

# Did Tsuji know her abductor?

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SANTA CRUZ — Arlene Kazuko Tsuji probably knew the person who grabbed her off an Aptos street last October, according to an analysis of her disappearance released Tuesday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

And Tsuji's kidnapper or kidnappers, the FBI said, "could now be expected to exhibit behavior that is out of character from their personality prior to Tsuji's disappearance."

"It is most likely that Tsuji actually knew the person or persons responsible for her disappearance," the FBI report said. "Because she probably liked them, even trusted them, there was no reason for her to feel threatened."

In addition, the FBI believes there are witnesses to the abduction of the 25-year-old Tsuji, who vanished Oct. 24 while on her nightly walk through the Vienna

Woods-Thousand Oaks neighborhoods in Aptos. Repeated searches by land and air turned up no signs of the popular employee of a Capitola travel-tour company. The Sheriff's Office has reported few leads in the case.

The analysis of her disappearance was prepared by the FBI's Na-

tional Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime in Quantico, Va., in cooperation with local investigators.

The FBI analysis examines Tsuji's life, her associates, possible motivations for the crime — and the type of person responsible for it — said Richard Held, special FBI

agent in charge of the Tsuji investigation.

The probe was aided by Tsuji's prolific collection of personal diaries detailing "notes about her entire life, including new people she meets, conversations or disagreements she has had, and places she

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visited," said the FBI.

The diaries, reveal "a woman who enjoys being a mystery to people." One of her diary entries, according to the FBI, read: "Even my friends can't figure me out. Not like I'm trying to be a big mystery, (I) just don't want to share everything. Is that selfish? Maybe self protection."

The FBI believes Tsuji — an only child who lived just blocks away from her parents on Wilshire Drive in Aptos — "would not have voluntarily separated herself from her family and loved one, without some type of contact, especially during the holidays."

Tsuji, according to the bureau, "did not live the type of lifestyle

which would have placed her in a position of becoming a victim to this type of crime. Her habits and lifestyle do not suggest that she would voluntarily accompany someone she did not know."

The FBI is asking anyone with information about the case to come forward, "even anonymously."

"This would include anyone who may have seen something suspicious or who may have strong concerns about who could be responsible for Tsuji's disappearance."

No piece of information is insignificant, Held said, even partial license plate numbers.

The FBI investigators hope "the spirit of the holiday season will motivate a key witness to realize how important it is to the Tsuji

family and friends to know what happened to her and, more importantly, to know where she is now."

The FBI has set up a 24-hour hotline to take tips on the Tsuji case from Jan. 2-10. Specially trained operators will answer and callers need not identify themselves. The number is 998-0389. The missing woman's friends and family have established a \$25,000 reward for information leading to her whereabouts.

Tsuji is described as Asian, 5 feet tall, around 103 pounds, with straight, brownish-black shoulder-length hair and brown eyes. She was last seen wearing a gray long-sleeved pullover sweat shirt with hood and black baggy cotton short pants with cuffs.