
MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/22/23
TO: District Attorney General's File
FROM: Jared Effler
District Attorney General
8th Judicial District
RE: Homicides at 380 Clinch Valley Road, Luttrell, TN

INTRODUCTION

On January 29, 2023, the Luttrell Volunteer Fire Department and the Union County Sheriff's Department responded to a structure fire at 380 Clinch Valley Road in Luttrell, Tennessee. Upon making entry into the residence, fire department personnel located five deceased individuals, several of which appeared to have sustained gunshot wounds. At that time the sheriff's department secured the scene and contacted my office. I requested the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) to oversee the investigation due to their particular expertise in arson and complex homicide investigations.

Since taking command of the investigation, TBI has kept in constant contact with myself as well as my staff on all updates in this matter. I, as well as my staff, have closely worked with TBI agents during all facets of the investigation and have reviewed all evidence obtained by TBI and the responding officers. Further, I personally visited the scene at 380 Clinch Valley Road.

As District Attorney General, it is my duty to examine what evidence is presented to my office, and after a full and thorough investigation, in a fair and impartial manner determine what, if any, criminal charges should be brought. It is with that objective in mind that I have generated this memorandum.

INVESTIGATIVE FACTS

On January 29, 2023, at approximately 2:31 pm, Union County Dispatch was notified of a fire at a residence owned by Mr. Charles Damon Ali Aljumaily and Mrs. Kelley Aljumaily at 380 Clinch Valley Road in Luttrell, Tennessee. The Luttrell Volunteer Fire Department, the Maynardville Volunteer Fire Department, the Paulette Volunteer Fire Department, and the Union County Sheriff's Department responded to the call. Upon arriving at the residence, Sergeant Andrew Woods with the Union County Sheriff's Department was approached by Nathan Cook, a Sergeant with the Grainger County Sheriff's Department, who said he saw smoke coming from the back of the home as he was driving by and stopped to investigate. Once Luttrell Fire Department personnel arrived on scene they located a deceased

juvenile female (initials B.A., date of birth 10/29/07) in the left rear corner bedroom of the home. The personnel removed B.A. from the bedroom and placed her on the front porch. The fire departments continued to work on extinguishing the fire, which they eventually accomplished.

At this point, TBI Assistant Special Agent-In-Charge Brian Pritchard, Special Agents Tommie Morelock, Randall Woods, and Justin Ramsey, and Fire Investigators Don Cogan and Gary Ornduff arrived and started to process the scene. They noticed that even though the front door had been breached by the firefighters to gain entry into the home the door's dead bolt remained in a locked position. Upon examining B.A. they noticed what appeared to be a gun shot wound in the area of her left eye. Two more deceased juvenile females (A.C.F., date of birth 3/26/13, and E.C.F., date of birth 3/21/17) were then located in the bedroom hereafter referred to as "Bedroom 1." A.C.F. was found kneeling against the bed in Bedroom 1. Special Agents observed what appeared to be two separate gun shot wounds to her head. The Special Agents then located E.C.F., who was found laying on the same bed. She too appeared to have multiple separate gun shot wounds to her head.

Upon entering the living room the Special Agents noticed what appeared to be a deceased adult male. This male was later confirmed to be Mr. Charles Aljumaily - the owner of the home (along with his wife Kelley Aljumaily), the father of B.A. and G.A., and the grandfather of A.C.F. and E.C.F.¹ Mr. Aljumaily's body was too badly burned for them to be able to observe any potential gun shot wounds but the Special Agents were able to extract Mr. Aljumaily's body so that an autopsy could be performed. While removing Mr. Aljumaily's body they noticed the remains of a small juvenile child (G.A., date of birth 12/30/17). Like Mr. Aljumaily's body, G.A.'s body had sustained severe fire and thermal damage, which prevented the Special Agents from being able to observe any non-fire-related injuries. The Special Agents extracted G.A. so that an autopsy could be performed.

For the next forty-eights hours, the Special Agents continued to collect evidence from the home. Inside Bedroom 1 they located a bullet (or "spent projectile") on top of the bed where A.C.F. and E.C.F. were found. They then located three separate .45 caliber spent shell casings in the bedroom. While canvassing the room they also noticed two separate bullet-sized holes in the walls of the bedroom. Using trajectory analysis equipment, the Special Agents determined that both spent projectiles were fired from inside the bedroom and then traveled through the exterior wall of the home. Using the same equipment, the Special Agents determined one of the projectiles' flightpaths, and by tracing that flightpath recovered a spent projectile in an embankment in the front yard of the residence.

¹ Mr. Aljumaily and his wife Kelley Aljumaily have custody of A.C.F.; E.C.F. – Mrs. Aljumaily's biological granddaughter – had stayed the night at their home the night prior to the fire.

In the living room the Special Agents located a .45 caliber round², and a Sig Sauer .45 caliber handgun.³ The handgun was found in a crawl space directly beneath Mr. Aljumaily's body. The Special Agents were able to access this crawl space because the fire had burned a hole in the floor of the living room in this area. Using the northwest corner of the living room as a reference point, the Special Agents calculated that Mr. Aljumaily's pelvis was six feet four inches from the northwest corner, while the Sig Sauer handgun was six feet two inches from the northwest corner. The only other handgun the Special Agents recovered was a .380 caliber Smith and Wesson found in another bedroom in the home.

While the scene was being processed, TBI Special Agent Steve Brown met with and interviewed Kelley Aljumaily. Kelley is married to Charles Damon Ali Aljumaily, is the mother of B.A. and G.A., and the grandmother of A.C.F. and E.C.F.. Mrs. Aljumaily explained that they had lived at 380 Clinch Valley Road for the past eleven years after moving from Tampa, Florida. She told Special Agent Brown that she and Mr. Aljumaily had been having marital problems for a while and that Mr. Aljumaily was diagnosed with border-line bi-polar disorder. She said that Mr. Aljumaily had been paranoid lately and accused her of cheating on him. She explained that for the last few months he had been saying that there was a devil in his head attacking him, and that he wanted to harm himself but was afraid to because of how that would effect his salvation.

Upon being told that the Special Agents' observed gunshot wounds on the victims' bodies, Mrs. Aljumaily said that if her husband was the one who did this he would have used his Sig Sauer because that was his favorite gun. She also said that he would have killed G.A. and himself last. According to her, Mr. Aljumaily said in the past that he felt like the home would "go up fast" in a fire because it was a modular home. She stated that they recently obtained life insurance on the children, after she suggested it, because they thought it would be good luck. She said that if a fire had happened she knew Mr. Aljumaily would get the children out.

When asked if she had anything to do with the fire or murders she adamantly denied any involvement. She stated that she was in Knoxville when she received a call from a neighbor at 2:53 pm that her house was on fire. She explained that she left the house around noon to meet her adult daughter and go to Rural King in Knoxville. While in Knoxville her daughter B.A. faceted her and asked her to come home. She asked B.A. to check on Mr. Aljumaily, B.A. checked on him and

² Preliminary analysis of this spent projectile indicates that this round was not fired by Mr. Aljumaily's Sig Sauer handgun. The TBI determined that the round was not fired from a gun at all, that it was instead a "cook off" round, i.e., a round that exploded due to heat in the surrounding environment.

³ This Sig Sauer handgun was purchased by Mr. Aljumaily in 2013 and is registered to him.

said he was fine, that he was watching TV with G.A. and was about to go to sleep. Mrs. Aljumaily said she received a text message from A.C.F. and E.C.F. around 2:08 pm asking when she would be home. She said that something about Mr. Aljumaily felt off today and that he said to her, "you're going to get everything you want." Mrs. Aljumaily allowed Special Agent Brown to look at her cell phone and he confirmed that the text message and calls happened as she said they did.

On January 30, 2023, Special Agent Kris Sanders obtained a search warrant to search Mrs. Aljumaily's vehicle that she was driving on January 29, 2023. In the car Special Agent Sanders found two receipts from January 29, 2023, as well as a magazine for a .380 caliber handgun. One receipt was for a purchase at Dunkin Donuts at 1:04 pm. The other was for purchases from the Rural King located at 7340 Norris Fwy, Knoxville, TN, at 2:40 pm. Special Agent Sanders also found two Rural King bags with items corresponding to items listed on the receipt. Of note, the call to Union County Dispatch reporting the fire occurred at 2:31 pm.

Special Agent Tommie Morelock met with and interviewed Mr. Aljumaily's brother, Sean Aljumaily. Sean Aljumaily stated to Special Agent Morelock that his brother's marriage to Mrs. Aljumaily was hectic and chaotic. He said that they were always fighting. He told Special Agent Morelock that his brother did suspect Mrs. Aljumaily of cheating on him. When asked about his brother's weapons, Sean Aljumaily stated that his brother loved his Sig Sauer. When asked about his guns his brother would say, "I got the Sig Sauer." Sean told Special Agent Morelock that his brother may have had another gun but he was not sure. Sean stated that a few months ago Mr. Aljumaily told him that he, "felt like ending it." When asked if his brother mentioned killing his family Sean said no, but that he said something like, "God left me a long time ago." Sean told Special Agent Morelock that he actually talked to his brother around 1:50 pm on January 29, 2023, and that he sounded somber and sort of defeated. Sean said his brother stated, "it's bad right now, it's not good right now Sean," in reference to his marriage with Kelley.

Special Agent Morelock then interviewed Mr. Aljumaily's brother Rocky Romano. Mr. Romano told Special Agent Morelock that his brother and Mrs. Aljumaily were always arguing. He also said that Mr. Aljumaily believed that his wife was cheating on him. Mr. Romano told Special Agent Morelock that a long time ago they suspected his brother of being bi-polar and that he was on medication, but that he stopped taking it because he did not like how it made him feel. Mr. Romano talked to his brother on January 27, 2023, and said that Mr. Aljumaily did not say anything off the wall, but that he did not seem normal, it seemed to Mr. Romano that something was bothering him but he couldn't get it off his chest.

Once the on-scene investigation was completed, the firearms evidence was taken to the TBI Crime Laboratory for analysis. The spent projectile found on the bed in Bedroom 1 (where A.C.F. and E.C.F. were found) was microscopically analyzed to determine if it was fired from Mr. Aljumaily's .45 caliber Sig Sauer. The TBI confirmed that it had in fact been fired from Mr. Aljumaily's Sig Sauer. The spent projectile that exited Bedroom 1 and found in the front yard of the home was also microscopically analyzed. The TBI confirmed that it too was fired from Mr. Aljumaily's Sig Sauer. Notably, when the Sig Sauer was recovered its hammer was back in a "cocked" position. Also, there was a round in the chamber ready to be fired.

Dr. Maxwell Rollins, a Board Certified Forensic Pathologist with the Knoxville Regional Forensic Center performed autopsies on the four juvenile victims and Mr. Aljumaily. Dr. Rollins determined that all four victims died from gunshot wounds, the manner of death being homicide. He further determined that Mr. Aljumaily died from a single gunshot wound to the head, the manner of death being suicide.

A.C.F. died from two gunshot wounds to the head. One bullet entered her left occipital scalp, traveled back to front, right to left, and upwards, exiting her left parietal scalp. The other bullet entered the right aspect of her face, traveled front to back, right to left, and slightly downward, exiting the left lateral aspect of her neck. The range of fire was indeterminate. No soot was found on her tongue or airways, and her carbon monoxide test was negative.

E.C.F. died from at least two, and possibly three, gunshot wounds to the head. One bullet entered her left occipital scalp, traveled back to front, upward, and slightly left to right, exiting her left parietal scalp. Because of the thermal damage to E.C.F.'s body Dr. Rollins was not able to determine if the two other observable "defects" (observable wounds) on E.C.F.'s head represented an entrance and exit wound from one bullet, or wounds from two separate bullets. Regardless, both defects reflect a gun shot wound to her right lateral neck and right aspect of her face.⁴ The range of fire was indeterminate. No soot was found on E.C.F.'s tongue or airways, and her carbon monoxide test was negative.

B.A. died from a single gunshot wound to the head. The bullet entered the left aspect of her face (lateral aspect of the left upper eyelid), traveled front to back, left to right, and downward, exiting through her occipital scalp. The range of fire

⁴ E.C.F. also had another gun shot wound to her right hand, which could indicate that she put her hand up in defense and one of the bullets passed through her hand prior to entering her head.

was indeterminate/distant. No soot was found on her tongue or airways, and her carbon monoxide test was negative.

G.A. died from two gunshot wounds to the torso. One bullet entered her left chest, traveled front to back and slightly downward, exiting the midline of her mid back. The other bullet entered her right chest, traveled downward and left to right, exiting her right anterior fifth intercostal space. No soot was found on her tongue or airways, and her carbon monoxide level was mildly elevated at 9%. 95% of G.A.'s body was covered by third or fourth degree burns.

Charles Aljumaily died from a single gunshot wound to the head. Mr. Aljumaily's skull was evaluated by Dr. Murray Marks, a certified forensic anthropologist. Dr. Marks determined that the bullet entered Mr. Aljumaily's right temporal bone, traveled right to left, and exited his left temporo-parietal skull. No soot was found on his tongue or airways, and his carbon monoxide level was at 7%. Mr. Aljumaily's body was entirely covered (greater than 99%) by fourth degree burns.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

In regards to the arson, the evidence collected indicates that the fire was started at or around the dining room located at the back side of the home. An analysis of the depth of charring, areas of lowest burn, levels of destruction, fire effects on contents in the home and structural components of the home, combined with an evaluation of the fire's movement, further indicate that the fire originated at or near the floor level of the dining room area. This area of the home sustained the most severe fire damage which destroyed the combustible materials used to start the fire, and then the floor itself. Notably, all other potential accidental or natural causes of the fire have been ruled out based on the examination of the scene.

In regards to the death of the juvenile victims and Mr. Aljumaily, all evidence indicates that Mr. Aljumaily shot and killed the juvenile victims, started the fire, and then shot and killed himself. We know this because (1) the evidence indicates that the juvenile victims and Mr. Aljumaily all died from gunshot wounds from the .45 caliber Sig Sauer, (2) Mr. Aljumaily had only one gunshot wound and the Sig Sauer was found next to his body, and (3) Mrs. Kelley Aljumaily was in another county when the murders occurred and nothing suggests anyone else was present at the time. Additionally, the lack of soot in the tongue or airways of the decedents indicates that the gunshot wounds were the cause of death, not the fire itself.

Mr. Aljumaily had been telling his wife for months that there was a devil in his head attacking him, and that he wanted to harm himself. His brother said that a few months ago Mr. Aljumaily told him he “felt like ending it.” In what would have been mere minutes before he killed two of his children and two grandchildren Mr. Aljumaily told his brother that “it’s bad right now, it’s not good right now.”

1. The Decedents Died From Gunshot Wounds From The .45 Caliber Sig Sauer

Dr. Rollins concluded that all of the juvenile victims, as well as Mr. Aljumaily, died of gunshot wounds. In the room where A.C.F. and E.C.F. were found TBI Special Agents also found three .45 caliber casings. Two of those casings were located within six inches of the victims. There was one spent projectile that was determined to have been fired within this bedroom, exited the exterior wall of the bedroom, and located in the front yard of the home. The TBI confirmed that this spent projectile was fired from Mr. Aljumaily’s Sig Sauer. Lastly, one more spent projectile was found on top of the bed where E.C.F. was laying. This spent projectile was found merely one inch from E.C.F.’s head. The TBI confirmed that this spent projectile was fired from Mr. Aljumaily’s Sig Sauer as well.

In total, seven .45 caliber casings were recovered from the scene. While doing trajectory analysis on the two bullet holes inside Bedroom 1, TBI Special Agents noticed that the holes were from a larger-caliber gun. Notably, the only other gun found on the scene other than Mr. Aljumaily’s Sig Sauer was a .380 caliber handgun. A .380 round is much smaller than a .45 caliber round and would therefore make a much smaller hole.

2. Mr. Aljumaily Had Only One Gunshot Wound And The Sig Sauer Was Found Close To His Body

The fact that Mr. Aljumaily only had one gunshot wound, combined the rest of the evidence, indicates that he committed suicide after shooting the juvenile victims. Simply put, it is not conceivable that someone could shoot themselves twice in the head. Both E.C.F. and A.C.F. had multiple gunshot wounds to the head.

Though B.A. also only had one gunshot wound to the head, significant is the fact that the Sig Sauer was found close to Mr. Aljumaily’s body, not hers. Mr. Aljumaily was located in the living room of the home, adjacent to an area of the floor that was burned through by the fire. This burning exposed a crawl space beneath the floor where the Sig Sauer was found. Using the northwest corner of the living room as a reference point, the TBI Special Agents determined that Mr. Aljumaily’s pelvis was six feet four inches from the corner, while the Sig Sauer

handgun was six feet two inches from the corner. This is significant because the gun's close proximity to his body, like the fact that he only had one gunshot wound, indicates that Mr. Aljumaily committed suicide. After putting the gun to his head and pulling the trigger, the gun would naturally have fallen out of his hand as his body fell to the floor. The fact that it was found in the living room rules out the possibility that B.A., E.C.F., or A.C.F. was the shooter and then committed suicide, since all of them were found in bedrooms not adjacent to the living room. Though G.A.'s body was located next to Mr. Aljumaily's, it is unreasonable to suggest that a six-year-old carried out these crimes and then managed to shoot herself twice in the chest.

3. Mrs. Kelley Aljumaily Was In Another County When The Murders Occurred And Nothing Suggests Anyone Else Was Present At The Time

When she first heard that there was a fire in her home, Mrs. Kelley Aljumaily was in Knox County. We know this because found in her car were receipts from a Dunkin Donuts in Knoxville from 1:04 pm, and a Rural King in Knoxville from 2:40 pm. Also found in her car were items from Rural King corresponding to the items on the receipt. It is certainly concerning that, upon her suggestion, the Aljumaily's had recently taken out life insurance policies on their children and grandchildren. But there is absolutely nothing to suggest Mrs. Aljumaily was in any way connected to the events on January 29, 2023.

Also, there is no evidence indicating that anyone else was present at the home when the murders and fire occurred. Special Agent Morelock noted that, even though the front door had been breached by fire department personnel, the deadbolt remained in the locked position. Therefore, it does not appear that the door had been forced open by any sort of intruder. In addition, the first person on the scene, Grainger County Sheriff's Sergeant Nathan Cook – who was there close enough in time to see smoke coming from the area of the home where the fire originated – did not notice anything suspicious like a person fleeing from the home. And then there's the fact that the gun used in the murders originated from inside the home, and was owned by Mr. Aljumaily. We know that the Sig Sauer was Mr. Aljumaily's gun because not only was it bought by him and registered to him, both his wife and brother explained his affinity for it. Kelley Aljumaily called the Sig Sauer his "favorite" gun. His brother Sean said he loved the Sig Sauer and if anyone asked him about weapons he would say "I got the Sig Sauer."

CONCLUSION

With a heavy heart, I conclude that Mr. Aljumaily shot and killed B.A., G.A., E.C.F., and A.C.F.. He then started the fire in his home, and committed suicide by shooting himself. Because Mr. Aljumaily killed himself, my office will not be able to bring any criminal charges against him.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the fire departments and law enforcement personnel who responded to the scene, extinguished the fire, spent days recovering evidence under extremely difficult circumstances, and diligently investigated these horrific and heinous crimes. My thanks goes out to the Luttrell Volunteer Fire Department, the Maynardville Volunteer Fire Department, the Paulette Volunteer Fire Department, the Union County Sheriff's Department, the Knox County Fire Investigation Unit, TBI Assistant Special Agent-In-Charge Brian Pritchard, Special Agents Tommie Morelock, Randall Woods, Justin Ramsey, Kris Sanders, Steve Brown, and Fire Investigators Don Cogan and Gary Ornduff.