



**Christopher
Stephan
Payne's
Story**

ver. 1

Chris' Case



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Innocence Project Japan



Chris' Case: The Basics

In the middle of the night in July 2018, a woman in Ichikawa City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan, was attacked while walking home. Her attacker forced her to perform oral sex on him.

After the attacker fled, the woman spat out the semen in her mouth, went home, gargled and rinsed her mouth, then reported the crime to the police. The police took a DNA sample from the victim's mouth but were only able to obtain a trace sample that was further contaminated by being mixed with cells from her mouth. This trace and mixed sample made DNA analysis difficult; from the outset, the police were unable to determine the DNA type of the sperm.

Despite that, in November 2021, 3 years and 4 months after the attack, Christopher Stephan Payne was arrested and indicted on the grounds that his DNA profile was "consistent" with the attacker's.

Chris is an athlete who is fluent in Japanese (he has passed N1 of the Nihongo Kentei) . On the night of the attack in July 2018, not only was he working as a fighter at the Tokyo Fight Club in Shibuya, Tokyo (a restaurant with a ring where customers can watch live martial arts); just five minutes after the attack he texted his Japanese girlfriend "Miss you so much". This alibi was only discovered after he was formally charged.

Chris' case is one in which an innocent man is charged based on an unreliable DNA analysis.



The Dark Side of DNA Testing...

Points

- **Convicted based on manipulated DNA test.**
- **“Hostage Justice” = Arbitrary Detention in Japan**

Case Summary

- On **July 12, 2018**, a woman was assaulted in a parking lot in Ichikawa City, Chiba Prefecture, forced to perform oral sex, and injured.
- Chris was arrested in **November 2021**.

Sentenced **8 Years** in Prison

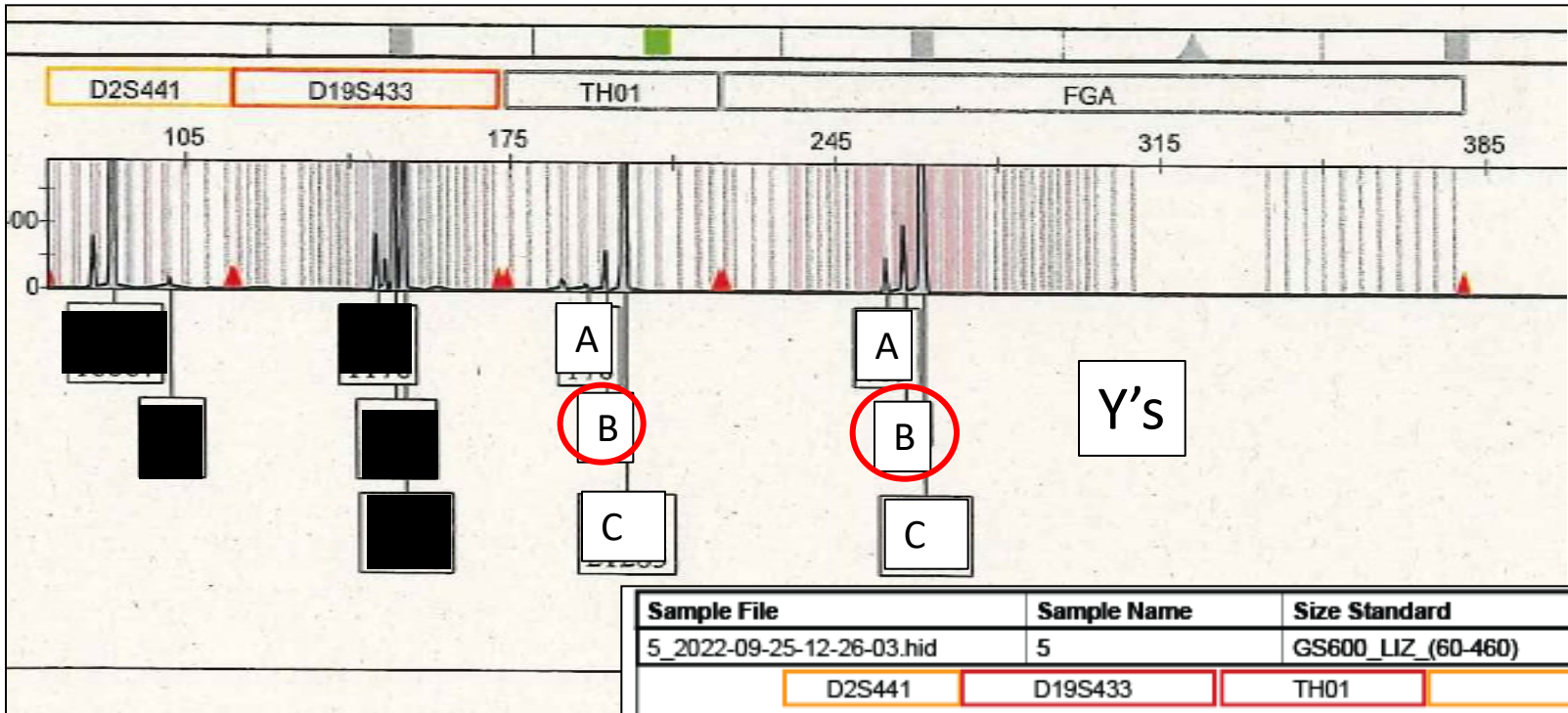
- According to Prof. Y's analysis,
DNA is not inconsistent with Chris's.
- Probability Ratio is **1 in 264 billion**
people. = 1 in **32 Earths!!**



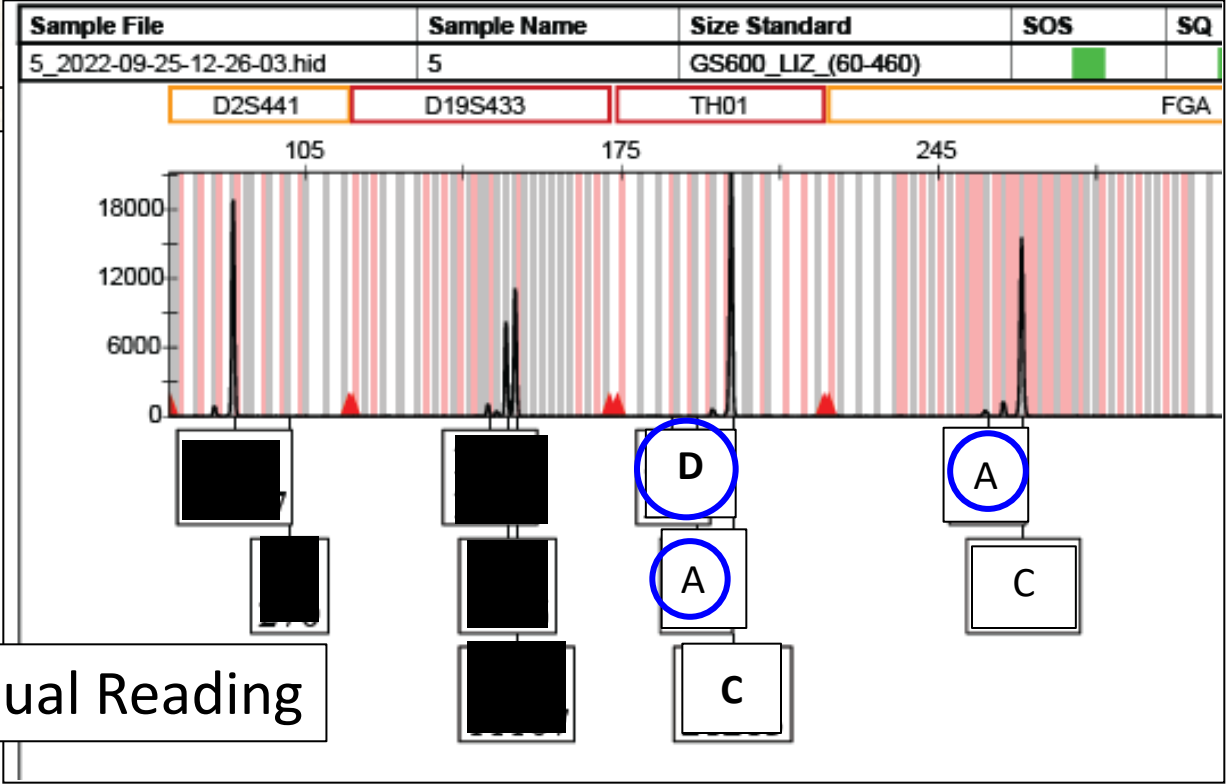
Guilty

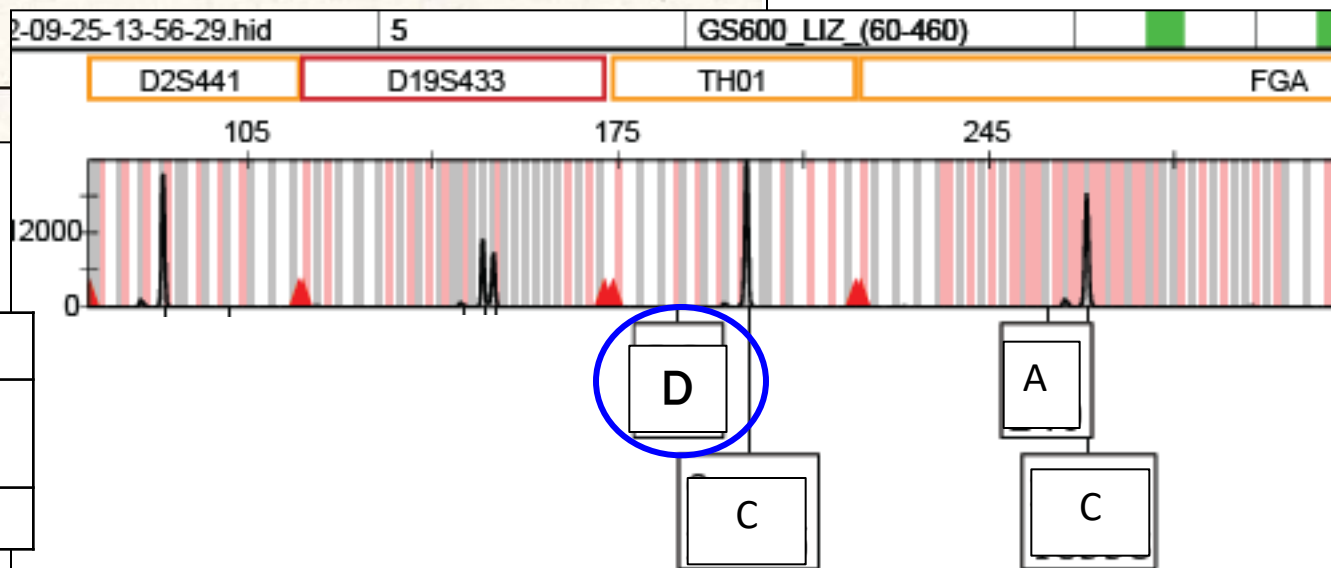
Facts found in High Court

- Prof. Y conducted Chris's DNA test **first**.
 - **He knew Chris' DNA** type **before** testing the crime scene samples.
- Samples were supposed to be tested **2** times
 - In reality, tested **at least 16** times.
- Results were inconsistent.
 - **2** good looking results were **chosen** and **edited** to **match** Chris' DNA profile.
- Results **different from Chris'** were **deleted**.



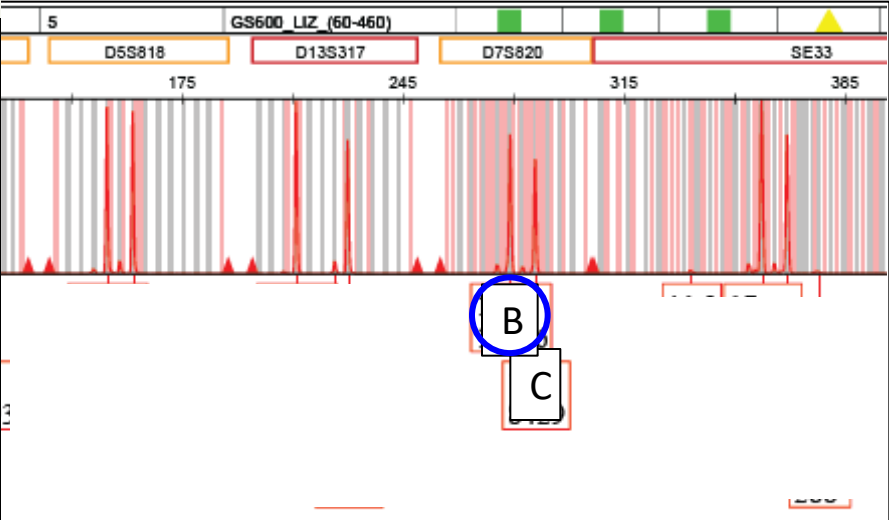
	Chris	Victim
TH01	A,B	C
FGA	A,B	C



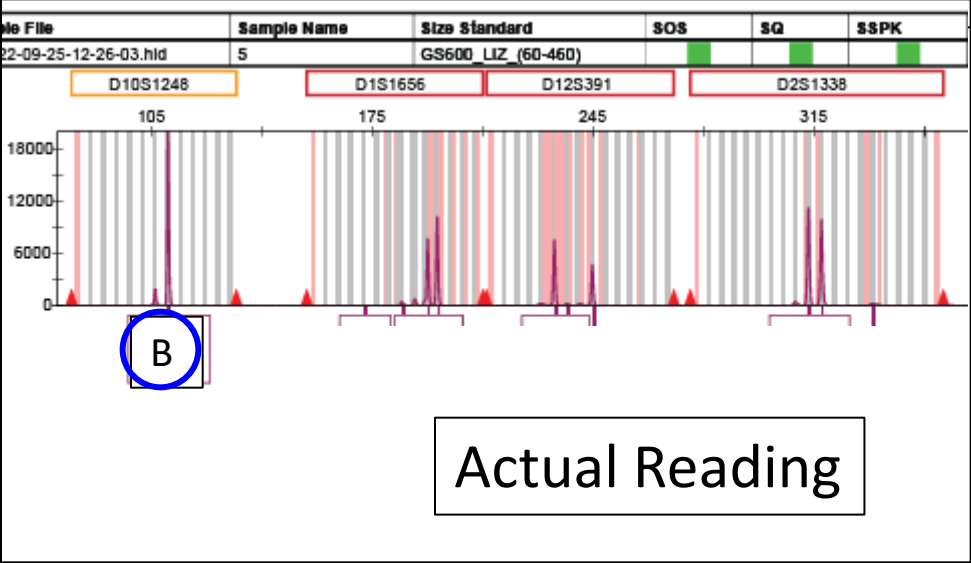


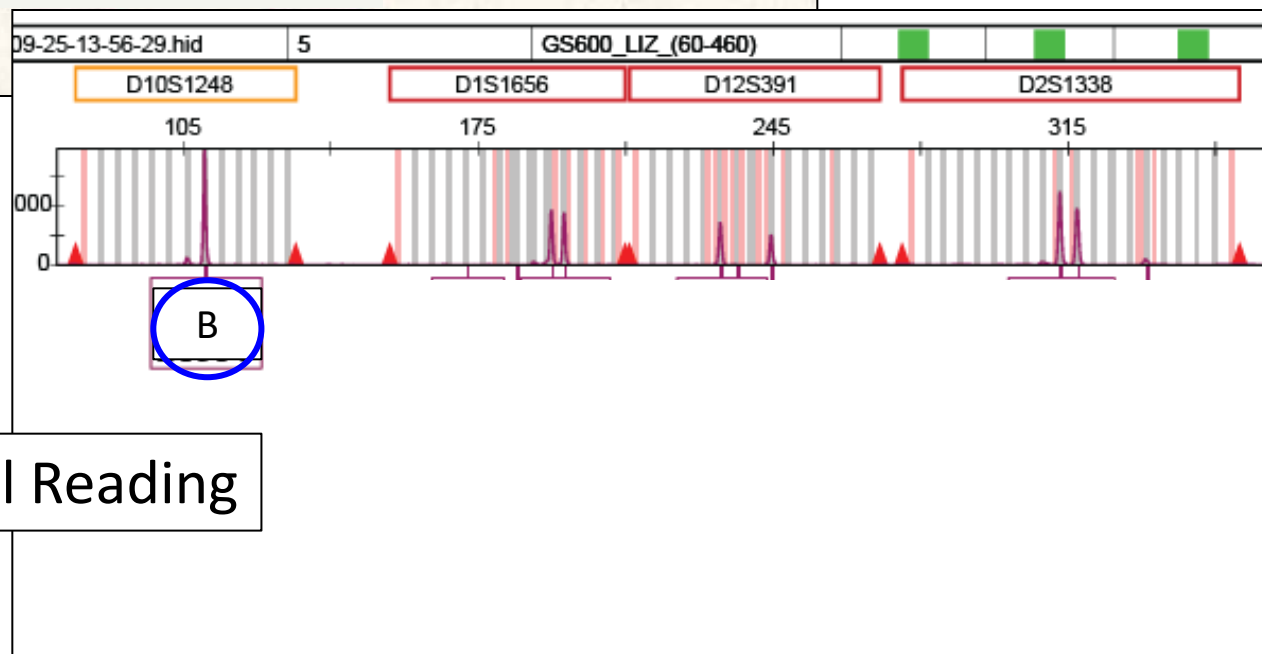
	Chris	Victim
TH01	A, B	C
FGA	A, B	C

Actual Reading



	Chris	Victim
D7S820	A, C	B, C
D10S1248	A, B	B





Prosecutor's Argument

- **Changing** the original result is **not tempering**.
- There was **no intent to conceal** the editing.
- **Disclosing** the editing is **not mandatory**.
- How to record the testing is **at the discretion** of the appraiser.

2025/12/11

Tokyo High Court: **Remanded**

- Y's appraisal has been edited, but...

We need to reexamine whether the alterations can be justified.



Defense Team **filed an appeal**

Arbitrary Detention

- Already been detained for over 4 years.
- Sentenced to 8 years...

More than half his time.

- 4 years were wasted for pointless trials.

For reasons entirely beyond his fault.

- Since December 13, experiencing persistent heart pain, nosebleeds, and bloody stool.

No bail because

“Risk of destroying evidence”