

Axel Petermann
Criminalist and certified police case analyst d. D.
[REDACTED], Telefon: +49 171/4809596
E-Mail: Koenigsmoor@t-online.de

Death of Susan Waade born 30th July 1980 in Berlin, Research and file analysis

On 30th June 2007 the German student S. W. was found dead in the flat of her former partner and musician

Evangelios "Akis" Oikonomou
born 30th April 1960 in Athens
resides Lesvou 39 – 41, Athens

Her death had occurred several days earlier. The state of her body was in advanced rottenness. They assumed, suicide by hanging had been cause of her death. Time of death was determined at the 25th June 2007. After the post-mortem examination of the body in the forensic medicine in Athens on 2 July 2007 the human remains were buried at the cemetery in Zograou, a district of the city Athens, at the request of Aki Oikonomou. At that time, Susan's family still hadn't been informed about her decease.

A request for exhumation and repatriation presented by Susan's mother was rejected by the Athens prosecutor's office with reference to the advanced state of body decomposition and associated sanitary considerations for the police. Three years after the burial in an earth grave, followed after a body exhumation an official order, that the body of S. W. had to be buried for another year on the cemetery and that it was not allowed to bring her body to Germany. After the expiration of that time, the human remains of S. W. were buried in an anonymous part of the cemetery in Zografou by unsettled reasons.

Due to the request of Susan Waade's parents, last year I dedicated intensively on the unnatural death of her daughter. On the basis of the documents handed over to me and translations of file contents (incomplete) and police photographs I analysed the events and the traces in the flat of Oikonomou. Furthermore, I spent the time from 31st July to 11th August 2020 and another time from 20th August to 29th August in Athens and on Crete. There I visited the place of finding the dead in the apartment house Lesvou 39-41, Athens and talked to several witnesses about the death of Susan. About my activities and the conclusions to

be drawn from them I reported in the specialized book / non-fiction book, on behalf of the dead, published by Penguin Random House. The results of my research there described, are only reproduced in abbreviated form, and can be completed in the context of a testimony ordered by the prosecutor.

At my research I have noticed numerous inconsistencies with the statements in the statements noted in the file. Furthermore, I noticed a lack of forensic investigations, respectively negligence in evaluations of the crime scene traces and thus contradict the official findings of the investigation, which do not allow any explanation for Susan Waade's unnatural death other than suicide.

The file shows that according to Akis' statements, his former partner Susan visited him in his apartment on June 25, 2007. He didn't like her visit because on that day he was preparing for his journey to Crete, wanted to leave in the early evening, in order to reach the ferry of Piräus, the near harbour, at 9 p.m. In the former hippie stronghold of Matala, he has been playing music in a beach bar for years in the summer months, together with an acquaintance.

(According to the records of the file), Susan had reproached him because of the separation pronounced by him a few months ago, his imminent departure and his commitment of several months in Crete. She tried to drink alcohol - contrary to her other habits- what he prevented. The mood was very charged because, against her wishes, he had neither kissed her nor put a mutual photo into his baggage. Finally, he had left the apartment, drove with his car to the harbour of Piräus, while Susan remained alone in the apartment. Around 19:11 Susan made 2 phone calls from the landline with friends.

The last sign of Susan's life, according to the Athens investigation file, was an observation by the former property manager of the Lesvou 39 - 41 Athens apartment complex, Ms. Elini Katsima. She claims to have seen the deceased in the entrance area of Evangelios' apartment around 10:30 p.m., about an hour and a half after the ferry departed. Subsequently, according to Oikonomous and the official version on the unnatural death, Susan must have hanged herself.

After completing my research, I commissioned Prof. Dr. Brinkmann to prepare a private forensic medical opinion on the question of the manner of death as well as the interpretation of the traces and traces of blood at the place where the dead body was found. Prof. Brinkmann was, among other things, director of the Institute of Legal Medicine in Münster for many years and president of the German Society of Legal Medicine. In addition, due to his previous research interests in the analysis of blood traces, the histo-morphology of drowning, and-

appropriately for the death of Susan Waade-the evidence of suffocation, he seemed well suited to answer my questions in a competent and unbiased manner. Already at this point I would like to note that according to Prof. Brinkmann, on the basis of the findings on the corpse described in his expert opinion and on the basis of the traces in the apartment of Oikonomou, there is a high degree of suspicion of a homicide.

About my Vita

At my own request, I transferred from the Bremen police force to the criminal investigation department in 1975. I completed my training as a Detective Commissioner there and have been working in the Commissariat for Violent Crimes since 1980. First, I worked as a clerk, later as Head of the First Homicide Squad and Deputy Head of this department. From 1998 onwards, I dealt with case-analytical methods, the so-called profiling. I completed several years of training at the Federal Criminal Police Office to become a certified police case analyst. I built up the Operative Case Analysis Unit in Bremen, of which I was the head until my retirement in 2014. In my time as a homicide investigator or case analyst, I have worked on or led the investigation of over 1000 cases of unnatural death. Among other things, also a large number of suicides after hanging.

Evaluation of the crime scene photos Oikonomou flat, Lesvou 39 - 41, Athens

Attorney Vassili Gousanis, lawyer for the Waade family, sent me electronically scanned crime scene photos from the Oikonomou apartment and of Susan Waade's body in the Athens forensic medicine department. Even if the quality of the photographs is not always satisfactory due to blurring and also the photographer's choice of subject regarding the conditions at the place where the dead body was found, I can make the following observations. For a better understanding, these are supplemented Oikonomou's statements and with his own explanations.

Flat-Corridor

The photos of the flat corridor show that scarves are hanging down from a coat rack behind the door on the right. The fringes at the ends of the scarves are clearly visible. On the left side of the corridor is a half-height counter, which at the same time separates the corridor from the living room and this only leaves room for a narrow corridor into the living room.

1. Picture:

The door of E. Oikonomou's apartment broken open by the locksmith. Several scarves hanging down from the wardrobe

2. Picture

A pair of dark sunglasses and a bunch of keys lie unfolded on the worktop.

Room divider with sunglasses and bunch of keys. In the centre of the picture are to be seen the knotted scarfs, which were used as strangulation tool, guided over a room divider

I recognise several keys spread out like a fan. Presumably these items belong to Susan.

In the photos, the view goes to the left into the salon or living room, where there is a service-hatch to the kitchen with a counter and two stools as a dining area. There appears to be a light on in the kitchen, but there is no indication in the police report as to whether the officers switched on the light or whether it was on when they entered. There is also no information on whether blinds were lowered or the windows were covered. The description of the lighting conditions might have helped to narrow down the time of Susan's death, as the sun set in Athens was on the day of Susan's death at 20:52 CEST (Eastern European Summer Time). Oikonomou claims to have left for the ferry in Piraeus just under two hours earlier. And Susan Waade was still on the phone with two of her friends.

3. Picture

Kitchen

The following photos are shots from the kitchen, where I can see the base cabinets of a plain kitchen unit under a window with a blind pulled down. The drawer of the base cabinet on the right is wide open. To the left of it is a simple electric cooker with a dish towel neatly draped over its oven door handle.

View into the kitchen. On the shelf a bread knife , the top drawer of the base unit is pulled wide open. The doormat lies slanted in the room

4. Picture

The blade of the bread knife appears to be clean and without blood applications. A forensic examination, among other things for traces of blood or DNA blood traces or DNA tests, was not carried out according to the present documents.

In their report, the police officers mentioned that the kitchen utensils were "carefully placed" on the worktop. And I have the same impression: on the left of the worktop is a dish drainer, on which I discover a salad colander, a plate, possibly another plate or a wooden board and, on a cloth, six wine glasses and a mug. The cup contains cutlery, apparently placed there to dry. A wipe hangs neatly folded over the tap. To the right of it are, among other things, a bottle of washing-up liquid, a water bottle and a household sponge can be seen on the shelf. The bottles of wine or beer mentioned by Oikonomou, the used beer glass as well as a corkscrew are not visible in the photos; not even when the photo of the drawer with the cutlery is zoomed up.

Interpretation of the situation in the kitchen:

The scene gives me the impression that someone has tidied up the kitchen, has brought something to a conclusion. This could be connected with Oikonomou's planned departure for Crete. However, my impression of this "harmony" is "disturbed" by the bread knife lying on the edge of the work surface. The tip of the knife points towards the washbasin. The knife blade looks clean and is obviously without blood applications. In the translated documents available to me, there is no reference to a forensic examination in this regard. The wide-open drawer reinforces my impression of different emotions: order on the one hand, excitement on the other. The drawer must have been pulled out with such energy, that it almost fell to the floor. But why?

One explanation could be found in Oikonomou's first statement on 1 July 2007 after his return from Crete. There he reported that Susan Waade, despite his request not to come, came to see him at around 4.30 p.m. and demanded to be let in. She had fetched a bottle of wine from the living room cupboard, rushed into the kitchen and tried to open the bottle with a corkscrew. She was very angry and wanted to know why he had broken up with her. It was important for him to take the wine away from her, and he put the bottle away. However, his

consistency had not stopped her from drinking. She had immediately taken a bottle of beer from the fridge, got a glass and drank it. They had continued to discuss, during which she had repeatedly reproached him for the fact that she had come to Greece because of him.

Despite these serious allegations, Oikonomou claims to have continued to prepare his departure: "At the same time I was packing my things, because my ship to Crete was due to leave soon. She helped me with that and also took my luggage to the car. Annoyed as she was, she said that she would kill herself if I actually left her. I did not take this threat seriously." "When I reached the ferry at about 8pm, I called her, but she didn't answer."

It is surprising that in this statement Oikonomou does not address the situation in the kitchen with the drawer of the base cabinet pulled out and the bread knife. This only happens almost a year and a half later in his third interrogation on 22.12.2008. The police had summoned him to give a statement. In the meantime, Susan Waade's parents had complained to the Greek Prime Minister about what they saw as the inadequacy of the investigation. In contrast to his earlier statements, Oikonomou now reported that Susan had tried to unlock the apartment with her key when she arrived, but was unable to do so because another key was stuck inside. This version could indeed be correct, if it is Susan's keys on the room divider from the corridor to the living room, which she left there after entering the apartment. She banged on the door and rang the bell until he finally opened the door, Oikonomou repeated parts of the statement he had already made and added that Susan, in response to his question, "Do you want to get drunk? You never drink!", went to the fridge without answering, took out a bottle of beer and drank it hastily. "Because she drank so quickly, she had to cough. Suddenly, she picked up a knife from the kitchen table and clutched the blade with her hands. She turned the knife not at me, but at herself."

Oikonomou now claims to have wrung the knife out of her hand and left the kitchen. While she was following him, she told him to stay with her: "If you leave me, I will kill myself. I'll kill myself. I have nothing to lose." Oikonomou does not want to have believed this, although according to his first testimony there had already been two suicide attempts: the opening of the wrists in his flat and later in Crete, when she tried to jump out of a moving car.

5. Picture

Bathroom

The police photographer captured a snapshot of the bathroom, but it only documents the entrance area. This photo is also blurred, so I can only make out a few details, but the situation in the small, white-tiled room gives me an impersonal impression, even though there are several small objects on the sink and on the shelf under the closed mirrored cabinet. The toilet lid is folded up (or missing). On top of the washing machine on the wall to the left is a white cloth or piece of clothing pushed together. The unplugged appliance plug is visible from under it.

View into the bathroom: The toilet lid is up or missing.

Between the toilet bowl and a washing machine lie

3 three displaced floor mats - obviously shifted after a turning movement to the left.

A (newspaper) basket also seems to have tilted to the left.

However, this image is overlaid by a dynamic on the floor: three bathroom mats are displaced, presumably by a rotational movement, with the edge of a grey mat leaning against the toilet bowl. A woven basket (with newspapers?) on the floor is tilted to the side. Obviously, a person has turned very abruptly to the left and then left the room. For me, this is a second place where unusual events may have taken place.

Bedroom:

The bedroom can be reached via a small corridor. Here, too, the light of a ceiling lamp is on, and this time, too, there is no explanatory note in the police report as to whether the light was on or not when the operation began.

6. Picture

View into the bedroom and the used bed. In front on the right probably a used bath towel. A (bed) cover is covering a remote control or the handset of a telephone.

A dark carpet hangs on the wall, in front of which is a French bed covered with a blue sheet. At the front of the bed lies a white bath towel that appears to have been used. In the middle of the mattress is a duvet cover pushed together lengthwise. It almost completely covers an object which is probably a TV remote control or telephone handset. There is a covered cushion on the headboard. Opposite the bed is a shelf with two TV sets. The situation looks to me as if

someone has been lying in bed, talking on the phone or watching TV, possibly washing and drying himself beforehand. Otherwise, the room is untidy but appears tidy, apart from a magazine lying on the floor. Fittingly, Oikonomou stated in his 3rd interrogation on 22 December 2008, that he had been asleep when Susan had visited him in the flat against his will.

7. Picture

Living room

The living room or drawing room is where the dead Susan Waade was found. The room was created from formerly two rooms, as shown by an exposed lintel in the middle of the room. I recognise the hanging corpse of Susan Waade, under whose dead body a pool of a dark brown liquid has formed on the floor, presumably already dried up.

View of the living room with the hanged Susan Waade. Around the corpse, a dark liquid has collected which seems to have dried. The red arrow marks a red drop on Susan Waade's white shorts.

8. Picture

View of the hanging corpse in the side seat. A red dried pool is clearly visible. Two slip-on sandals are lying next to the right foot of the deceased or about one metre away from it. The white chair (red arrow) has been moved and is standing about one metre away from the room divider.

Before I explain this situation further, I will try to orientate myself in the room by looking at the photo. In the front area, there is a round table with a blue blanket on a maize straw carpet. Books and boxes are piled up on it. A colourful picture postcard sticks out a little over the edge of the table. To the left of it, a white case can be seen. Presumably from a mobile phone, but unfortunately the photographer has only taken a detail this time. This could be Susan Waade's mobile phone, which is missing. Next to the table are two chairs painted white, one of which is clearly facing the corpse and thus also the room divider. However, due to its large distance from the room divider, it was probably not used as a climbing aid in order to be able to place the scarf more easily over the sturdy support.

9. Picture

Finding of the hanged Susan Waade in the side seat. The body weight of the dead woman has extended the length of the two scarves as a hanging tool. The arrows from Susan Waade's white shorts document blood-suspicious applications, likewise in, next to, and in the front sling sandal. On the lower left could be seen the missing mobile phone of Susan Waade.

And yet another detail stands out: Directly on one of the two front chair legs, in the centre of the dark stain there is a brown sling sandal for the left foot. The dark brown liquid near the body has reached the upper part of a blue carpet with colourful patchwork elements and has soaked through in some places. However, there appear to be additional isolated dark drops in the pile of the carpet, which could be blood. When the picture is zoomed , a blood-like dark drop can now also be seen in front of the displaced white chair. The second sandal is lying about a metre away from these places and directly below the picture postcard on the table. Here, too, on closer inspection, I discover several blood-suspicious drops on the carpet and on the inside of the sandal.

I look at more photographs from the room. This time the photographer took the picture from another direction into the room. In two of the photos, I can see a sideboard on the right side of the wall in the front room, which is also full of all kinds of objects. Between it and the lintel is an open shelf with a large number of music cassettes. The situation in the room seems untidy to me. On the other side of the room, a narrow corridor is kept free between the table and the service-hatch to the kitchen. It leads to the corridor. The second room is furnished with various electrical appliances, such as a stereo system, mixing desk, PC tower and monitor as well as a TV set. The TV is on and showing the current programme. When Susan Waade died, she will not have been watching the current programme, because the body is facing away from the screen. At the front of her top there is a broad run-off mark of a reddish-brown liquid, it is doubtful whether it was putrefaction from the mouth and nose or blood.

10. Picture

View of the dead woman from the front. At Susan Waade's top shows a wide reddish-brown run-off mark. The red arrow indicates a suspicious application of blood, possibly a drop. In the background the switched on television.

View from the back of the living room towards the entrance area. In the front right of the photo a stool lying on top with blood-suspicious applications in the form of drops.

In front of the TV set, on a colourful carpet, lies an upside-down pine-coloured wooden stool. It is estimated one meter away from the buttocks of the death. I zoom in because I recognise several reddish-brown and almost circular spots on the upper underside of the stool.

12. Picture

Close-up of the stool with blood-suspicious mould marks/applications (see arrows).

Like the marks on the carpet, these remind me of drops of blood that have fallen vertically.

Directly under the room divider, the dead woman hangs by two scarves knotted together. The scarf running across the bar is white with black and purple stripes at the ends. Both ends hang down the same distance. The second and much narrower scarf is rainbow coloured. The body hangs directly under the lintel. The scarves are tightly stretched and have become longer and longer in the preceding days due to the weight of the corpse. The rainbow-coloured scarf leads to the neck of the dead.

Susan Waade's position resembles a side-sit, her upper body slightly tilted to the side, knees bent and lower legs stretched back. The buttocks hover a few centimetres above the floor. I can well imagine that she was originally kneeling, but slowly slid into the sideways position due to the scarf getting longer and longer. Her upper body is erect, her head tilted to the right. The face with dark brown, half-length, curly hair has suffered heavily from the changes of death and heat. The hair is tied in a ponytail with a simple elastic band. Unfortunately, it is not possible to see exactly whether hair is trapped under the scarf. This could have been an indication that the victim was hanged by someone else's hand, since experience has shown that perpetrators of forcible hanging do not pay attention to the victim's strands of hair. Fluid may have flowed from the mouth and nose of the deceased, leaving a wide reddish-brown trail on clothing and forming a now-dried dirty brown pool around the hanging body. Another explanation would be that blood flowed from a wound - not visible in the photos. Since such a trace image with the different possibilities of interpretation can easily lead to misinterpretations, I have, as already mentioned, due to the importance present for the case, commissioned Prof. Brinkmann to evaluate the origin of this accumulation of fluid. In his estimation, this is blood that flowed

from a major wound while she was alive. See also the expert opinion on forensic medicine by Prof. Brinkmann dated October 13, 2020.

Interview with forensic pathologist Soultana Marianou, Forensic Medicine Athens

After prior registration, I was able to talk to the forensic pathologist Soultana Marianou about the death of Susan Waade in the presence of Anna Dziewior-Petermann and Vassilis Gousanis at around 10:30 a.m. on August 10, 2020. According to the two-page forensic medical report No. 2797 available and translated to me, Ms. Marinou had performed the autopsy of the deceased on July 02, 2007, but had signed the corresponding protocol only eight months later on March 17, 2008.

Gousanis interpret our conversation again. After I have given Mrs. Marianou the original Greek document as well as copies of the photographs taken during the autopsy, she skims over the little information about the condition of the deceased recorded in the protocol. Keyword-like, she began to repeat the contents of her report: female corpse 26 years old, intact physical condition with good nutritional status. The deceased had been in a state of advanced decomposition, with the skin detached, tongue hanging out and maggot infestation. The way the forensic pathologist presents the results of her examination at the time makes it clear that she has no recollection of individual findings.

Nevertheless, during the autopsy she wants to have recognized a clearly developed strangulation furrow/ groove at Susan Waade's neck. About its course, when asked, she explained that it rises and the loop of the scarf ends below the left ear. This statement is important because, that a strand furrow running upward could be indicative of a hanged one, but a more horizontal course could be taken as indicative of a strangle or throttle /choke. We look at the autopsy photographs, but the course of the cord furrow cannot be clearly depicted due to the poor quality of the photographs and the lack of detailed photographs of the neck region. When we look at the photographs of Susan Waade's face, I specifically ask Ms. Marianou about a dark spot - possibly a hematoma - above the left eye, she assures me that it was not an injury, but a late corpse appearance due to putrefaction. However, she denied questioning whether she examined Susan Waade's head, face, and shoulders, arms, and wrists for signs of blunt force trauma, i.e., after being struck or held down.

Instead, she literally states," I was merely performing an autopsy in a routine case after all." The police had not called me to the place where the dead body was found, nor had they pointed out the possibility of having committed a crime. Susan Waade's suicide had been certain to me. "We're not going to mangle (dissection) the body there."

The meaning of "mangle" here (dissection) is the fan-like cutting of the body surface of the extremities and torso of a cadaver to look for injuries/hematomas deep in the tissue. This examination, which is otherwise routine in autopsies, did not take place in the case of the dead Susan Waade, contrary to all standards.

The forensic pathologist's statement is also noteworthy because she had apparently considered the examination of Susan Waade's body to be a routine examination; according to Vassilis Gousanis, law in Greece requires the autopsy of deceased persons - regardless of their cause of death -. A leaflet of the German representations in Greece, <https://griechenland.diplo.de/gr-de/service/-/2201336> , also refers to a general mandatory autopsy of foreigners who die in Greece; apparently even if there is no evidence of extraneous cause or any other form of unnatural death.

Unlike in Germany, where the circumstances and cause of death must be clarified, the autopsy of Susan Waade's body appears to have been performed solely for formal reasons, with the clarification of the actual cause of death having been pushed into the background. For Mrs. Marianou - according to her statements - the cause of death suicide had already been determined before the start of the post-mortem examination, so that for her there was obviously no need for further clarification. The extremely brief report on the autopsy also emphasizes this assumption.

After about 30 minutes, Mrs. Marianou ended our conversation with the remark that she now had to comply with a current forensic medical examination. No hints as to the disappearance of the two scarves, which functioned as strangulation tools, could be obtained from my interview partner during the visit to the Athens forensic medicine department. Obviously, these-as well as Susan Waade's clothes-were disposed of. The photos available to me from the section room show the deceased initially still dressed in a skirt and blue shirt as well as a scarf construct tight at the neck, the ends of which lie on the floor. The clothes are completely soaked with rotting liquid, obviously the result of the transport of the deceased to the forensic medicine, where no attention was paid to the preservation of traces on the clothing, after all, the cause of death was certain.

Interview with property manager Eleni Katsima, born July 09, 1932 in Athens, residing Lesvou 39-41, Athens on August 08, 2020.

Ms. Katsima was the property manager for the apartment building Lesvou 39-41, Athens in 2007. At her instigation, Susan Waade had been found in the apartment of "Akis" Oikonomou on June 30, 2007. In her police interrogation of the same day, which lasted just under an hour the same day, the witness stated that on Wednesday, 27 June 2007, i.e. two days after Oikonomou's departure, she had been informed by various flat owners of an intense stench coming from flat no. 4. She had assumed that Oikonomou had merely forgotten to remove his rubbish from the flat, so that she had informed his brother of the smell. When he did not react and the intensity of the smell increased, she informed the police, who found Susan Waade hanging.

The testimony of Ms Katsimas had been of particular importance in 2007, and to this day, for the evaluation of Oikonomou's alibi. As the witness had stated that she had seen Susan Waade for the last time on at the entrance to Oikonomou's flat on the evening of Monday 25.06.2007, at around 10:30 pm. This was about one and a half hours after the usual departure of the ferry from Piraeus to Heraklion. In order to clarify the circumstances of her observation of Susan Waade, I went to talk to the witness. I was again accompanied by Anna Dziewior-Petermann and the lawyer Vassilis Gousanis, who translated the conversation with the former caretaker into German. On ringing the bell and a short conversation over the door speaker, the front door is opened. In the first floor of the apartment building, a woman is waiting for us. She introduces herself as Mrs. Katsima's carer, consults with her employer and then invites us into the flat. The nurse leads us into a darkened bedroom that has been converted into a hospital room, where the now 81-year-old woman is lying in her bed. A small, old, pale woman with dark, neatly combed hair. She looks at us kindly, then leans on her forearms and straightens her upper body upright. Gousanis explains to her the reason for our visit and it quickly becomes clear that Katsima can indeed remember the last time she met Susan Waade on 25 June 2007. Gesturing, she explains: "It was early evening. The woman was standing in the doorway of Oikonomou's flat. I thought she was waiting for him." When I enquired about Gousanis as to the exact time, he lets me know that the the former house manager could not remember exactly, but that it was in the early evening. Instead, Ms Katsima now gives a detailed account of how Susan Waade's body was found. "The police arrived, a locksmith opened the flat door and "Aki's" girlfriend was hanging dead in the living room in a noose on a tie." I wonder

about the term "tie" and ask. but the lawyer sticks to his translation. Gousanis goes on to explain that in addition to the building manager, four other residents had given the police information about the increasing smell and the situation at the time of Oikonomou's departure, but she alone had been questioned in writing. Unfortunately, I do not know who the other residents were and whether they still live in the house. To my surprise, Gousanis suddenly reported that on the presumed day of Susan Waade's death, Mrs. Elina Katsima's bedroom had been painted. She had to spend the night in the living room. I learn that this is directly above the room in which Susan Waade was later found dead. Mrs. Katsima literally said: "Around midnight I was startled out of my sleep by a loud thud. It came from Oikononou's flat. I wondered and thought about what could have fallen over there, but then fell asleep again because there was silence afterwards. Today, I assume that Aki's girlfriend jumped to her death around that time.

Mrs Katsima's statements are remarkable because, without the old woman seeming to be aware of it, she has described a completely new fact about what happened on 25 June 2007: her last her last encounter with Susan Waade in the early evening, as if she had been waiting for "Akis" Oikonomou. This would be plausible, because in his third interrogation on 22 December 2008 at the police station in Kypseli, "Akis" Oikonomou had testified that Susan had helped him carry his belongings to the car before he left and she was therefore forced to leave the flat. If the property manager had indeed observed Susan Waade hours earlier on 25 June 2007, this would give Oikonomou's alibi a completely different meaning. Then Susan Waade's last concrete sign of life would not have been at 10:30 p.m. but at the time of the phone calls from 7:11 p.m. to her friends. Under these circumstances, Oikonomou had enough time to kill Susan Waade, arrange the act as a suicide and drive to Piraeus by car in order to catch the ferry there in time for 9 pm.

Before I can ask the old woman any more questions, the Greek lawyer explained to me that she had known Evangelios Oikonomou when he was a baby. He had lived with his mother and brother in the flat below hers, which was of the same size. Since his mother moved back to her home village a few years ago, he first lived alone in the flat, then with Susan Waade and now with now with his wife and a child.

**Meeting with Evangelios Oikonomou on 09 August 2020 in Matala/Crete -
Excerpt of his interview**

On 9 August 2020, together with Anna Dziewior-Petermann, I went to the Dolphin beach bar in Matala. where Oikonomou and his friend Emmanouil Psarakis have been engaged as musicians for many years during the summer months.

At around 4 pm, Oikonomou appears at the beach restaurant. He is not alone, but is accompanied by a boy of about 10-years. When I speak to him in English a short while later and explain that I want to talk to him, he is only briefly surprised and explains that he first has to install the technology for his performance. After a few minutes, Oikonomou comes to our table and looks at me with both friendliness and interest. Presumably he assumes that I want to hire him for a performance. When I mention Susan's name, I am surprised at how strongly he reacts to his former partner's name. From one second to the next he turns ashen, quickly sits down on a chair, presumably to find his footing.

Tears shoot into his eyes, which he wipes away with the back of his hand. His voice is quiet when he says, "Susan was my great love." He has been married for several years and has a son, but that relationship is nothing like Susan's. "I still suffer from her death". They met here in a beach bar on Crete, where he had been playing music for about 20 years. Susan was here on holiday and asked if she could sing along. "Of course," he replied, because her voice was great. It was through music that Susan and he became a couple. She visited him again and again in Greece and then moved into his Athens flat. Oikonomou begins to rave about Susan's talent and her beautiful voice. As she had been without income in the first period in Greece, he had financed her vocal training and arranged for her to perform. Later, during her studies she also taught children from diplomatic families. Susan's problem, however, was her family. As far as he knew, there had hardly been any telephone calls or even visits for years. "Susan suffered from depression because of this. She wasn't taking any psychiatric drugs, but she had already seen a psychologist here in Greece. I found her to have two personalities. Sometimes she was very happy, but then the next moment she was very sad and angry at everything." Shortly before Susan's death, the relationship finally broke down. "I had broken up with Susan and she came to stay with a friend. She wanted her independence. She said she had rented her own flat. She didn't say where it was, but I think it was in my neighbourhood. At these words, Oikonomou becomes restless and signals to me that his performance will begin in a few minutes. Nevertheless, he continues in his explanations when he says: "Susan knew that I was leaving for Crete to play music like every year. She wanted to see me before I left and say goodbye. She stayed behind in my flat

when I left. There had been no argument. She wanted to prepare for an exam at the university. After my arrival here in Crete, I called her several times on her mobile phone, but she did not answer the calls. He said he was surprised because she was sad that she couldn't come to Crete with me, but the plan was for her to join us ten days later." Oikonomou's testimony that Susan had also wanted to come to Crete a few days after his departure is new. Why had he not already spoken of Susan's alleged intention in his earlier interrogations and why did he deny an confrontation before his departure, which he had spoken about in great detail in his second and third statements on 22 December 2008? "Although I could not reach Susan, I was not worried. It is true that she had attempted suicide twice before, but there was no indication of that the last time we met." I ask Oikonomou when the suicide attempts had been and if he knew the reason. The man is able to withstand my gaze as he replies, "One time I came home and found her in the bathroom with her wrists slit. The cuts were only superficial. Afterwards she was treated at the hospital." When I ask him the name of the clinic he can no longer remember it. That surprises me, because the hospital must have been very close to his home. Oikonomou goes on to report that the second incident took place on Crete after an argument. Susan tried to throw herself out of the car while driving, but he prevented her: "I was just able to hold her down and pull her back." A few days after his arrival in Crete, the police informed him of Susan's death. He flew back to Athens immediately because he did not want to believe it. "When I heard from the police that Susan's body was very disfigured by the heat, I insisted on an immediate burial and paid several thousand euros for it." He did not inform Susan's parents, because the embassy wanted to take care of it. "I then packed up Susan's personal belongings and later handed them over to Susan's family's lawyer because the embassy had refused to accept them." Before Oikonomou pushes to end the conversation, I ask him where Susan's mobile phone, laptop and diary are. laptop and the diary are. Oikonomou claims not to know. He merely shrugs his shoulders and says that he has handed over all of Susan's things to the lawyer. When I ask Vassilis Gousanis about this later, he denies this claim; it was almost exclusively worn clothing and an old laptop whose hard drive had been deleted. Neither Susan's diary nor her mobile phone were there. Oikonomou apologises, ends the conversation after about three quarters of an hour and leaves me no time for further questions. Nevertheless, he had seemed very eager to me, but now he had to play music; the guests were waiting. He was happy to have met me, but not because of the subject. When I ask him for his phone number, he does not want to give it to me. But says that if I find out his number, I can call him if I have any questions. He is

already leaving when he asks me if I have come on behalf of Susan's parents: "I know they suspect me of killing Susan, but of course I didn't!"

A short time later he and his partner begin the musical performance - sentimental Greek folklore. He avoids eye contact with me.

Phone call with vocal coach Dinah Stieringer, Athens, 09 January 2021

Susan Waade's mother sent me a copy of a collage made by Oikonomou. On it, in addition to photos of the deceased at her musical performances, there is also a tribute to her former singing teacher Dinah Stieringer:

"The Susan I knew was strong in life, strong in her feelings and strong in her music. And now that she's dead now, I miss her."

When I reached Ms Stieringer on the phone, she explains that she had given Susan singing lessons for about two years until her sudden death. It had been a very close and friendly relationship, which she could still remember well. Susan had always been very conscientious about her lessons and had never been absent without an excuse. Dinah Stieringer claims to have heard about Susan's death from "Akis" Oikonomou when she was waiting for her student at the conservatoire for an arranged singing lesson. "When she didn't show up, I dialled Susan's mobile number. It was definitely not Oikonomou's mobile or landline number," she assures me when asked, because she did not know it.

To her great surprise, "Akis" took the call instead of Susan and told her, that she was dead. He had found her dead in his flat three days earlier. Her body had been completely disfigured by the heat in the room. Dinah Stieringer further reports that she asked Oikonomou to refrain from such jokes. "But he stuck to his statement and said that Susan's burial was already scheduled for the next day; the decay of her body would require this."

Dinah Stieringer goes on to say that many people came to Susan's funeral at the cemetery in Zografou, because she had a large circle of acquaintances. Acquaintances from university, musicians, friends and also Oikonomou and his family were there. "She was a respected and popular person with a lot of wisdom. You should have experienced her open laughter! However, a Greek friend of Susan's had expressed doubts about her suicide at the funeral, but did not explain why. When I ask if the woman was Areti Kokinou, a musician Susan had practised with, Dinah Stieringer answers in the affirmative. She herself had blamed Oikonomou for Susan's death and was and was therefore angry with him. Dinah Stieringer claims not to have known "Akis" personally and to have

seen him only two or three times when he took Susan to class on his motorbike. By the way, the two became a couple on Susan's initiative. Her singing student had told her that she was in love with the man and wanted to "have" him.

The relationship was very much characterised by the temperaments of both, with numerous "ons" and "offs", sometimes coming from her, sometimes from him, Susan confided in her. And that meant a lot, a lot of arguing and shouting in different shades."

Dinah Stieringer does not know whether there was violence in her relationship with Oikonomou. Moreover, the term "violence" is interpreted very differently. When I ask the singing teacher to describe Susan's character to me, she explains: "Susan was very pretty, graceful and a very nice person and with a delicate, fragile figure, similar to that of Edith Piaf. On the one hand she was infinitely strong, but at the same time very vulnerable. Her moods could quickly switch to the depressive, but that's more often the case with artists."

Susan's trainer particularly remembers a very resigned-sounding statement.

She was always late anyway and was accompanied by the fear of missing something. Otherwise, Susan organised her life on her own. "Nevertheless, she was a child-woman who looked for a strong relationship and grew up at Oikonomou's side. "Susan wanted to live in Greece and was deeply in love with this man. She chose him.

He was her family, even if he probably - like many Greek men - showed very dominant characteristics and made possessive claims on her. German thinking does not work here in this country in such a relationship." She could empathise with Susan's situation because she herself had been married for a long time to a very dominant Greek man and had experienced many situations with emotions running high until the divorce.

"She was the most frugal person I've ever met - and that means a lot here in Greece!" She had lived on "nothing" and saved on food rather than foregoing her musical goals. She had also refused to drink alcohol. After the separation from Oikonomou shortly before her death, Susan must have entered a particularly difficult period financially. "She had no money. Life as an artist is very hard here. Susan was looking for a flat and trying to organise everything." Oikonomou must have been very supportive of her despite the separation. Oikonomou must have been very supportive of her despite the separation, as she had no income of her own and did not receive state support.

The relationship with Oikonomou was also certainly marked by numerous "relationship thunderstorms". "Does that make you hate someone enough to kill them?" she asked me. She could imagine "hot emotions" in Susan's partner. "But isn't there a cool calculus involved when you hang someone?"

Unfortunately, Dinah Stieringer cannot remember the day of the last lesson, Susan's mood or any possible upcoming exam or possible statements about the fact that Oikonomou was planning to leave for Crete; it was simply too long ago. Although it could well have been Monday, 25 June 2007, but it did not have to be. Moreover, there was no fixed lesson plan, because the next date was agreed from time to time.

Even though Dinah Stieringer cannot remember her last day of lessons with Susan Waade it is certain that Oikonomou was in possession of her mobile phone, which he denied during our conversation at the beach bar in Malala.

Résumé

From my point of view, the research I have carried out has led to considerable doubts about the theory of a suicide carried out by Susan Waade that has been put forward so far in the investigation file.

Here, in particular, the findings at the crime scene with various blood-like applications on the clothes of the deceased, a sling sandal, the carpet and a stool, which cannot be explained by the leakage of putrefactive fluid from the body of the deceased.

These findings are supported by the expert opinion of the former forensic pathologist Prof. Brinkmann, who stated that a "critical evaluation of the photos of the place where the body was found and of the place of dissection in conjunction with the autopsy report shows that Ms. Susan Waade was killed by a combined neck by strangulation (throttling and hanging) and by sharp force (bleeding to death). " This finding would also explain the large pool around the hanging dead woman.

Further indications of a different sequence of events come from the testimonies of the former house manager Eleni Katsima, Susan Waade's singing coach Dinah Stieringer, and the questioning of Athens forensic pathologist Soultana Marianou, who suggests that Susan Waade's body was only autopsied as a "routine case" and no search was made for the true cause of death.

Oikonomou's testimony in the beach bar in Matala also requires critical evaluation, because, despite all his willingness to testify, he became entangled in numerous contradictions to his earlier statements.

I am at your disposal for questions and further statements.

Petermann