



Countess Questioned in Grisly Farmhouse Slaying

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Police have launched a murder investigation following the discovery of human remains at a farmhouse near Cairngorms National Park

Margaret McKenzie; a self-described “dark witch” was killed in her rented farmhouse near Cairngorms National Park Tuesday afternoon. Deputy Chief Callum McCoinneach of Police Scotland said constables have visited the farm at least eight times since Miss McKenzie began renting the property about three years ago. All of the complaints were related to animal theft. “People throughout the county have called us on numerous occasions to investigate the disappearance of family pets,” the Deputy Chief said.



Police went to the rural farmhouse following a call from a neighbor who reported hearing what he referred to as “blood-curdling screams” coming from the house. The neighbor told police that a woman arrived at the property and entered the house shortly before the screaming began. Because of Miss McKenzie's reputation as a practitioner of so-called black magic, the neighbor told police he feared the visitor was being harmed. He reported the license number of the visitor's Rolls Royce Silver Cloud and records showed the vehicle is owned by Somerset Belenoff, Countess of Banbury and Arran and a relative of the royal family.

The neighbor, who wished to have his name withheld for privacy reasons, said the visitor stayed at the farmhouse for about two hours and later emerged with seven dogs, which she took with her in her car.

Deputy Chief McCoinneach said this is the most violent crime he has investigated in his law enforcement career. “The victim had bruises around her ankles, all of her ribs had been broken in multiple places, her head had been completely pulverized and some of her organs had been removed. We found a large amount of blood mixed with skull and brain matter at a location on the south west portion of the stone

living room wall which appeared to have been damaged by a forceful blow.”

“We believe the bruises on the victim's lower extremities and the condition of her head are consistent with a person being held by the ankles and swung into a wall,” the Deputy Chief said. “I cannot imagine the strength required to perform such an act. Miss McKenzie was slightly above average height and her weight was proportional to a woman of her height. I’m a large man and I have nowhere near enough strength to do such a thing. Based on what we’re seeing here, I’d estimate the perpetrator would have to be a giant, which is of course not possible. This one is very puzzling.”

Subsequent to being killed, the victim was cooked and partially eaten

The Deputy Chief said in the aftermath of the killing Miss McKenzie had been cannibalized. “In the kitchen we found a bone saw, carving knives and chopping tools. According to forensic examiners, the victim appeared to have been butchered in a professional manner. This leads us to believe that our suspect may in fact be someone who is employed as a professional butcher or who has at the very least done this sort of thing many, many times before. Tissue samples collected from a skillet, plates and eating utensils indicate Miss McKenzie was cooked and eaten, probably by the same person or persons who killed her.”

When asked what parts of the body had been eaten, the Deputy Chief said Miss McKenzie’s heart, uterus and ovaries had been cut out and are presumed to have been eaten by the perpetrators.

Police said they also discovered skeletal remains of more than a hundred animals including those of cats, dogs and goats, throughout the property.

Countess Questioned

Following up on the lead provided by the neighbor, police spoke with Somerset Belenoff, Countess of Banbury and Arran.

“The Countess told us she went to the farm after her staff received multiple complaints from county residents alleging Miss McKenzie or her followers had stolen their pets for use in animal sacrifice ceremonies,” the Deputy Chief said. “We spoke to the Countess at length and her ladyship was charming, kind and forthcoming. She told us Miss McKenzie willingly handed over the dogs and that Miss McKenzie was alive and well when they parted company. All of the animals recovered from the farmhouse have been returned to their rightful owners, who are grateful. I will add that neither the Countess, nor any of her staff are suspects in this investigation and Police Scotland very much appreciates the services they’ve rendered.”

Countess Belenoff is a well-known animal welfare advocate and has donated to OneKind, an organization dedicated to ending cruelty to animals.

Police said the local constabulary will increase the number and frequency of patrols in the area to reassure local residents and counselors are available to anyone in the community who is experiencing anxiety. However, the prevailing sentiment in this community following the grisly murder appears to be one of relief. "I say good riddance and I doubt she'll be missed," said Fergus Campbell, a local farmer, "and whoever did this should get a medal for performing a community service!"