

Statement from Passaic County Jail – February 16, 2005

On Wednesday, February 16, 2005, at approximately 8:45, INS detainee Heq Sung Soo hanged himself in the Passaic County Jail.

5'6" 165lbs, Brown eyes, Blk hair
DOB 2/13/54 (age 50)
Korean Male

Soo arrived at the jail on January 14, 2005, after BICE requested that we accept a "highly combative and uncooperative" detainee. LT Mason of BICE indicated that Soo was banging his head, biting himself, flinging himself, and generally refusing to comply with any orders.

He was charged with internal disciplinary charges for refusing a direct order and had a hearing. Those charges were dismissed after determining that Soo had difficulty understanding the English language.

Upon arrival, and during the booking Soo refused to be processed. When we attempted to take his picture he dropped to the floor and curled up into a fetal position. When we tried to fingerprint him he jammed his fingers into his mouth and tried to bite them off. He also refused to be medically processed. He was dressed in a paper gown and placed in SDU # 3 for his protection as well as the protection of other inmates and staff members.

On January 17, 2005, Officers making rounds discovered that Soo had made a braided rope out of his paper gown. He was placed in SDU #6 without clothing for observation.

On January 19, 2005, he appeared to unresponsive in his cell. He was checked by medical staff and found to be OK. All vitals were normal and he had no injuries. He was further evaluated by the Nurse Practitioner.

On January 20, 2005, he attempted suicide by wrapping a thin string around his neck (which turned out to be the piping from his mattress). He injured his head when he fell to the floor after the string broke. An officer discovered Soo face down his cell and unresponsive. Soo was transported to Barnert Hospital, treated and transported to St. Mary's for evaluation. He was treated medically and sent to St. Mary's for evaluation. From St. Mary's he was sent to the Ann Klein Forensic Hospital.

On Jan.22, 2005 inmate Soo was admitted to Ann Klien Forensic Center for psychiatric evaluation/treatment .

On Feb.11, 2005 inmate was discharged from Ann Klien and returned to PCJ. The aftercare plan states inmate is to be maintained as an individual who demonstrated self-injurious behavior. Inmate was placed in receiving for observation.

On Feb15, 2005, after discussing the case with BICE it was determined that they did not want him housed in receiving or 1-2. Inmate was placed into SDU#6 for special watch or observation.

On Feb16, 2005 inmate was discovered hanging in cell and was immediately treated and transported to St. Joseph's Hospital Emergency Room via ambulance.