address:

〒 738-0015, Honmachi 1-10, Hatsukaichi City, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan
Special Investigative Team for "Murder of a female high school student at Kamihera, Hatsukaichi" at Hatsukaichi Police Station, Tel: 0829-31-0110 (ext. from 601 to 603)

Web site: <http://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/police>

If you provide information that is not in Japanese, please send it by e-mail.

