

Greenwich suitcase murder: Did the killer intentionally confuse cops?

By Jordan Fenster

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<https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/Report-Greenwich-homicide-investigation-looks-at-13596569.php>



Whoever killed Valerie Reyes and **dumped her body in Greenwich**, bound by the hands and feet and stuffed in a suitcase, may have crossed state lines in order to confuse investigators.

“They’re behind the 8-ball because they don’t have a crime scene. We don’t know where she was killed,” Vernon Geberth said of Greenwich Police. “The killer wanted to complicate the investigation and separate himself from the event by jurisdiction.”

Geberth, a retired New York City Police Department lieutenant-commander, has spent a lifetime investigating murders, and teaching police officers the craft. As commanding officer of the Bronx Homicide Task Force, he managed over 400 murders a year.

He's not involved in this case, but he knows that the "logistics and jurisdictional issues" would be a difficult challenge to overcome.

Reyes was from New Rochelle, which means "that's going to be tough for the Greenwich guys because they have to come down into Westchester."

"The dynamics of the homicide are in Westchester," he said. "Connecticut has the body so they get stuck with the case."

Reyes had been reported missing from New Rochelle on Jan. 29. Her body was found in Glenville on Feb. 5, bound by the hands and feet and stuffed into a suitcase.

Geberth said police are likely poring over Reyes' **friends, family and acquaintances.** **He said all signs point to a crime of passion.**

"It's an interpersonal type of thing," he said. "Every suitcase body I ever had they were known to each other, with the exception of the Mafia."

That suspicion is heightened by the fact that family members have said Reyes was in a state of anxiety and fear before she went missing. Reyes' mother, Norma Sanchez, said her daughter was afraid, the night before she disappeared, that she would be murdered.

"The fact that the young woman told her mother that she was afraid for her life indicates that she knew her murderer," Geberth said.

Sanchez told The Journal News newspaper that her daughter did not mention being afraid of a specific person.

"She was very scared, very frightened. She didn't mention anything or no one specific. She just said, 'I'm scared. I'm paranoid, mommy. I'm getting anxiety attacks.'" Sanchez told the newspaper. "I asked her, 'Why do you feel this way? Was there someone at your house?' ... And she said, 'No.'"

Sanchez concluded: “We wonder, ‘Who made her feel this way?’”

If he were involved in the case, Geberth said he would take a close look at the luggage in which Reyes was found. Whose luggage was it? Was it new or old?

“What happens with a crime of passion is a person hasn’t thought about what they’re going to do with the body,” he said.

Fans of true crime shows on television may jump to the conclusion that a serial killer is responsible, but Geberth said it’s unlikely.

“Everybody is serial killer happy. Like I tell the classes that I teach, before you go for the serial killer look at the interpersonal type of crime,” he said. “Just from the presentation of the body, that’s not usually the M.O. of a serial killer.”

Geberth, by the way, has some experience working with the Greenwich Police Department. He worked as a consultant with the department after the body of 13-year-old Matthew Margolies was found on a Pemberwick hillside in 1984. That case remains unsolved.

“They get hit with some horrible cases,” he said.



Ex-boyfriend arrested in killing of Valerie Reyes, missing woman found in suitcase

By [Bob Fredericks](#) February 12, 2019

<https://nypost.com/2019/02/12/arrest-made-in-killing-of-valerie-reyes-missing-woman-found-in-suitcase/>

An ex-boyfriend of the Westchester woman whose [body was found stuffed in a suitcase](#) along a Connecticut roadside last week has been arrested in connection with the death, cops and reports said Tuesday.

Javier da Silva was nabbed by detectives from both New York and Connecticut after he used an ATM card belonging to the victim, Valerie Reyes, to withdraw cash from her account, according to the Greenwich, Conn., Police Department.

Da Silva — a Venezuelan citizen living in Queens illegally after overstaying a visa, sources told CBS 2 – NY — was busted in the borough Monday night, though Greenwich cops didn't divulge exactly where or when.

Greenwich police also wouldn't address da Silva's immigration status, though the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement said that they were looking into it.

"Now that we are aware of him, we will take steps needed to confirm his alienage and issue a detainer as needed," an ICE official said.

Under questioning by New Rochelle and Greenwich detectives, da Silva "admitted a role in the death of Valerie Reyes," said Greenwich Police Capt. Robert Berry in a Tuesday afternoon press briefing, though he declined to elaborate on that role.

The body of Reyes, a 24-year-old New Rochelle resident, was [found on the morning of Feb. 5](#) just off Glenville Road in Greenwich, about a mile from the Merritt Parkway.

News of the arrest came on the day Reyes was mourned by weeping family and friends at a packed New Rochelle wake.

Da Silva is expected to appear in White Plains federal court Tuesday afternoon because Reyes' death and the dumping of her body crossed state lines. The precise charges are pending.

Valerie Reyes suspect: I dumped her body, but sex romp killed her

By [Kaja Whitehouse](#) and [Aaron Feis](#)

February 12, 2019

https://nypost.com/2019/02/12/valerie-reyes-suspect-i-dumped-her-body-but-sex-romp-killed-her/?utm_source=maropost&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nypdaily&utm_content=20190213&tpcc=morning_report&mpweb=755-7623713-719968032

The Queens man charged with killing his ex-girlfriend, stuffing her into a suitcase and tossing it along a Connecticut roadway admitted to cops that he dumped the body — but insisted she died during one last sex romp, according to a criminal complaint.

Javier Da Silva, charged Tuesday in White Plains federal court with kidnapping resulting in death, claimed to detectives that he bedded former flame Valerie Reyes inside her New Rochelle home on Jan. 29, despite her mom telling cops that the 24-year-olds hadn't been seeing each other for a year, court papers show.

During the alleged hookup, Da Silva claims that Reyes fell on the floor and cracked her head open — but admitted that he reacted by covering her mouth with packing tape, binding her arms and legs, and forcing her body into a red suitcase, according to the documents.

He then admittedly drove to ritzy Greenwich, Conn., and ditched the baggage in a wooded area off a roadside, where it was discovered on Feb. 5, the papers show.

Cops tracked down Da Silva after he was caught on video surveillance using Reyes' ATM card to withdraw \$1,000 from her bank account on Jan. 30, arresting him late Monday at his Queens home.

In a brief court appearance Tuesday, Da Silva asked that the consulate of strife-stricken Venezuela not be alerted to his arrest, preferring only to tell Portugal, the other country in which he holds dual citizenship.