

Defence in China student's **beheading** in **Illinois** says he did it

Brendt Christensen, 29, could face the death penalty if he is **convicted** in the June 2017 **abduction** and murder of Yingying Zhang, a 26-year-old student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-**Champaign**.

beheading 斩首

Illinois 伊利诺伊州

convict 证明...有罪

abduction 诱拐; 绑架

champaign 平原

prosecution 起诉; 检举

Christensen's defence lawyer acknowledged in his opening statement that his client killed Zhang but disputed the **prosecution**'s version of events. "You need to know who Brendt was and what he was going through — a downward spiral in his life, " George Taseff told the jury as he sought to protect his client from the death penalty.

While the state of Illinois has **outlawed** capital punishment, a federal trial allowed prosecutors to seek the death penalty.

outlaw 罪犯; 禁止; 宣布不合法

Eugene Miller, an assistant U.S. attorney for central Illinois, said Christensen was obsessed with Bundy, who killed dozens of women in 1970s, and other serial killers.

Christensen took Zhang to his apartment where she fought for her life as he hit her over the head with a baseball bat, raped her and stabbed her in the neck before cutting off her head, Miller said.

"Her blood ran down the wall, " Miller said, as Zhang's relatives listened to an interpreter through **headsets**. "Thousands of miles away from her parents, alone with a stranger, she breathes her last breath."

headsets 耳机

Zhang's body has never been found. Her then-boyfriend Xiaolin Hou told the court on Wednesday: "We will never give up hope to find her."