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DNA Test Fraud Leads To Change In Scientists' Protocol

Sunday 13th of April 2008

Detection of a fraud attempt in sample taking for a DNA analysis is modifying forensic scientists' action protocol: It will be compulsory for the donor to wash mouth out before a witness.

The fraud attempt took place in a paternity test when the donor mixed his own saliva with that of someone else's.

Researchers from all over the world have been carrying out paternity tests regularly. Samples are usually collected from mouth and saliva cells to carry out the DNA analysis.

The team of Jose Antonio Lorente Acosta, director of the Laboratory of Genetic Identification of the University of Granada, carries out these forensic studies commissioned by the court in cases of paternity tests, for the identification of possible criminals or to carry out DNA databases (such as in the case of missing relatives), ScienceDaily reported.

The detection of the fraud attempt in the paternity test case in 2007 is changing the action protocol of forensic teams in similar cases

The team of Lorente encountered a strange case: 'The saliva analysis (epithelial cells from the interior of mouth) collected from a person undergoing a paternity test gave an incongruous result - a DNA which could not come from the man who had carried out the test.

The revision of the case revealed that they had followed the usual procedure: the suspect washed his mouth and after that they took the samples with a cotton swab.

'After repeating the analysis, there was an only one possible conclusion: In the mouth of that man there was DNA from two different persons."

After dismissing other possibilities, the question was: how was it possible?

We arranged to meet the person in question. We showed him the result and we explained to him that we suspected that he had manipulated the samples, which, as it was a trial in judicial investigation, could bring him serious consequences. Faced with the evidence, he admitted that shortly before the sample taking, he put into his mouth some saliva he kept in a little container.'

It was an attempt to evade the responsibility in a case of extramarital paternity demand, and 'he admitted that when he mixed his saliva with someone else's, he attempted to `mislead' the experts in forensic genetics and, through them, the judge. After repeating the test, it was revealed that he was the biological father in that case of judicial investigation.

The referred case gains a special importance as this is the first time it has been described that someone mixed two types of saliva in order to alter a DNA test; manipulation attempts in blood samples had been described before.



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Statement on Tibet from Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Behalf of The Elders



The people of Tibet wish to be heard. They have long sought autonomy, and chosen negotiation and mediation as their means of attaining it. They now turn to protest. The Chinese government should hear their voices, understand their grievances and

find a non-violent solution. That solution is offered by our friend and brother His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who has never sought separatism, and has a.,

Further protests, mass detentions, and new pressure to denounce Dalai Lama as crackdown intensifies



There have been further protests in the past few days in Tibet as the crackdown on the plateau deepens, with mass detentions in different areas and some monasteries encircled by troops. In some

areas, including Kardze in Sichuan province (Kham) and Lhasa in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), there are signs that the authorities are provoking further unrest and frustration by requiring local people..

Eyewitness accounts of Tibetan protests



The Washington, DC-based Radio Free Asia has compiled vivid eyewitness testimonies of the protests and riots that have swept across the Tibetan plateau in recent weeks, see:

http://www.rfa.org/english/news/politics/2008/03/15/tibet_interviews/ "In the Tseko area of Amdo, the monks are continuing peaceful protests as of March 20. About 2,000 Tibetans, both monk and laypersons, are involved ..

Seven Questions: What Tibetans Want



The most vigorous Tibetan protests in decades have been crushed by Chinese soldiers and police. Tibet expert Robert Barnett explains why the most significant action is taking place

outside Lhasa and what we can expect the Chinese to do next. Foreign Policy: What does the average Tibetan want? Is it independence, or a greater share of Tibet's modernization and economic growth, which has bee..

Jokhang monks make bold protest: transcript



On March 28, a group of 30 monks in Tibet's most sacred temple and place of pilgrimage, the Jokhang, spoke out to foreign press who were on an official tour of Lhasa orchestrated by Beijing. Images

of the monks speaking directly to the journalists about the crackdown in Tibet's capital and the "lies" of the Communist Party were captured on film by the press and broadcast all ov..

Speaker Pelosi introduces resolution on Tibet



Speaker Pelosi, with the members of a bipartisan congressional delegation that met on March 21 in Dharamsala with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, introduced House Resolution 1077 on April 3 evening which calls on China

to cease the crackdown, release protestors, provide unfettered access to journalists and independent international monitors to Tibet, and engage in a results-based dialogue with the Da.

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We must highlight - points out Lorente - that the alteration of DNA tests is almost impossible without forensic experts realizing it, but this case aroused the interest of the scientific community after its publication in the journal of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

'The reason is obvious: It raises the need for adopting special measures to prevent experts' error leading to crime or fraud - or lack of punishment. From this publication, many protocols of saliva taking for forensic analysis (cases of paternity, crime suspects, and DNA databases) include the obligation for saliva donors to wash their mouth out with water before a witness, just before he places the swab in his mouth to collect saliva samples.'

This case was studied by FBI experts in the US, interested in preventing possible manipulation attempts of the tests, and one of them, Bruce Budowle, is co-author of the work.



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Turning point for Tibet



Below is the complete article written by Lodi Gyaltsen Gyari, the Dalai Lama's Special Envoy, followed by the version edited due to space constraints which appeared in the International Herald Tribune on April 3, 2008. In the last few

weeks we have witnessed an uprising against the Chinese authorities' repressive policies on the Tibetan plateau, the likes of which we have not seen in ..

ICT-Germany receives major funding from RTL-television - 919,863 Euro for Tibetan refugee children



'Particularly in these days of renewed violence against the CAMPAIGN Tibetan people, the over nine FOR TIBET hundred thousand Euros raised in the RTL Telethon 2007 has been

more important than ever before to pay for the expansion of a Tibetan Children's village for Tibetan refugees children', explain RTL charity director Wolfram Kons and project mentor, German actor Hannes Jaenicke. The expansion o..

Eight Tibetans killed in Kardze: new phase in protests in Tibet



At least eight Tibetans were killed yesterday in eastern Tibet after armed police fired on a crowd of several hundred monks and laypeople after an incident in which monks were detained after they objected to an

intensified 'patriotic education' campaign, including photographs of the Dalai Lama being thrown to the ground, according to reliable sources. State media confirmed the

International Campaign for Tibet calls on Dutch Olympic Committee to support Olympic Torch re-routing



In advance of meetings next week between the Executive International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Association of National Olympic Committees in Beijing, the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) in

Amsterdam has personally delivered a letter to the Netherlands National Olympic Committee (NOC), expressing ICT♦s deep concern at the security risks and the risks to civilians of unrest related to t..

Katrina And I Will Make Striking Pair: Neil Mukesh



Katrina Kaif, who's paired with Ranbir Kapoor in Raj Kumar Santoshi's 'Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani', seems to be getting into the let's-get-young mode. She has now been signed to star opposite Neil Nitin Mukesh in

Yash Raj banner's next venture to be directed by Kabir Khan and the hero says they will make a good couple on screen. 'Kabir made a very unusual fi..

Deepika Padukone, Ranbir Kapoor In Another Ad



Now that their relationship is out in the open, Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone seem to have become the most talked-about couple in the Hindi film industry overnight. And Imtiaz Ali of 'Jab We Met' fame will direct them in another Pepsi

advertisement. 'There's nothing intriguing about it. It's an ad to be directed by Imtiaz Ali for Pepsi. Earlier, Deepika and I acted

Tennis: Move Over Sania.. Maria Kirilenko Ready for **Bangalore Open**



Maria Kirilenko is ranked 26 on the WTA computer but if her exploits on the tennis court are anything to go by, she is going to be a major attraction at the prestigious Bangalore Open, Tier II â �� event. At the Bangalore Open, starting just in a week's time,

Maria could find herself as a strong contender who will challenge the Williams sisters � Venus and Serena and other major ..

BCCI, CA Clash Over Gilchrist's IPL Participation



The confusion over Adam Gilchrist's participation in the lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL) continues

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