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POLICE SEEK TIES LINKING 2 SLASHINGS 2ND WOMAN OWNED BLOODY SHIRT

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A lawyer for the Fort Lee man accused of slitting the throat of a Columbia University law student said Tuesday that police might "do well" to investigate the suspect's live-in girlfriend. The lawyer's suggestion came as investigators revealed for the first time that the blood-soaked sweat shirt found in a trash bag near Hyeseung Lynda Hong's body Friday belongs to the girlfriend.

The woman is [REDACTED], a 31-year-old single mother from Cliffside Park. She lived sporadically with [REDACTED], 23, who has been charged with second-degree murder in connection with Hong's death.

The couple were charged with the November slashing of an Edgewater woman who, like Hong, once dated [REDACTED]. Authorities say it is [REDACTED] who wielded the weapon in that attack.

[REDACTED] has not been charged in [REDACTED] death and has been cooperative in the case against [REDACTED] police said.

It was [REDACTED], authorities said, who told police that Ko confessed to her. And, investigators said, it was [REDACTED] who confirmed to police that the black sweat shirt found stuffed in a plastic garbage bag with other bloody garments, belonged to her.

Citing attorney-client privilege, [REDACTED] lawyer, [REDACTED], would not say what his client was doing on the night of the murder. "We'll just see who's going to be indicted in New York," Neary said.

But on Tuesday night, a New York police investigator said he "wouldn't be surprised if she

■ wasn't, at some point, aware of what was going to happen [the night Hong was killed]."

He said police are looking into similarities between the Hong killing and the Edgewater slashing, which left the victim with injuries that required 100 stitches. "The whole thing depends on what happened in New Jersey and whether it might have been repeated," the investigator said.

Earlier Tuesday, friends and relatives gathered at a funeral Mass at a West Orange church to mourn ■ 26, a promising law student who had dated ■ when both were students at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

But hours before she was to be cremated, the New York City medical examiner ordered the body returned to Manhattan. Investigators said information emerged that necessitated a second look at the body, which was returned to the funeral home Tuesday evening.

When he was arrested Saturday morning, ■ was out on \$25,000 bail after being charged with attempted murder in connection with the Edgewater slashing. On Tuesday, that bail was revoked by Bergen County Superior Court Judge Timothy J. Sullivan, who said the murder charge in New York makes Ko a flight risk.

■ is being held without bail in Manhattan. His next court hearing is Friday.

■'s parents own a multimillion-dollar clothing business in South Korea, which has no formal extradition treaty with the United States. Ko's father was scheduled to arrive in New York on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Ko's Manhattan lawyer, ■, has assigned a private investigator to look into "every aspect" of ■'s life. He invoked the name of famed mystery writer Agatha Christie's sleuth in explaining his reasoning.

"Like Hercule Poirot says, *cherchez la femme*," said ■, who denies that ■ had anything to do with ■'s death. "When you have a murder and you don't have a suspect, there's a woman involved somewhere."

■ was questioned Saturday, police said, and told investigators that Ko had confided to her that he killed Hong. She also said he borrowed ■ white Honda Accord to drive to ■ Morningside Heights apartment in Manhattan.

The car, along with ■ Cliffside Park apartment and a luxury condo belonging to ■'s parents, were searched Sunday and police walked away with bags of clothing and assorted paperwork, investigators said.

The other items found inside the trash bag found in [REDACTED]'s apartment, including a bloody pair of sweat pants, have not been identified as belonging to [REDACTED]. But investigators did look at a surveillance tape from [REDACTED]'s apartment at the Atrium Palace, which showed Ko wearing a similar sweat suit, sources said.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] lived together on and off at her Cliffside Park apartment for about six months. And Bergen County Prosecutor William H. Schmidt said Tuesday that Ko hasn't lived in the Atrium Palace apartment since November.

The murder weapon, believed to be either a straight-edge razor or a scalpel, has not been found despite a massive police search on both sides of the Hudson River, investigators said.

[REDACTED] body was taken to St. Andrew Kim Roman Catholic Church in West Orange early Tuesday for a closed-casket ceremony. An autopsy revealed that [REDACTED] died from a slit throat. There were no defensive wounds on her hands, investigators said.

A similar, razor-type weapon was used to slash the victim in Edgewater, who met [REDACTED] while working as a hostess in a Korean men's club, police said. The victim's name is being withheld for her safety.

The woman received a call from [REDACTED] in November, after nearly five months without any contact, prosecutors said Tuesday.

[REDACTED] told the woman that he wanted to "break off all ties with his ex-girlfriends" and wanted to meet her for coffee to discuss the matter, said Assistant Bergen County Assistant Prosecutor Liliana Silebi. The woman stood up Ko.

But, Silebi said, after a second call from [REDACTED], the woman agreed to meet with him. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] younger sister, [REDACTED], picked up the woman in [REDACTED] car and drove with her to a dead end street in Edgewater, the assistant prosecutor said.

There, Silebi said, the younger [REDACTED] sister held her feet and [REDACTED] grabbed her shoulders and head while [REDACTED] slashed at her with a razor. The woman was cut across her scalp, on her face, chest, and thighs.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED], along with [REDACTED], were charged with attempted murder in that case. All were released on \$25,000 bail.

No motive was established, but [REDACTED] apparently yelled, "you know why we're doing this," during the attack, Silebi said. The woman told police she had no idea why she was being slashed.

The case will go before a grand jury April 1, Silebi said. [REDACTED] was bargaining

with prosecutors when the recent murder charges against Ko eliminated the possibility of any plea, Silebi said.

██████████ lawyer, **Michael Beatrice** of Mahwah, said his client knows nothing about the incident in Manhattan and will plead not guilty to the New Jersey charge.

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