



**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)  
Detainee Death Report: AMAR, Mergensana**

**General Demographic/Background Information**

- **Date of Birth:** October 23, 1978
- **Date of Death:** November 18, 2018
- **Age:** 40
- **Sex:** Male
- **Country of Citizenship:** Russia
- **Marital Status:** Married (Claims Unofficially); One Previous Marriage
- **Children:** Two Children

**Immigration History**

- On December 5, 2017, Mr. AMAR applied for entry at the San Ysidro, California, Port of Entry
- On December 6, 2017, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) transferred Mr. AMAR to Enforcement and Removal Operation (ERO) San Diego at the San Luis Regional Detention Center (SLRDC) in San Luis, Arizona
- On December 19, 2017, ERO San Diego transferred Mr. AMAR to ERO Seattle at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC), pending immigration proceedings

**Criminal History**

- None on record

**Medical History**

- **On December 19, 2017** Mr. AMAR was admitted to NWDC and deemed healthy without chronic conditions.
- **On August 17, 2018** a registered nurse (RN) evaluated Mr. AMAR due to reports of depression. A psychologist reviewed Mr. AMAR's medical record and deemed no further mental health visits were needed at that time.
- **On August 22, 2018** an advanced practice provider (APP) evaluated Mr. AMAR because he declared a hunger strike. During this visit he voiced, "no intentions of eating from now on," because he would be protesting the length of time it was taking the immigration courts to make a determination about his case. Mr. AMAR denied suicidal or homicidal ideations (SI/HI) and was placed in segregation for meal monitoring.
- **On August 25, 2018**, after missing nine (9) consecutive meals, a medical doctor (MD) admitted Mr. AMAR to the medical housing unit (MHU) for hunger strike protocol. During this visit, Mr. AMAR verbalized experiencing dizziness from not eating or drinking water. The MD ordered baseline laboratory tests, which Mr. AMAR refused.
- **On August 29, 2018**, a behavioral health provider (BHP) attempted to evaluate Mr. AMAR; however, Mr. AMAR refused the evaluation.
- **On August 27 to September 6, 2018**, Mr. AMAR continued to refuse all medical assessments, i.e., vital signs, fluid monitoring, weights, and laboratory testing. Mr. AMAR's mental status exam was: clear minded, goal oriented, and no indication of hallucinations. He did complain of body pain, especially back pain, but refused pain medication. A declaration to involuntarily initiate intravenous (IV) fluids and monitoring was sent to the court for approval.



- **On September 7 to October 15, 2018,** NWDC received the immigration court order for involuntary medical assessment and treatment (i.e., vital signs and IV hydration) as needed. Mr. AMAR consented to laboratory testing, vital signs, and fluid intake. His vital signs were: temperature (T) 98, pulse (P) 111, blood pressure (BP) 88/61, respiration (R) 16, and weight 142.4 pounds (lbs.). After seven days of drinking calorie dense supplements (Pedialyte and Boost), his vital signs and weight stabilized. Mr. AMAR remained in the MHU and received daily medical evaluations.
- **On October 16, 2018,** medical and custody staff witnessed Mr. AMAR eating. As a result, his hunger strike was discontinued, and he was discharged to general population. However, Mr. AMAR requested placement in segregation for protective custody (undisclosed reasons), stating if he was not released from detention he would continue his hunger strike; although, he ate fruit and drank Pedialyte and Boost nourishments.
- **On October 26, 2018,** Mr. AMAR was admitted to the MHU on suicide watch due to custody staff finding a “long hand-made rope made of bedding hidden” in his room. This was suspected as a possible suicidal gesture.
- **On October 27, 2018,** the psychiatrist evaluated Mr. AMAR and he denied SI/HI or hallucinations (auditory, visual), but refused to answer further questions related to suicidal ideations. The psychiatrist ordered to discontinue suicide watch and place Mr. AMAR on mental health observation with every ten-minute irregular custody officer (CO) checks.
- **On October 28 to October 31, 2018,** Mr. AMAR continued to refuse to answer questions or allow medical assessments. The behavioral health provider agreed to continue Mr. AMAR on mental health observation with every ten-minute irregular CO checks.
- **On November 1 to 4, 2018,** Mr. AMAR responded “no” to suicidal questions, but then refused to engage with behavioral staff (i.e., he would pull the blanket over his head, or “hide”). However, Mr. AMAR was seen talking with COs and other medical staff.
- **On November 5, 2018,** the behavioral health provider agreed to discontinue Mr. AMAR’s mental health observation orders because he was considered “low risk for suicide,” and he was discharged to general population. Mr. AMAR requested to remain in segregation and remained in the segregation for non-disciplinary/medical reasons.
- **On November 11, 2018,** a CO documented that Mr. AMAR has missed 46 meals. However, documentation also supports Mr. AMAR continued to drink Pedialyte and Boost, in addition to eating selected items off his meal tray.
- **On November 12, 2018,** Mr. AMAR started eating 100% of his meals and requested to return to general population.

### Synopsis of Death

- **On November 15, 2018,** medical staff responded to an emergency call in H segregation. Upon arrival, Mr. AMAR was hanging from a self-made ligature around his neck. The custody staff cut the noose and lowered Mr. AMAR to the floor. His skin was blue, pulseless, and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation was initiated. Upon arrival to the scene, emergency medical services (EMS) assumed care. Mr. AMAR continued to be unresponsive but had a spontaneous pulse. Mr. AMAR was transported to the local hospital and admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) for an anoxic brain injury.
- **On November 17, 2018,** Mr. AMAR remained in ICU, intubated, unresponsive to stimuli with dilated pupils, kidney and liver function failure. In discussion with NWDC’s clinical director



and warden, the trauma surgeon suggested providing only comfort care at that point, and the warden concurred with this decision.

- **On November 18, 2018**, at 5:30 p.m., all tests indicated brain death and Mr. AMAR was declared clinically dead and life support would be discontinued, unless the next of kin requested otherwise.
  - At 6:00 p.m., Mr. AMAR was removed from life support.
  - At 6:05 p.m., Mr. AMAR was pronounced dead due to cardiac arrest.
- On February 28, 2019, the State of Washington Department of Health issued Mr. AMAR's death certificate and documented Mr. AMAR's cause of death as anoxic encephalopathy due to hanging.