

= Murder of Huang Na =

Huang Na (Chinese : 黄娜 ; pinyin : Huáng Nà , 26 September 1996 ? 10 October 2004) was an eight @-@ year @-@ old Chinese national living at the Pasir Panjang Wholesale Centre in Singapore , who disappeared on 10 October 2004 . Her mother , the police and the community conducted a three @-@ week @-@ long nationwide search for her . After her body was found , many Singaporeans attended her wake and funeral , giving bai jin (contributions towards funeral expenses) and gifts . In a high @-@ profile 14 @-@ day trial , Malaysian @-@ born Took Leng How (何土强 ; Zhuó Liángháo) , a vegetable packer at the wholesale centre , was found guilty of murdering her and hanged after an appeal and a request for presidential clemency failed .

= = Background = =

Huang Na 's father , Huang Qinrong , and mother , Huang Shuying (黄淑英) , were both born in 1973 to farming families in Putian city in Fujian , China . They met in 1995 and married soon after , as Shuying was pregnant with Huang Na . In 1996 , Qinrong left China to seek his fortune in Singapore and worked illegally as a vegetable packer at the Pasir Panjang Wholesale Centre . When Shuying found out that he was having affairs in Singapore , she divorced him and was given custody of Huang Na . She later married Zheng Wenhai (郑文海) , a Fujian businessman with whom she had lived for four years , and became pregnant with his child in early 2003 .

In May 2003 , Shuying immigrated to Singapore as a peidu mama accompanying Huang Na , who was enrolled in Jin Tai Primary School . They lived at the Pasir Panjang Wholesale Centre , where Shuying worked . People from the wholesale centre and Jin Tai Primary School described Huang Na as an intelligent , independent , sociable and active child . Huang Na became friends with Took Leng How , a vegetable packer at the wholesale centre . Born in Malaysia in 1981 as the second child of a close @-@ knit family of four , Took came to Singapore when he was 18 , seeking better @-@ paying jobs . At the wholesale centre , he often played with Huang Na , bought her food and gave her rides on his motorcycle .

= = Disappearance and reaction = =

Huang Na went missing on 10 October 2004 ; she was last seen at a food court near the wholesale centre , barefoot and wearing a blue denim jacket and bermuda shorts . From 7 a.m. to past midnight every day for three weeks , Shuying looked across the island for her daughter . The police , including a Criminal Investigation Department team , conducted an intensive search for the girl , and police officers carried photographs of her while on their daily rounds . Volunteers formed search parties and Crime Library , a voluntary group dedicated to finding missing persons , distributed over 70 @, @ 000 leaflets appealing for information . Two Singaporeans offered rewards of S \$ 10 @, @ 000 and S \$ 5 @, @ 000 for finding Huang Na , while the manager of an online design company set up a website to raise awareness and gather tip @-@ offs . The search even extended to Malaysia , with volunteers putting up posters in the nearby cities of Johor Bahru and Kuala Lumpur .

On 19 and 20 October , Singaporean police questioned Took as part of their investigations ; he said that three Chinese men kidnapped the girl . After questioning Took , police accompanied him home and to the police station again for a polygraph test . On the way , they stopped at a restaurant along Pasir Panjang Road for a meal . While eating , Took said he needed to go to the toilet , escaped , took a taxi to Woodlands and sneaked across the Causeway to Malaysia . Singaporean police searched for him until he turned himself in on 30 October , confessing that he had accidentally strangled Huang Na during a game of hide @-@ and @-@ seek in a storeroom . The following day , Huang Na 's body was found at Telok Blangah Hill Park , and Took was charged with her murder . Direct Singapore Funeral Services oversaw her funeral for free . Thousands attended Huang Na 's wake and funeral ; some gave bai jin and gifts , such as sweets , flowers and her favourite Hello Kitty merchandise . However , some Singaporeans tried to make money from the girl 's death by buying 4D numbers associated with her . Others spread rumours that Shuying was having affairs

and was greedy for donations .

= = Trial of Took = =

The 14 @-@ day trial of Took began on 11 July 2005 before Justice Lai Kew Chai in the High Court . The prosecution relied on 76 witnesses , a video in which Took re @-@ enacted the murder , forensic evidence and an autopsy that found several bruises on Huang Na 's head . Based on the evidence , the prosecution alleged that Took lured Huang Na to the storeroom , then stripped and sexually assaulted her . After smothering and stomping on her to ensure her death , he stored her body in nine layers of plastic bags stuffed into a sealed cardboard box . The defence relied on the claim of diminished responsibility . Psychiatrist R. Nagulendran argued that Took was schizophrenic , as some of his behaviour , such as frequently smiling to himself and talking of spirits , was inappropriate and he had no motive for the murder ? Nagulendran also called Took 's story about the three Chinese men a delusion .

On 27 August 2005 , Justice Lai ruled that Took was guilty of murder and sentenced him to death . In his judgement , Justice Lai noted that Took had no history of mental abnormality , the behaviour the defence cited was " not necessarily abnormal " and the murder was " clearly the product of a cold and calculating mind " . Justice Lai also said it was unnecessary to determine the motive for the murder or whether a sexual assault had taken place . Took appealed the death sentence , but the Court of Appeal of Singapore upheld the decision in January 2006 . His relatives gathered 35 @,@ 000 signatures and submitted a clemency petition to President S. R. Nathan , which was rejected in October 2006 , after which he was hanged .

= = Aftermath = =

Zheng and Shuying returned to Putian where Huang Na was buried in a tomb halfway up a mountain near their house . While alive , Huang Na had asked that her surname be changed to her stepfather 's , so her altar tablet bore the name Zheng Na . The couple decided to focus on raising their remaining child , with Zheng planning to pursue business opportunities in Guangzhou or Shenzhen . In January 2007 , Jack Neo considered making a movie about the murder , but both families objected . A follow @-@ up report in 2009 found that Shuying had given birth to another two children and was running a shoe distribution business in Taiwan .