

# **An Open Letter to Media Outlets and Elected Officials Regarding the murder of Dr. Shane Todd in Singapore**

**From:** Rick and Mary Todd (Dr. Todd's parents)  
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**Purpose:** To use our son's murder to alert ordinary citizens and elected officials of the dangers associated with the illegal transfer of technology and to show how far some foreign companies and governments will go to protect clandestine work or international reputation.

**Background:** Dr. Shane Truman Todd was found hanging in his apartment in Singapore on June 24, 2012. He had a PhD in electrical engineering and had been leading a special GaN (Gallium Nitride) development team with the Institute of Microelectronics (IME), working with the multimillion-dollar MOCVD (Metal Organic Chemical Vapor Deposition) system IME had bought from Veeco. In January 2012, IME sent Dr. Todd to New Jersey for training on this highly technical, one of a kind MOCVD machine. Upon returning to Singapore, Dr. Todd reported meeting with a Chinese company. He became increasingly uncomfortable and told his family he was being pressured to compromise US security. He refused to do so. From late February Dr. Todd spoke with his family weekly, expressing fear for his life because of the work he was doing with this Chinese company. The company was identified as **Huawei** through documents found on Dr. Todd's external Seagate hard drive after his death. In March 2012 Dr. Todd gave his 60-day notice to IME and was given a bonus by IME to stay and complete some projects. At the time he was found dead he had accepted a new job offer, bought his plane ticket home and was in the midst of washing and packing his clothes. The police immediately ruled Dr. Todd's death a suicide. Even after the family informed them that Dr. Todd had expressed fear for his life, they never considered looking into the possibility of murder. The Investigating Officer (IO) admitted in the coroner's inquest in Singapore that the investigation had not been conducted according to international protocol but stated that the police were justified in the way they handled the evidence because of the obvious suicide. The family walked out of the inquest before it ended when it became clear that it was not a fair and impartial fact finding inquiry to get to the truth as had been promised by Singapore officials.

## **Who Is Telling the Truth?**

- Was Dr. Todd murdered or did he commit suicide?
- Did Dr. Todd have information IME and/or **Huawei** didn't want revealed?
- Was the inquest in Singapore a fair and balanced hearing of the evidence?