

# Was it a Copycat Killing?

Kathy Morris Died May 6, 2012

## "Black widow" sentenced to death for murder in Japan

Kanae Kijima, Japanese Lonely Hearts Serial Killer



A.K.A.: "The Konkatsu Killer"

Classification: Serial killer

Characteristics: Poisoner - Attempted to disguise the deaths as suicides

Number of victims: 3

Date of murders: January-August 2009

Date of arrest: November 3, 2009

Status: Sentenced to death on April 13, 2012

### Kanae Kijima, Japanese Lonely Hearts Serial Killer - 2009

On **April 13, 2012**, Kanae Kijima, 37, was sentenced to death by presiding judge, Kazuyuki Okuma, in Saitama district court, for three murders of three men: Yoshiyuki Oide, 41; Keizo Ando, 80; Hideki Maruyama, 53. The judge stated that "There is no room for leniency as the defendant committed the crimes for selfish purposes. She reiterated irrational excuses in court and did not show any remorse."

Dubbed "Konkatsu Killer" by the media for the konkatsu (marriage-hunting) sites she frequented, she met the men on internet dating sites and poisoned them with carbon monoxide by burning charcoal briquettes after giving them sleeping pills. Kijima reportedly set up each death to look like a suicide: In the latest case, she's suspected of putting a sedative in one man's beef stew then poisoning him with carbon monoxide.

The trial featured two opposing narratives: prosecutors said she killed the men so she would not have to pay back the money they had given her. Kijima's lawyer said they had either committed suicide because broke up with them or died by accident.

In her blog and dating profiles, Kijima portrayed herself as an accomplished cook with expensive tastes in clothes and jewelry. She cropped and altered photos of herself to make herself look more attractive. She'd usually pose as a prospective bride, but sometimes she played a nurse or therapist to better lure a specific target. In just a few years, she allegedly made \$2.2 million off her various paramours.

When Kijima's apartment in Tokyo was searched on Nov 3, 2009, police found vast amounts of medicine, including cold remedies and drugs known to induce drowsiness, that had been prescribed by at least 10 different doctors. Traces of different sleeping medicines were found in the bodies of three other men who died in similarly suspicious circumstances, and all of whom had met Kijima through lonely heart websites.

Yoshiyuki Oide, a 41-year-old from Tokyo, was found dead in August of carbon monoxide poisoning in his car, a common method of committing suicide in Japan, yet unusual because the keys were not in the locked vehicle and shortly after he had transferred ¥5 million (£33,175) to his "fiancee."

Keizo Ando, 80, was an invalid who died in May in a house fire. Kijima had served as his nurse, was seen at his home in Chiba Prefecture the day before the fire and had withdrawn money from his bank account.



Four additional victims are suspected: The naked body of Sadao Fukuyama, a shop manager, was found at his home in Chiba Prefecture after he had loaned Kijima ¥74 million (£491,000), and another boyfriend, identified as 53-year-old Takao Terada, who died of carbon monoxide poisoning at his home in Tokyo in February. The body of Kazumi Yabe was discovered on the seabed in April after he apparently died in a fishing accident, Hideki Maruyama was found face-down in a stream in October and an unnamed journalist was run down by a train in May 2004.

## **UnknownMisandry.blogspot.com**

Triple boyfriend killer handed death sentence

JapanTimes.co.jp, April 14, 2012

SAITAMA — A woman accused of killing three of her lovers was sentenced to death Friday in a high-profile lay judge trial that was based solely on circumstantial evidence.

The Saitama District Court ruled that Kanae Kijima, 37, killed the three men in 2009 and attempted to disguise their deaths as suicides.

In handing down the sentence to Kijima, the presiding judge, Kazuyuki Okuma, said: "The defendant repeatedly committed quite serious crimes that claimed the lives of three people.

"There is no room for leniency because the defendant committed the crimes for selfish purposes," he said. "She repeated irrational excuses in court and did not show any remorse."

Takao Terada, 53, and Kenzo Ando, 80, were found dead at their homes in suburban Tokyo and Chiba Prefecture, while 41-year-old Yoshiyuki Oide's body was discovered in a rented car in Saitama Prefecture.

The lay judges served for 100 days, the longest period on record since the system was introduced in 2009, and the lack of conclusive evidence placed an enormous amount of pressure on them.

Prosecutors had demanded the death sentence, saying Kijima only dated the men for their money to support a luxurious lifestyle, and killed all three after they demanded she repay them.

They claimed that all three men died of carbon monoxide poisoning from coal briquettes and stoves that Kijima herself had prepared. She dated the men until just before they died, they said.

"The defendant committed the crimes so she could maintain an embellished life," Judge Okuma said.

The defense counsel, however, argued that Terada and Oide both committed suicide after arguing with Kijima about breaking up, and that Ando's death was accidental. They immediately appealed to a higher court the same day.

"The evidence presented by the prosecutors does not sufficiently prove the defendant murdered the three men," the defense team said.



## **Prosecutors seek noose for alleged triple boyfriend killer**

JapanTimes.co.jp, March 13, 2012

SAITAMA — Prosecutors demanded the death penalty Monday for a woman charged with killing three ex-boyfriends in 2009 and disguising their deaths as carbon monoxide poisonings.

In their closing arguments at the lay judge trial presided over by Kazuyuki Okuma at the Saitama District Court, prosecutors said Kanae Kijima, 37, has shown no remorse over the deaths.

Kijima pleaded not guilty. She said the men either committed suicide after arguing with her over their breakups, or died by accident.

The prosecutors said the defendant began dating the men because she wanted to live in luxury, then killed them so they couldn't demand repayment. They also said she took money from one of the men's bank accounts.

They also pointed out that all three died of carbon monoxide poisoning, and claimed that Kijima prepared the coal briquettes and stoves herself and would meet with the men until just before their deaths.

Despite the absence of direct evidence linking Kijima to the crimes, such as witness testimony or even a confession, the prosecutors said these factors are sufficient proof of her guilt.

The bodies were found from January to August 2009. Takao Terada, 53, and Kenzo Ando, 80, were found dead at their homes in Tokyo and Chiba Prefecture, while Yoshiyuki Oide, 41, was found in a rental car in Saitama.

The indictment said Kijima used the briquettes and stoves to disguise the slayings as suicides.

Kijima's defense team will make its final argument Tuesday. The court will rule on April 13.

## **Accused killer got 100 mil. yen from elderly man**

The Yomiuri Shimbun, February 19, 2012

A woman on trial for allegedly murdering three men and faking their suicides has testified that she received nearly 100 million yen from an elderly man she had known.

Kanae Kijima, 37, on Friday told the Saitama District Court about her past relationships with men and the amount of money involved. Her lawyers likely will try to present Kijima as a woman who has no objections to accepting money from men and was seriously looking for a marriage partner who would assist her financially.

The defense questioned Kijima mainly about her relationship with an elderly man in Chiba Prefecture, whom she met in June 2001.

"I lived a luxurious life when I was young, so I can't lower the quality of my life," Kijima said she told the man when he asked about her attitude toward money.



Kijima also said the man gave her "nearly 100 million yen, I think" and that she never felt the amount of money was inappropriate.

About her life after the man died in 2007, she said, "I thought the best thing would be to find a man [who would help me financially]."

Prosecutors claimed Kijima registered with a matchmaking website to get money from other men after her elderly benefactor in Chiba Prefecture died. They assert she killed three men, including Yoshiyuki Oide, 41, to end their relationships after she cheated them out of money.

Prosecutors pointed out that a component of sleeping pills detected in Oide's body was also found on a mortar and pestle police seized from Kijima's house after Oide's death.

During its questioning, the defense also touched on the way Kijima took medicine, stating she took sleeping pills after grinding them with the mortar and pestle. The defense is expected to claim the presence of the sleeping pill component is irrelevant.

The following are Kijima's answers to questions from her lawyers.

Q: You met a man from Chiba Prefecture in 2001, correct?

A: I applied for a job he posted on the Internet, because the salary was 200,000 yen a month. I cleaned and prepared his meals about once a week at first.

From the second month, I received 300,000 yen in addition to my salary. I gradually stopped hesitating, and I think I received nearly 100 million yen in total from the man.

Q: Did the man not say anything about the situation?

A: He told me it wasn't necessary for me to change, as I lived according to special values and my charm was that I wasn't aware of it.

Q: Later the man became ill and stopped sending you money, right?

A: I thought the best thing was to find a man like him, and I joined a dating service website [before joining a matchmaking website]. I sometimes went to a hotel and received money. I had no compunction about taking it.

Q: You visited a psychiatrist for the first time in March 2005, didn't you?

A: I had insomnia. I was diagnosed with depression and prescribed sleeping pills.

Q: Have you prepared medicine by grinding it?

A: I ground the pills using a mortar and pestle. I didn't want the staff at the pension where I often stayed to know what kind of medicine I took.