



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detainee Death Report: ABIENWI, Nebane

General Demographic/Background Information

- **Date of Birth:** October 28, 1981
- **Date of Death:** October 1, 2019
- **Age:** 37
- **Gender:** Male
- **Country of Citizenship:** Cameroon
- **Marital Status:** Married
- **Children:** 3

Immigration History

- On September 5, 2019, Mr. ABIENWI presented to the San Ysidro Port of Entry in San Ysidro, California (CA). U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers detained Mr. ABIENWI at the San Ysidro Admissibility Enforcement Unit.
- On September 19, 2019, ICE booked Mr. ABIENWI into custody and placed him at the Otay Mesa Detention Center (OMDC).

Criminal History

- N/A

Medical History

- **On September 11, 2019**, while Mr. ABIENWI was in CBP custody, an advanced practice provider (APP) evaluated him for constipation and a skin rash. The APP documented normal vital signs and a normal physical examination and cleared him for transport.
- **On September 18, 2019**, a registered nurse (RN) completed Mr. ABIENWI's pre-screening evaluation. Mr. ABIENWI asserted a history of past/current illness and taking medications. The RN assigned Mr. ABIENWI "priority 1" status for an expedited intake screening.
- **On September 19, 2019**, an RN completed Mr. ABIENWI's ICE intake screening. Mr. ABIENWI reported the following history: a three-day hospitalization in Mexico for elevated blood pressure readings; a hypertension diagnosis on August 23, 2019, also in Mexico; taking antihypertensive medications for two weeks (discontinued by a doctor because his blood pressure was "already normal"); sexual abuse in December 2017; and rarely drinking four cans of beer, the last instance of which was on September 4, 2019. The RN documented normal vital signs and a lower abdominal rash. As the intake screening was normal, a routine physical examination was scheduled for September 29, 2019.
 - Mr. ABIENWI's OMDC medical records included a certificate dated August 30, 2019, for medical care provided in Mexico, at the Centro De Salud Tijuana. This record outlined Mr. ABIENWI's medical history of hypertension and medication orders for captopril 25 mg (antihypertensive) and ranitidine 150 mg (antacid).
- **On September 26, 2019:**
 - At approximately 3:24 a.m., an OMDC custody officer called a medical emergency for Mr. ABIENWI after he fell off his top bunk, landed on blankets on a chair, and sat on the floor.



- At approximately 3:28 a.m., an RN responded to the medical emergency and observed Mr. ABIENWI confused, sweating, not responding to commands, unable to move the extremities on his left side, experiencing “jerky movements” in all extremities, and complaining of thirst.
- At approximately 3:43 a.m., the RN documented Mr. ABIENWI’s ability to speak and respond to questions; however, he was only alert and oriented to his name. The RN documented normal vital signs except for an elevated blood pressure reading of 180/100 (normal range is between 90/60 and 120/80 mmHg).
- At 3:50 a.m., OMDC staff contacted emergency medical services (EMS).
- At approximately 4:12 a.m., EMS arrived at OMDC.
- At approximately 4:34 a.m., EMS departed OMDC with Mr. ABIENWI.
- At Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center (SCVMC), an emergency department physician (MD) completed Mr. ABIENWI’s physical examination, documented his inability to follow commands, nonverbal responses, and inability to open his eyes. The MD intubated (insertion of a tube into the trachea for ventilation) Mr. ABIENWI, initiated ventilator-assisted breathing, and consulted a neurosurgeon who admitted him to the intensive care unit (ICU). Mr. ABIENWI was diagnosed with acute severe right intraparenchymal hemorrhage (bleeding within the brain).
- **From September 27 to 30, 2019**, Mr. ABIENWI remained in the ICU with multi-system organ involvement, declining neurological examinations, and a high risk for morbidity and mortality.

Synopsis of Death

- **On October 1, 2019**, at approximately 12:05 p.m., two SCVMC MDs confirmed Mr. ABIENWI’s clinical examination results were consistent with brain death and pronounced him dead.
 - At approximately 12:38 p.m., Mr. ABIENWI’s wife was notified of Mr. ABIENWI’s death.
 - At approximately 2:37 p.m., SCVMC discontinued Mr. ABIENWI’s ventilator support.
- Preliminary cause of death: brain death secondary to herniation secondary to basal ganglia hemorrhage.