



SUSPECT'S LOVE LETTERS TO JONBENET, A1

Killer or fantasist?

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Sunday StarTimes

AUCKLAND MAN DRAGGED 2KM TO HIS DEATH

By EMMA PAGE

A DISTRAUGHT woman tried desperately to stop her friend being dragged to his death under a car, breaking the driver's window in a vain bid to stop the vehicle.

The 24-year-old man was dragged 2km under a white stationwagon through the south Auckland suburb of Otahuhu, leaving a bloody trail over five streets before members of the public discovered his body on Great South Rd.

His horrific death is the latest in what the police describe as a continuation "of these ridiculous and horrific South Auckland turf wars".

Five weeks ago 19-year-old Haruru Pekepo was shot in the neck and later died when 20 young people clashed at the same spot at the intersection of Awa St and Nikau Rd where Friday's drama began.

The latest victim and about seven other people believed to call themselves the SPIs, or South Pacific Islanders, had gathered in front of Pekepo's homemade shrine, drinking under a street lamp decorated with red bandannas and flowers.

Police say the group was "minding their own business remembering their lost colleague" when two vehicles carrying several Polynesian or Maori men drove past yelling out a gang slogan. A fight broke out between a passenger in one of the cars and a male in the group.

A woman tried to intervene, stabbing the passenger with a broken beer bottle but a second car drove at the fighting pair, knocking the victim to the ground and trapping him under the car.

Police said the woman then tried to stop the vehicle, a Mitsubishi with lowered suspension, running alongside it for more than 15 metres before breaking the window to try to stop the driver.

Detective Sergeant Brett Shields said police were unsure if the victim was conscious when the car drove off.

"We don't know if he's been knocked out by the first impact. Really that's the question mark."

After the initial impact it appears the car was unable to drive off.

Detective Inspector Steve Rutherford said the wheels were spinning, unable to gain traction on the road.

The car moved slowly for 10-15m before speeding away.

A neighbour, who did not want to



be named because she was so frightened by the incident, said she heard swearing, screaming and the sound of breaking glass at about 11pm.

Otahuhu business owner and community worker Debbie Mailo said she heard about the latest death when one of her employees was stopped at a road block on her way to work on Saturday.

"It's terrible what is happening in Otahuhu - if we don't do something about these young people, it's going to turn into a state of anarchy."

She said gang tensions had been building over the past few weeks. Rutherford said the turf wars had "horrendous costs to victims and their families" as well as for the offenders and their families "when they are locked up and put before the court".

The victim's name had not been released last night.

Richie McCaw took another pounding in last night's hard-fought Bledisloe Cup win over the Wallabies at Auckland's Eden Park. Bruised and bloody after being ruthlessly targeted, the All Blacks skipper will wake up today so sore it will be hard to get out of bed. How does he do it? See News A6.

HE PAYS IN BLOOD

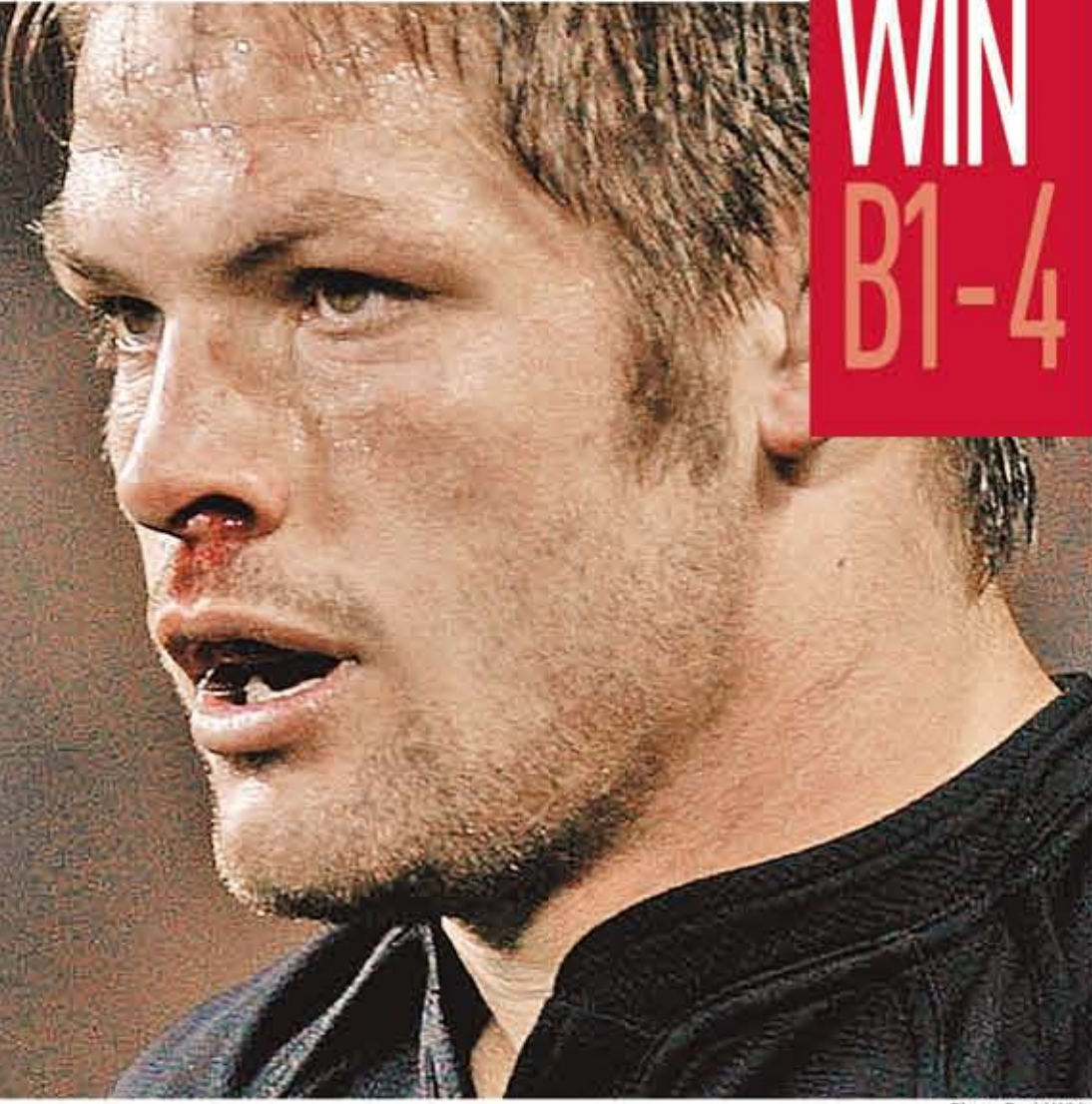


Photo: David White

ABS WIN B1-4

McNAUGHT TOLD HUSBAND SAFE

By DEIDRE MUSSEN

KIDNAPPED New Zealand cameraman Olaf Wiig is alive and well, his wife has been assured by the Palestinian president.

Broadcaster Anita McNaught met President Mahmoud Abbas late last week - one of a series of top-level meetings held in a bid to secure the release of Wiig, 36, and his fellow Fox News journalist, American Steve Centanni, 60.

Both were snatched at gunpoint on Monday in Gaza City.

Wiig's father, Reverend Roger Wiig, told the *Sunday Star-Times* yesterday: "She met Abbas and was sitting on a chair right beside him when he assured her that Olaf was alive and well. I think he had assurances from some groups who say they know that."

Abbas also told McNaught her husband and Centanni were guests in his country and their safety was paramount.



Anita McNaught with a photo of her husband, Olaf Wiig.

Despite the assurances McNaught, who met her husband while they were both working for TV3 in Auckland, made a tearful televised plea yesterday for information on the whereabouts

of the two kidnapped journalists.

Throughout her appeal, McNaught fought back tears and kept her hands balled in tight fists.

"If somebody knows any

information, can you please tell us because I want him home so much," she said.

"He and his colleague, Steve, don't deserve this. They are good men, they are good men and they should be allowed to come home. Please let him come home. Please," McNaught said before breaking down in tears.

All major militant groups in Palestine have denied involvement in the kidnappings.

A huge diplomatic effort has been launched by New Zealand, America, the United Kingdom and Palestine to secure their release.

But Rev Wiig said fears for the journalists' safety were rising because of the length of time without contact.

McNaught, who arrived in Gaza on Wednesday, was in high-level meetings until midnight on Friday (9am yesterday NZ time), discussing the pair's plight.

She is hoping to meet with Palestinian militant group Hamas.

Wiig said President Abbas had stepped up security surrounding McNaught to ensure her safety, providing armed guards wherever she went.

Staff at the Fox News bureau in Gaza where she spends most of her day describe her as composed and strong although under tremendous stress.

Olaf Wiig's parents moved to London from New Zealand five years ago to be closer to their son and McNaught. They were visiting family in New Zealand when the kidnapping occurred on Monday.

"It was going to be a brief holiday but it has turned into a nightmare."

Olaf Wiig's identical twin, Sven, a Wellington art director, told his father that he intuitively felt his brother was OK. Their sister, Kjersten, a neuroscientist in America, was finding the waiting very stressful.



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