No. 1996 of 1910

Judicial Department

From, H. S. Lawrence Esquire, I.C.S.

District Magistrate Karachi.

To, The Premier, Perth (West Australia)

Distinct Magistrate's Office,

Karachi 8 August 1910

Sir,

I have the honour to confirm my telegram despatched on the 5th instant as follows:-

“Mrs Dost Mahomed Australian lady of Port Hedland murdered here, Please communicate instructions regarding disposal of minor children; and ensure safety of property. Zorak executor suspected of connivance.”

2/- The history of the case so far as at present known is as follows:-

A Birchi camel owner named Dost Mahomed traded in West Australia and some 15 years ago married an Australian girl. He brought her to Karachi, where her eldest son was born. They lived here for some 2 years and then returned to Australia where 5 other children (four girls and one boy) were born. The eldest boy was left in Karachi and has been brought up as a Mahomadan. The other children remained in Australia and were brought up as Australians.

3/- Some 18 months ago Dost Mahomed was killed in a scuffle by his wife's brother. He left property chiefly in camels worth some three to four thousand pounds, and by a will left this property to his wife and children and appointed his brother Zorak to be his executor. Zorak went from Karachi to West Australia and is now administering the property. Zorak them persuaded the widow to bring her children to Karachi where they arrived in May. Family disputes ensued in consequence of a son of Zorak wishing to marry the eldest daughter of the Australian woman and of her refusal to give her daughter in marriage.

4/- The woman appeared in my court on July 27th and stated that she wished to return to Australia and asked that her children be protected during her absence. I advised her to take her children with her to Australian, and she was considering this step when she was murdered..

5. I am taking steps to place three children legally under my guardian ship and am arranging for their safe custody pending the investigation into the murder and the receipt of instructions from you regarding the wishes of her relations in Australia as to the disposal of the children.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

H S Lawrence

District Magistrate Karachi.

Received August 29, 1910