



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ORCHARD TOWERS MURDER:
CASE FOR ACCUSED PERSON TAN SEN YANG
TO BE TRIED IN THE HIGH COURT**

The case involving Tan Sen Yang (“**Tan**”), the accused person facing a capital charge of murder, was transmitted to the High Court today. Tan is charged with murder under section 300(c) of the Penal Code, for causing the death of Satheesh Noel s/o Gobidass by using a karambit knife with the intention of causing multiple injuries to the deceased’s head and neck area, and the said bodily injury was sufficient in the ordinary course of nature to cause death.

2 AGC has received queries with respect to the charges preferred against various individuals involved in the above incident, and would like to clarify the matter.

Summary of the Prosecution’s case

3 In the early hours of 2 July 2019, Tan and his acquaintances were drinking at Naughty Girl Club (“**the pub**”), at the second floor of Orchard Towers. Tan was alleged to be in possession of a karambit knife, with a curved blade and a loop at the end of the handle. While at the pub, Tan had at one point allegedly placed the karambit knife on the table, which was seen by various persons in his group.

4 While Tan’s group was leaving Orchard Towers, the deceased confronted them. Tan, Ang Da Yuan, Natalie Siow Yu Zhen, Joel Tan Yun Sheng and the deceased got into a fight. Tan allegedly slashed the deceased a few times. Besides the four involved in the fight, three other individuals were present, namely Chan Jia Xing, Tan Hong Sheng and Loo Boon Chong. Chan, Tan Hong Sheng and Loo were either not involved in, or had tried to stop, the fight.

5 The deceased eventually passed away from the knife injuries. A charge of murder under section 300(c) of the Penal Code was accordingly preferred against Tan.

Proceeded charges and sentencing positions for other individuals involved in the incident

Charges of voluntary causing hurt with common intention

6 Ang, Siow and Joel Tan have admitted to kicking and punching the deceased during the fight. However, there was no prior plan to assault him. The entire incident, from the time of the initial confrontation to the time the deceased collapsed, lasted less than one minute. They also did not know that Tan would use a weapon during the fight. Their acts resulted in two abrasions on the deceased's upper body, which were minor and non-fatal in nature. There was insufficient evidence to show that they intended to cause more than simple hurt. As such, charges of voluntary causing hurt with common intention were proceeded against them.

7 On the basis of the abrasions alone, the ordinary sentencing tariff for voluntarily causing hurt with common intention would have been a fine, falling in the lowest band of a fine or imprisonment of up to four weeks in the guideline promulgated by the High Court in *Low Song Chye v PP and Or* [2019] 5 SLR 526. On account of there being group violence, and public disquiet as the fight had taken place with many members of the public present, balanced with the guilty plea of the accused persons, one month's imprisonment was sought for Joel Tan and Siow respectively for this charge. As Ang was traced with violent antecedents, a sentence of two months' imprisonment was sought for this charge.

Charges for consorting with a person carrying an offensive weapon in a public place

8 As Ang and Siow knew that Tan was carrying the karambit knife on that day and remained in his company despite it, a charge of consorting with a person carrying an offensive weapon in a public place was proceeded against them. On this charge, the Prosecution sought a sentence of 6 months' imprisonment and 6 strokes of the cane for Ang. As Siow was not liable to be caned (being a female), an uplift of three months was sought, bringing the sentence sought for Siow from 6 months' to 9 months' imprisonment. The sentences sought are in line with the guidance published by the Court in *Sentencing Practice in the Subordinate Courts*.

Global sentence imposed

9 Ang was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment and six strokes of the cane (the Prosecution sought for his sentences for both charges to run consecutively). Siow, who was untraced, was sentenced to five months' imprisonment – this is in addition to the 107 days (approximately 3.5 months) which she had earlier spent in remand. Joel Tan, who was untraced, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

Status of other accused persons

10 The cases for Tan Hong Sheng and Loo remain before the Court. Tan Hong Sheng faces one charge of consorting with a person carrying an offensive weapon in a public place, while Loo faces one charge of consorting with a person carrying an offensive weapon in a public place and one charge of perverting the course of justice.

11 For Chan, after considering the facts of the case and the extent of Chan's involvement, including that he tried to stop the attack on the deceased, and his cooperation with police investigations, the Attorney-General's Chambers directed the Police to issue Chan with a 12-month conditional warning for his charge of consorting with a person carrying an offensive weapon in a public place. The charge against Chan may be revived should he re-offend within the 12-month period.

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