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According to reports, after the prisoner was pronounced dead by ambulance teams, there was an unusual delay before police were called and a period of several hours passed after they arrived before they and crime-scene investigators were permitted to enter the cell, and that many other officials had visited the cell in the meantime. A prison worker reportedly said that he did not "understand how he managed to commit suicide with four cameras in his cell documenting him around the clock."

Israeli legal authorities are reportedly considering the possibility of filing charges of negligence for the circumstances that lead to 'Prisoner X's death.

Avigdor Feldman, the attorney that reportedly met with Zygier on the day before his death, has been quoted more extensively today. "When I met him, there were no signs that he was about to commit suicide: he showed no suicidal signs, he sounded rational and was weighing his options . . . He was very focused, spoke to the point and cooperated fully. True, he was stressed and worried but he was also confident of his innocence and wanted to fight for it."

A 'high-ranking justice official' is reported to have said that 'Prisoner X' had agreed to receive a false identity in order to protect himself, his family and state security. The same official reportedly said that the severity of suspicions against the prisoner justified his solitary confinement but that his rights had not been violated and he received judicial supervision and meetings with his family and attorneys. There had been other cases of prisoners held under false identities for security reasons. In all cases, this was subject to judicial supervision.

*Ha'aretz* reports that, according to 'a source familiar with the affair', Israel recently signed an agreement to pay the family of Ben Zygier 'several million shekels' (upwards of one million dollars) in compensation.

Dubai police chief Lt. Gen Dahi Khalfan has reportedly denied Zygier had cooperated with his police force.

Prominence is given in Israeli media reports to the account of Fairfax journalist, Jason Koutsoukis, having made contact with Zygier on a number of occasions, including several days prior to Zygier being arrested. The timing was reportedly suspicious to Koutsoukis. Koutsoukis had reportedly been investigating a lead from 'Australian intelligence' concerning use by Israeli intelligence of Australians to travel to countries such as Iran, Syria and Lebanon.

*Ha'aretz* reporter Barak Ravid has interpreted the picture surrounding Zygier as pointing to a person who was "boastful and talked too much" but not as someone that gave information to an enemy state. Ravid argued that Zygier's behaviour had exposed Mossad's activities to the media and the intelligence services of a friendly state [Australia].

A separate *Ha'aretz* story reports comments by sources reportedly within the Australian Jewish community. Community leaders had reportedly thought Zygier had died 'behind enemy lines'. An unnamed source who claimed to be a friend of Zygier said that Zygier had revealed to him and others that he had been "recruited" in Israel. Community members reportedly familiar with Zygier said there was "no way" Zygier would have committed treason against Israel. Another was quoted as saying "The biggest question seems to be -- was it suicide or murder?"

A person described as an Australian Jewish leader was reportedly angry about the affair. "I've seen the boy as a kid, I remember when he went to the army, aliyah. He was such a proud Zionist . . . there is no way in the world he would have done anything against Israel . . . It is an embarrassment for the state of Israel . . . It is not on, there is something very ugly here about a country we love." Separately, Australian Jewish leaders reportedly said they feared that Zygier's alleged use of his Australian passport to spy for Israel would throw suspicion on the community at large. "It's the dual loyalty issue . . ."

One commentator has argued that the events show insensitivity on Israel's part to the Australian Jewish community and its interests in a multicultural society, and will lead to distrust of Israel among Australian Jews. Another asserts that one thing is clear: Mossad procedures for devising identities for its agents needs to be revised.

**McGibbon, Rodd**

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**From:** Klugman, Kathy  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 February 2013 8:57 AM  
**To:** McCarthy, Margot; s. 22 McGibbon, Rodd  
**Subject:** FW: Israel: Prisoner X: statement from Israel [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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**From:** s. 22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 February 2013 8:55 AM  
**To:** s. 22  
**Cc:** s. 22  
 McGibbon, Rodd; s. 22 Media; s. 22  
 Klugman, Kathy  
**Subject:** Israel: Prisoner X: statement from Israel [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

*The translated text of the document released by Israel reads as follows:*

The Israel Prison Service has held in its custody a prisoner who was both an Israeli citizen and a foreign national. The inmate was registered under a false identity for security reasons, but his family was notified immediately upon his arrest. He was represented in the proceedings that touched upon his case by attorneys Roy Blecher, Moshe Mazor and Boaz Ben Tzur.

The prisoner was detained as per the order issued by an authorized court. The proceedings in the prisoner's case were overseen by the topmost officials in the Justice Ministry, and his rights were protected in accordance with the law.

The prisoner was found dead in his cell two years ago. As result, Hon. Judge Daphna Blatman Kedrai, the president of the Rishon Letzion Magistrate's Court, ordered an investigation into the circumstances of his death, as per the [pertaining] law. A court order was issued requiring the case to be heard behind closed doors. This order remains in effect.

A month and a half ago, the extensive probe into the case found that the cause of death was suicide. The president [Blatman Kedrai] has submitted the case to the State Prosecutor's Office to examine aspects of negligence.

The deceased and his family were represented by the aforementioned attorneys in each of the proceedings in the case, including the investigation into the cause of death.

No details about the case, beyond the ones listed herein, can be released to the public for reasons of state security. These aspects of security were examined by the Central District Court, which decided to impose a gag order on the affair. This order was issued at the security services' request, which was approved by the relevant officials at the Justice Ministry.

An appeal filed with the Supreme Court by the by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel against this order as been withdrawn by the association as per the Supreme Court's recommendation.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/the-full-text-of-the-document-released-by-israel-on-prisoner-x.premium-1.503427>