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FILED DISTRICT COURT
Third Judicial District
AUG 16 2024
By: _____
Salt Lake County
Deputy Clerk

IN THE THIRD DISTRICT COURT, SALT LAKE DEPARTMENT
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALT LAKE, STATE OF UTAH

STATE OF UTAH, Plaintiff, vs. BEVAN KUAJIAN, DOB: 08/05/2007 3905 S Kathleen Circle West Valley City, UT 84120 Defendant. BIEL, MARE DOB: 12/02/2005 Co-Defendant(s)	Screened by: HOMICIDE TEAM Assigned to: TO BE ASSIGNED INFORMATION DAO # 24.013790 BAIL: NO BAIL WARRANT WARRANT/RELEASE: Case No. 24909713 Co-Defendant DAO# 24.013793
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The undersigned Detective D. Alvarez - West Valley City Police Department, Agency Case No. WV24-57631, upon a written declaration states on information and belief that the defendant, BEVAN KUAJIAN, committed the crime(s) of:

COUNT 1

MURDER, 76-5-203, a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 13, 2024, at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did, as a party to the offense, engaged in the commission, attempted commission, or immediate flight from the commission or attempted commission of any predicate offense, Felony Discharge of a Firearm, or was a party to the predicate offense; and a person other than a party as defined in Utah Code Section 76-2-202 was killed in the course of the commission, attempted commission, or immediate flight from the commission or attempted commission of any predicate offense.

COUNT 2

FELONY DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM WITH BODILY INJURY, 76-10-508.1, a Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 13, 2024, at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County, the defendant, as a party to the offense, did knowingly or having reason to believe that any person may be endangered by the discharge of a firearm, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or persons;

(b) with the intent to intimidate or harass another or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or habitable structure; or

(c) with the intent to intimidate or harass another, discharged a firearm in the direction of any vehicle.

Furthermore, the aforementioned violation caused injury to any person.

COUNT 3

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - CAPITAL/FIRST DEGREE FELONY CONDUCT, 76-8-306(2)+(3A), a Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 13, 2024, at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County, the defendant, as a party to the offense, did with intent to hinder, delay, or prevent the investigation, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person regarding conduct that constitutes an offense that would be a capital felony or first degree felony:

(a) provide any person with a weapon;

(b) prevent by force, intimidation, or deception, any person from performing any act that might aid in the discovery, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person;

(c) alter, destroy, conceal, or remove any item or other thing;

(d) make, present, or use any item or thing known by the actor to be false;

(e) harbor or conceal a person;

(f) provide a person with transportation, disguise, or other means of avoiding discovery or apprehension;

(g) warn any person of impending discovery or apprehension;

(h) warn any person of an order authorizing the interception of wire communications or of a pending application for an order authorizing the interception of wire communications;

(i) conceal information that was not privileged and that concerned the offense, after a judge or magistrate had ordered the actor to provide the information; or

(j) provide false information regarding a suspect, a witness, the conduct constituting an offense, or any other material aspect of the investigation; and

(3)(a) is a second degree felony if the conduct that constitutes an offense would be a capital felony or first degree felony.

COUNT 4

FELONY DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM, 76-10-508.1, a Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 13, 2024, at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County, the defendant, as a party to the offense, did knowingly or having reason to believe that any person may be endangered by the discharge of a firearm, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or persons;

(b) with the intent to intimidate or harass another or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or habitable structure; or

(c) with the intent to intimidate or harass another, discharged a firearm in the direction of any vehicle.

COUNT 5

FELONY DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM, 76-10-508.1, a Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 13, 2024, at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County, the defendant, as a party to the offense, did knowingly or having reason to believe that any person may be endangered by the discharge of a firearm, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or persons;

(b) with the intent to intimidate or harass another or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or habitable structure; or

(c) with the intent to intimidate or harass another, discharged a firearm in the direction of any vehicle.

COUNT 6

FELONY DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM, 76-10-508.1, a Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 13, 2024, at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County, the defendant, as a party to the offense, did knowingly or having reason to believe that any person may be endangered by the discharge of a firearm, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or persons;

(b) with the intent to intimidate or harass another or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or habitable structure; or

(c) with the intent to intimidate or harass another, discharged a firearm in the direction of any vehicle.

COUNT 7

FELONY DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM, 76-10-508.1, a Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 13, 2024, at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County, the defendant, as a party to the offense, did knowingly or having reason to believe that any person may be endangered by the discharge of a firearm, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or persons;

(b) with the intent to intimidate or harass another or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or habitable structure; or

(c) with the intent to intimidate or harass another, discharged a firearm in the direction of any vehicle.

COUNT 8

FELONY DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM, 76-10-508.1, a Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 13, 2024, at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County, the defendant, as a party to the offense, did knowingly or having reason to believe that any person may be endangered by the discharge of a firearm, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or persons;

(b) with the intent to intimidate or harass another or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or habitable structure; or

(c) with the intent to intimidate or harass another, discharged a firearm in the direction of any vehicle.

COUNT 9

FELONY DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM, 76-10-508.1, a Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 13, 2024, at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County, the defendant, as a party to the offense, did knowingly or having reason to believe that any person may be endangered by the discharge of a firearm, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or persons;

(b) with the intent to intimidate or harass another or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or habitable structure; or

(c) with the intent to intimidate or harass another, discharged a firearm in the direction of any vehicle.

COUNT 10

FELONY DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM, 76-10-508.1, a Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 13, 2024, at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County, the defendant, as a party to the offense, did knowingly or having reason to believe that any person may be endangered by the discharge of a firearm, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or persons;

(b) with the intent to intimidate or harass another or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or habitable structure; or

(c) with the intent to intimidate or harass another, discharged a firearm in the direction of any vehicle.

COUNT 11

FELONY DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM, 76-10-508.1, a Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 13, 2024, at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County, the defendant, as a party to the offense, did knowingly or having reason to believe that any person may be endangered by the discharge of a firearm, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or persons;

(b) with the intent to intimidate or harass another or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or habitable structure; or

(c) with the intent to intimidate or harass another, discharged a firearm in the direction of any vehicle.

THIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON EVIDENCE OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING WITNESSES:

Detective D. Alvarez, Officer C. Facer, Nyang Mony, Harun Wanthi, Chang Malek, Officer J. Levitt, Detective J. Wells, Detective N. Johansen, and Dr.Krehbiel

DECLARATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your affiant bases probable cause on information and evidence collected by West Valley City Police Department, Case No. WV24-57631 and the following:

The statement of West Valley Police Officer C. Facer that on July 13, 2024, he responded to a report of an assault with a weapon and located 17-year-old N.D. with a gunshot wound to his chest. N.D. was taken to the hospital where he later died of his injuries.

The statement of Nyang Mony that he was the front passenger in his friend's brother's white Lexus. Nyang stated that Harun Wanthi was driving and N.D. was in back. Nyang stated that Harun suggested they go to the car meet at Charlie's gas station. Nyang stated that they parked behind the building near the diesel pumps. They talked about a few of the cars that were there and decided to leave because no one was racing. They decided to drive to Salt Lake City to ride scooters around for fun. Nyang stated that they began driving southbound on 5600 West when they pulled into the Winco parking lot at 2592 South 5600 West, in Salt Lake County to use their phones to find an address. Nyang stated that Harun stopped the Lexus, and they started looking on their phones. A few seconds after they parked, Nyang saw an Infiniti stop behind the Lexus, the passenger of the Infiniti rolled down his window, and a black handgun came out. Nyang heard "three or four" gunshots, and he could see the flash as the gun was firing. Nyang remembered trying to duck to avoid the shots and N.D. did the same. Harun put the Lexus in drive and drove away. Nyang stated that he looked back at N.D. and saw that he was bleeding from his chest.

The statement of Harun Wanthi that he, N.D., and Nyang had taken his brother's white Lexus to Charlie's gas station for a car meet. Harun knew several people with racing cars meet at the gas station on weekends. When they arrived at the gas station, they parked the white Lexus in the back of the building, near the diesel pumps. They sat in the car and waited for the race to start, but it never did. They decided to leave since no one was racing. Harun needed to pull an address up on his phone, so he pulled over near 5600 West at the Winco. Harun stated that as he was looking up the address, he heard several gunshots coming from behind his car. After the shots, he heard N.D. yell, "I got shot." Harun was unsure where N.D. was shot but saw lots of blood.

Detectives confronted Harun with several messages they found on his phone from Snapchat. Harun had signed into Snapchat and sent a message to the "MBK" group chat saying, "ik who tf did ts bro" "Yall alr know on bro" and "I cant say through text I want niggas on bro." Harun then said that he thought the shooter was BEVAN KUAJIAN. Harun stated that KUAJIAN was angry with him because of an ex-girlfriend. Harun stated that KUAJIAN and MARE BIEL are cousins and are usually with each other. Harun stated that KUAJIAN has the same car as the one he saw following him in the footage from Charlie's gas station. Harun was not sure when KUAJIAN purchased the Infiniti, but he knew it was a newer vehicle for KUAJIAN.

Harun stated that he was having issues with KUAJIAN and BIEL because they had gotten into an argument a year ago. KUAJIAN and BIEL tried to apologize to Harun, but Harun did not accept the apology. After Harun started hanging out with Nyang and N.D.'s family and friends. Harun explained that KUAJIAN and BIEL are from one tribe in Sudan and Nyang and N.D. are from another. KUAJIAN and BIEL are upset that Harun is hanging around with a different tribe. Harun stated that his issue has mainly been with KUAJIAN and that KUAJIAN has been telling people that he was going to rob Harun. According to Harun, he and KUAJIAN had fought each other several times since they stopped being friends. Harun reported that in the weeks leading up to the homicide, BIEL had started to make additional threats to rob and beat up Harun. Harun stated that KUAJIAN and BIEL are known to carry firearms and have easy access to them. When asked who he thinks shot at them, Harun admitted that it would have most likely been Bevan.

The statement of Chang Malek that N.D. is his cousin. Chang stated that earlier in the day, he had hung out with N.D., Nyang, and Harun. They had agreed to go to Salt Lake City to ride scooters around, but he wanted to shower first. Chang told N.D. and Nyang to wait for him, but when Chang got out of the shower, they were gone. Chang stated that a little while later, he received a call from N.D. Chang heard N.D. say his name and then heard three or four gunshots. Chang heard N.D. drop the phone and then muffled noises. Chang hung up the phone and called Nyang. Nyang answered the phone and Chang could hear screaming. Chang stated that he heard N.D. in the background saying he had been shot. Nyang was screaming for Harun to "drive" because N.D. was "bleeding out."

The statement of West Valley Officer J. Levitt that he reviewed video surveillance from Winco and observed a white Lexus enter the northeastern driveway from 5600 West about 2326 hours. The Lexus pulls into a parking spot near the northeast corner of Winco being closely followed by a darker colored sedan. The darker colored sedan slowed as it neared the Lexus, then paused a moment just out of camera frame before continuing south in the lot. The Lexus fled westbound through the northern side of the Winco lot just after the darker sedan passed it. The darker sedan can be seen driving recklessly out of the Winco parking lot onto 5600 West before turning off its headlights and fleeing south at a high rate of speed.

The statement of West Valley Police Detective J. Wells that he reviewed video surveillance from The Storage Spot which showed the south side of Winco. Detective Wells observed a white vehicle pull into the parking lot, followed by a dark colored Sedan. There are multiple flashes of light that seem consistent with muzzle flashes. Then the white car drives down the road West turning into an apartment complex.

Detectives located 9 shell casings stamped Tulammo 7.62x39 in the Winco parking lot.

The statement of West Valley Police Detective N. Johansen that Detectives learned through their investigation in this case that KUAJIAN and BIEL are in a rap group called the APE Boyz (Addicted Paso Eaters.) This group, according to Detective Johansen, is mostly Hispanic males that are members of or associated with the QVO gang. KUAJIAN and BIEL are the only Sudanese males in the group. In multiple music videos posted to the public on YouTube, KUAJIAN and BIEL are seen with handguns, rifles, money and what appears to be marijuana in the videos. One of the firearms featured in these videos appears to resemble a rifle capable of firing a 7.62 x 39 caliber bullet.

The further Statement of Detective Johanson that it was also learned through interviews with Harun, Obama Kueny, and Suzan Kueny that KUJIAN and BIEL are always with each other and are rarely separate. Since the date of the homicide, neither have been seen, which is outside the normal behavior for both of them. Instagram accounts that are open to the public view from members of the APE Boyz mention missing both KUJIAN and BIEL. Nyoun Chuol, a close family member to both KUJIAN and BIEL described to investigators both Bevan and Mare abruptly left the area, and their whereabouts are unknown. This behavior is completely abnormal for both KUJIAN and BIEL per Nyoun. Nyoun described how he hung out with both KUJIAN and BIEL very regularly, including visiting KUJIAN'S house almost daily. However, it was strange to Nyoun that he hadn't heard from either since around the time of the homicide.

According to Detective Johanson, throughout the investigation, it has been consistent that KUJIAN has been the driver and the one in control of the vehicle (Infiniti.) The gun capable of firing the 7.62 x 39 would likely have to be held outside of the window in order for the casings to exit the vehicle. It is unlikely, given KUJIAN'S large stature, that he was able to drive and lean across the entire cabin of the vehicle and hold the gun outside of the passenger window, which leads investigators to believe BIEL was with KUJIAN in the vehicle and is the likely shooter.

Additionally, Salt Lake City Police were able to establish a CI providing information regarding KUJIAN'S whereabouts. Through this CI, it was learned that Bevan is likely in Omaha, Nebraska with the Sudanese community there. Separate from that a warrant was written and served on BIEL'S Instagram account that provides the Lat/Long of the device used to access the account. The location showed Mare access an IP in West Valley City the day before the homicide. There is no account access for nine days. It then accesses, and continues to access, an IP address in Omaha Nebraska. The lat/long of the IP is within a mile of the address provided by the CI for KUJIAN.

Dr. Krehbiel with the Office of the Medical Examiner conducted an autopsy on N.D. Dr. Krehbiel observed the N.D. was shot in the back on the right side of the body and the bullet exited the right side of his chest, near the shoulder. Dr. Krehbiel noted that the bullet severed several arteries and collapsed his lung. Dr. Krehbiel cited the cause of death as a gunshot wound and the manner of death as a homicide.

REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF A WARRANT:

The defendant is charged with multiple felonies, and based upon the above probable cause statement, and there is substantial evidence supporting the charges and clear and convincing evidence that the defendant would constitute a substantial danger to any other individual or to the community or is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court, if released on bail. The defendant is believed to have fled the State after the incident and it is believed that he is in Omaha Nebraska staying in a large Sudanese community. In this case, the victim and his friends attended a car meet and were headed to ride scooters in Salt Lake City. When they pulled over to get an address, the defendants pulled up behind their vehicle and opened fire. The defendant was struck by a bullet and later scummed to his injuries. During the investigation, Detectives learned that Harun and the defendants have issues and Harun may have been the target. The deceased victim was an innocent bystander. The defendant is known to carry firearms and have easy access to them. It was also discovered that the defendant had recently purchased the Infiniti that was used in the incident and the Infiniti is linked to other drive by shootings in the valley. The detectives have not been able to locate the Infiniti since the shooting. The defendant fled the scene and his current whereabouts are unknown. The defendant is a danger to the community and Harun is likely to risk further acts of violation and retaliation from the defendants. The defendant is also known to be in a Rap group called APE (Addicted Peso Eaters) and has been documented by law enforcement to be with QVO members (a gang.) Due to the serious nature of the allegations, the defendant immediately fleeing the scene, and his whereabouts unknown, the State requests that a no bail warrant be issued in this matter.

Pursuant to Utah Code Annotated § 78B-18a-106 (2018) I declare under criminal penalty of the State of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my belief and knowledge.

Executed on: 15th day of August, 2024.

/s/ DAVID ALVAREZ

Declarant

Authorized for presentment and filing:
SIM GILL, District Attorney

/s/ Melanie Serassio
Deputy District Attorney
15th day of August, 2024
MS / MM / DAO # 24.013790

OTHER PENDING CASES FOR THE DEFENDANT

Court	Court Case #	Trial Judge	DAO #	Charge
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