

# NY cop's baby born 2.5 years after his death

New York

New York police detective Wenjian Liu was ambushed and killed two and a half years ago in a murder that shocked the city. This week, his widow gave birth to his baby

daughter.

Angelina was born Tuesday at Weill Cornell Hospital. Her mother, Sanny Liu, asked doctors to freeze her husband's sperm the night he died so that she could one day fulfil their

dream of having children.

Liu, 32, and partner Rafael Ramos, 40, were shot dead as they sat in a patrol car in Brooklyn on December 20, 2014.

The night after his death, Sanny dreamt that he handed

her a baby girl, police said. She got pregnant through in-vitro fertilization.

"I told my friend, 'It's going to be a baby girl.' My friend said, 'No, you haven't even checked the sonograms,'

but I was right!" she said in a statement released by the police department.

Thousands of police officers attended Liu's funeral where Sanny, who had married him just months earlier, fought

back tears to tell mourners that she had lost her "soul mate" and a "wonderful husband."

Liu, an only child, moved with his parents to New York from China as a 12-year-old in search of the American dream.

## US-trained Iraqi unit carried out Mosul executions: HRW



Members of the Iraqi federal police take a selfie in celebration in the Old City of Mosul

Baghdad

An Iraqi army division trained by American forces summarily executed prisoners in west Mosul, Human Rights Watch charged yesterday, calling for US assistance to the unit to be suspended.

The latest report of executions comes after the release of videos allegedly filmed in the Mosul area that appeared to show Iraqi forces executing one detainee and brutally beating others.

Iraq declared victory in Mosul on July 11, but abuses by security forces and the anger they stoke could pose a potentially major threat to long-term stability in an area that was only just recaptured

from the Islamic State group of Sunni extremists.

"An Iraqi army division trained by the United States government allegedly executed several dozen prisoners in Mosul's Old City," HRW said in a statement, referring to an area on its western side.

"Two international observers detailed the summary killings of four people by the Iraqi army's 16th Division in mid-July 2017, and saw evidence that the unit had executed many more people, including a boy," the watchdog said.

The international US-led coalition against IS has provided training, advice and other assistance to various Iraqi units.

"The US government should make sure it is no longer providing assistance to the Iraqi unit responsible for this spate of executions," Sarah Leah Whitson, HRW's Middle East director, said in the statement.

The coalition said it could not confirm the allegations, but that they should be investigated.

"While we cannot verify the authenticity of reports, any violation of the law of armed conflict would be unacceptable and should be investigated in a transparent manner and those deemed responsible held accountable in accordance with due process and Iraqi law," it said in an emailed response to questions from AFP.

The coalition confirmed that it had trained, advised and equipped the 16th Division, and said: "In certain circumstances, if a supported unit fails to remain compliant with vetting guidelines, support may be withdrawn."

Earlier in July, HRW found a series of videos posted online that appeared to show other abuses by Iraqi forces in the Mosul area.

In one clip, men in Iraqi army uniforms beat a bearded detainee, dragged him to the edge of a cliff, threw him off and shot him and another body at the bottom.

Three other videos show men in army and police uniforms beating detainees (AFP)

## Green sponge could treat some cancers

Washington

A small green sponge discovered in dark, icy waters of the Pacific off Alaska could be the first effective weapon against pancreatic cancer, researchers said Wednesday.

Pancreatic cancer, with particularly aggressive tumours, is notoriously difficult to treat.

"One would never have imagined looking at this sponge that it could be miraculous," Bob Stone, a researcher at the NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center, said in a briefing by phone.

Stone discovered the sponge, dull in colour, called "Latrunculia austini" in 2005 while on a seabed exploration expedition in Alaska. It lives on rocks in patches at depths of 230-720 feet (70-219m).

## Astronomers stunned by star 'nursery' age find



The Orion Nebula and its associated cluster of young stars

Paris

Surprised astronomers have found stars of three different ages in a stellar "nursery" in the Milky Way, throwing into question the scientific consensus on how stars are formed.

The European Southern Observatory's (ESO) Very Large Telescope in Chile spotted three distinct groups of baby stars in the Orion nebula -- the closest star "factory" to Earth, a team reported yesterday.

"Looking at the data for the first time was one of those 'Wow!' moments that happen only once or twice in an astronomer's lifetime," ESO astronomer Giacomo Beccari said in a statement.

The images reveal "without any doubt that we are seeing three distinct populations of stars in the central parts of Orion."

## Juncker press conference interrupted by wife... no, Merkel

It's a problem many people will be familiar with: forgetting to turn your phone off during an important meeting, then it rings with a call from home.

Except that for European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker it apparently turned out to be from another key power player -- German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Juncker was caught out during a press conference in Brussels with visiting Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico, when his mobile went off in his suit jacket pocket.

"That's my wife, sorry," former Luxembourg prime minister Juncker said as he fished around in his pocket while Fico, EU officials and journalists waited.

He then checked his phone and announced with a chuckle: "No, it was Mrs Merkel!"

The 62-year-old Juncker, who is known for his informal style, then went on with the news conference.