

Mystery deaths of Epstein associates: How multiple friends of paedophile tycoon have died in unusual circumstances fuelling conspiracy theories



By [ELIANA SILVER](#), SENIOR FOREIGN NEWS REPORTER

Jeffrey Epstein was once a powerful figure in finance and elite social circles, building relationships with influential figures around the world.

But after his conviction as a child sex offender, those ties came under intense scrutiny.

In the years that followed, a growing number of those connected to the disgraced financier died, fuelling persistent speculation surrounding the case.

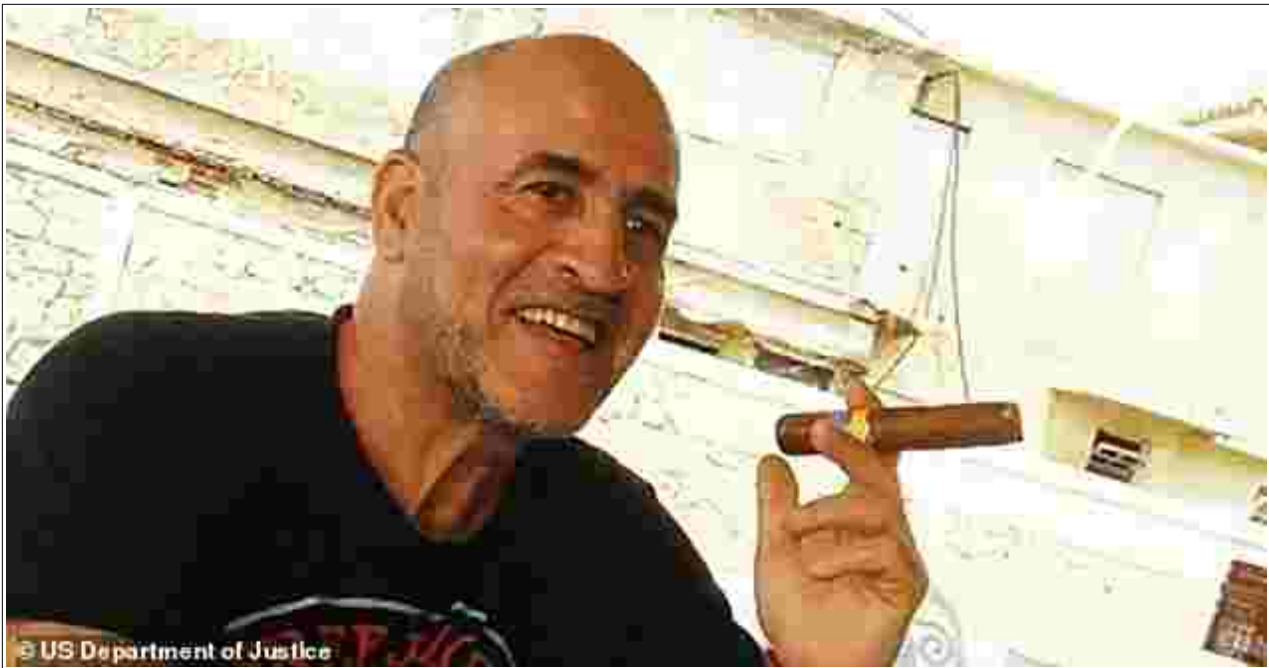
The latest is Daniel Siad, who was found dead at his home in the suburbs of Paris in late July aged 68.

The Swedish-French modelling scout, who had helped arrange meetings between women and Epstein, was under investigation for human trafficking at the time of his death.

His death was initially reported as a cardiac arrest; however, the 28-year-old woman who had been staying with him claimed he had shown no signs of illness and had often spoken about his healthy lifestyle.

The Nanterre prosecutor's office has now opened an investigation and ordered a post-mortem examination to establish Siad's cause of death, reigniting conspiracy theories surrounding the Epstein case.

Epstein's own death was mired in mystery and speculation. The 66-year-old was awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges when he was found dead in his prison cell.



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Daniel Siad was found dead at his home in the suburbs of Paris in late July aged 68



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Jean-Luc Brunel, a 76-year-old French modelling agent, was found hanged in his cell in a Paris prison in 2022 (Pictured with Epstein)

The two guards responsible for monitoring him, who had been assigned after an earlier suicide attempt, reportedly fell asleep and failed to check on him for three hours. At the same time, the cameras outside his cell allegedly malfunctioned.

In 2023, the US Department of Justice concluded there had been 'job performance failures' by prison officials but ruled that Epstein had died by suicide.

Even so, many have continued to question the official account, arguing that Epstein's knowledge posed a threat to numerous powerful individuals.

Siad's name appeared thousands of times in the Epstein files over a period of ten years.

Records show Epstein reimbursed Siad for expenses incurred during modelling scouting trips in which he procured women for the financier.

Emails also show Epstein asking: 'Wht about new girls?' while Siad boasted of the women's youth. In one exchange, he wrote: '26 but she look 18.'

Although Siad had previously claimed ignorance of Epstein's crimes, one victim told

TIMELINE OF DEATHS

2014 Alfredo Rodriguez, Epstein's former butler, dies from cancer aged 60

2018 Palm Beach detective Joe Recarey, who led the Epstein investigation, dies at 50 after a 'brief illness'

2019 Thomas Bowers, a former Deutsche Bank employee, dies after hanging himself aged 55

2020 Producer Steve Bing dies after jumping from his 27th floor apartment in Los Angeles aged 55

2021 Efrain 'Stone' Reyes, Epstein's former cellmate, dies of Covid aged 51

2022 Modeling agent Jean-Luc Brunel dies aged 76 after being found hanged in his cell in a Paris prison

2022 Steven Hoffenberg, Epstein's former mentor, dies aged 77 from natural causes in his Connecticut apartment

2022 Mark Middleton, who facilitated Epstein's trips to the White House, dies aged 59 and is found hanging from a tree with a shotgun wound to the chest

2023 Bill Richardson, the former governor of New Mexico and a close associate of Epstein, dies aged 75 with no cause of death announced

2026 Modeling agent Daniel Siad, who helped arrange meetings between women and Epstein, dies aged 68. His cause of death has not yet been determined.

the BBC that Siad had introduced her to Epstein and was 'essentially a professional trafficker'.

Earlier this year, former Swedish model Ebba Karlsson accused the scout of rape and human trafficking, claiming he had raped her in the 1990s.

After his death, the model told Agence France-Presse that Siad's death was 'very frustrating', explaining: 'He was very close to being arrested. We worked so hard for this, trying to have justice.'

Another mysterious death connected to Epstein was that of Jean-Luc Brunel, a 76-year-old French modelling agent who had been facing allegations of rape.

In 2022, Brunel, similarly to Epstein, was found hanged in his cell in a Paris prison, where he was being held on suspicion of the rape and trafficking of minors, which he denied.

Epstein accuser Virginia Giuffre had previously alleged she was forced into sex with the agent.

After his death, she posted on Twitter: 'I'm disappointed that I wasn't able to face him in a final trial to hold him accountable.'

Prosecutors suspected Brunel of using MC2 Model Management, a US agency he co-founded with Jeffrey Epstein's financial backing, to house and transport young women for the sex offender.

Also in 2022, two more of Epstein's acquaintances mysteriously died. One of them was American lawyer Mark Middleton, who had, while working for former US President Bill Clinton, facilitated access to the White House for the financier, who visited at least 17 times between 1993 and 1995.

Middleton, who had also previously flown on Epstein's 'Lolita Express' plane, was found dead at a ranch in Arkansas under gruesome circumstances.

The 59-year-old was hanging from a tree with an extension cord around his neck, and a shotgun wound to the chest. A Stoeger 12-gauge coach shotgun was later discovered nearby.



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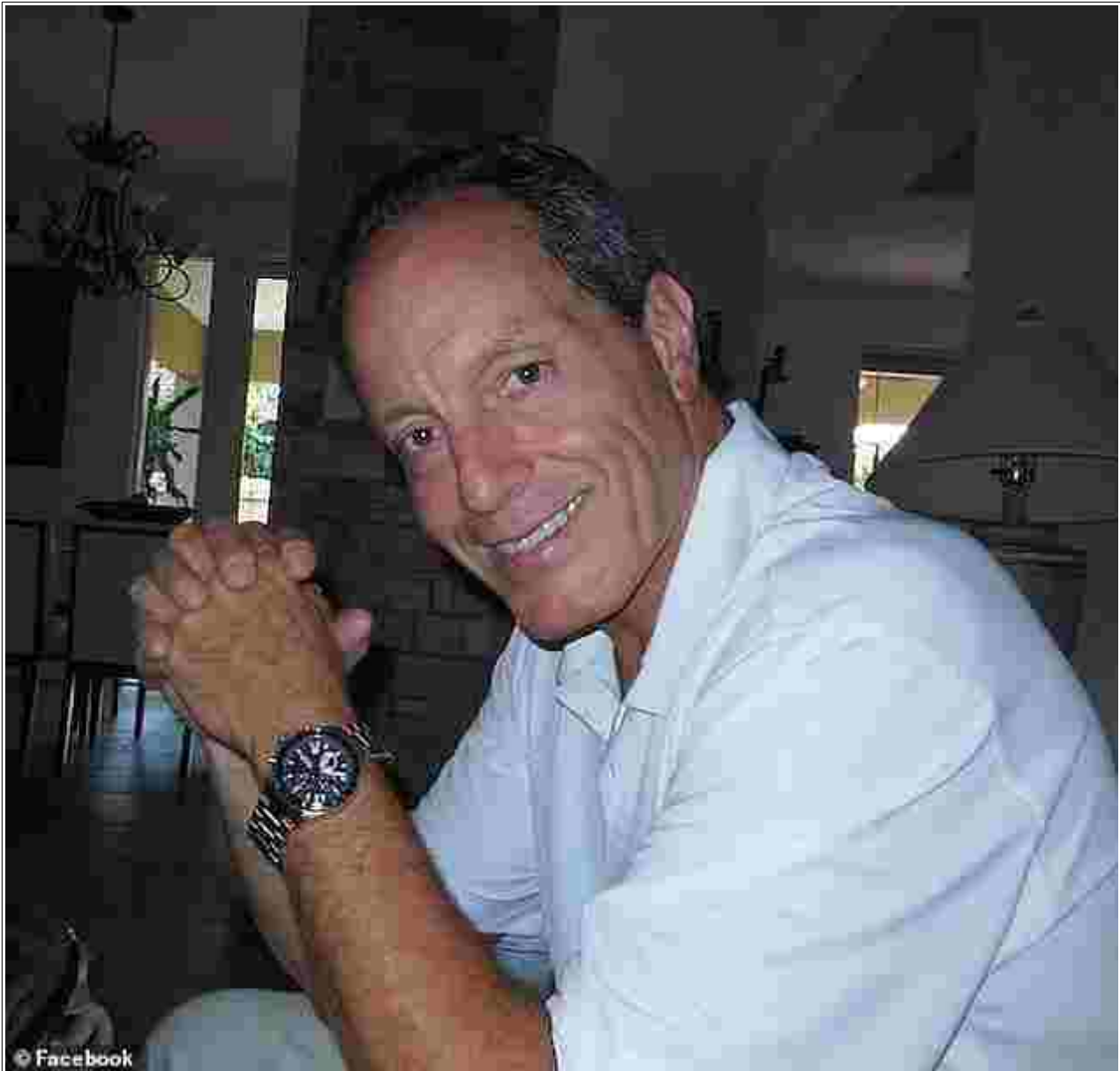
The other death was that of businessman and fraudster Steven Hoffenberg - widely regarded as Epstein's mentor



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Bill Richardson, the former governor of New Mexico and US ambassador to the United Nations, died in his sleep at his summer home in Massachusetts aged 75



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Although the coroner ruled the death a suicide, noting Middleton's history of mental health struggles, those who knew him were more skeptical.

Speaking to RadarOnline, one former business associate said: 'He knows nothing about guns. He hated guns. He couldn't have tied a noose to save his life. The man couldn't change a light bulb by himself [...] His death scenario is completely implausible to everybody that knew him.'

The other death that year was that of businessman and fraudster Steven Hoffenberg - widely regarded as Epstein's mentor.

Hoffenberg and Epstein met in 1987 and quickly became close, regularly travelling on Hoffenberg's private jet together and enjoying a luxurious lifestyle.

But their relationship soured when Hoffenberg claimed Epstein was involved in his investor Ponzi scheme, which got him 18 years in prison and a \$1million fine.

Epstein was never charged in connection with what the Securities and Exchange Commission called 'one of the largest Ponzi schemes in history', but in 2016, Hoffenberg sued the financier, claiming he was the 'architect of the scam'.

Hoffenberg was found dead aged 77 at his Connecticut home in August 2022. His body was found in an advanced state of decomposition, with police estimating he had been dead for a week.

A post-mortem examination revealed he had died of natural causes.

A year later, another figure linked to Epstein died. Bill Richardson, the former governor of New Mexico and US ambassador to the United Nations, died in his sleep at his summer home in Massachusetts aged 75. No cause of death was announced.

In 2019 it was revealed he had been named in the civil suit between Virginia Giuffre and Ghislaine Maxwell, with Giuffre alleging Richardson was among the powerful men to whom she was sexually trafficked by Maxwell and Epstein.

Epstein donated \$50,000 to Richardson's 2002 campaign for governor, while flight logs show Richardson travelled with Epstein and three of his victims from the British Virgin Islands to the US Virgin Islands in 2011.

A spokesman for Richardson said he did not know Giuffre and had never seen the financier in the company of underage or young girls.

These mystery deaths have spanned over a decade. In 2014, Alfredo Rodriguez, Epstein's former butler, died from cancer aged 60.

Rodriguez had previously been caught by the FBI attempting to sell Epstein's 'little black book' for \$50,000.

This book was dubbed the 'holy grail' by prosecutors, since it reportedly contained details of Epstein's friends and victims.

According to court papers, Rodriguez said he had stolen the book as insurance, fearing Epstein would make him 'disappear'.

A few years later, in 2018, a detective who investigated Epstein in the early 2000s in Palm Beach died aged only 50, after a 'brief illness.'

Joe Recarey, who alleged he was under political pressure to drop the case, had previously told the Miami Herald that he feared for his life.



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Thomas Bowers, who was 55 at the time of his death, had formerly worked for Deutsche Bank, who had taken on Epstein as a client in 2013



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Steve Bing, another of the disgraced financier's associates, died in 2020 by suicide



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In 2021, Epstein's final cellmate, Efrain 'Stone' Reyes died after reportedly contracting Covid

Recarey claimed he was being followed, and routinely had to switch his routes to work or take different cars.

'I was concerned about my kids because I didn't know if it was someone that they hired just out of prison that would hurt me or my family,' he told the Herald.

And just months later in 2019, an Epstein-connected banker reportedly hanged himself at his home in California.

Thomas Bowers, who was 55 at the time of his death, had formerly worked for Deutsche Bank, who had taken on Epstein as a client in 2013.

In 2020, the company agreed to pay a \$150million fine to settle charges brought by New York authorities, admitting it had made a 'critical mistake' by doing business with the paedophile.

Steve Bing, another of the disgraced financier's associates, died a year later in 2020 after taking his own life.

The Hollywood producer died after jumping from his 27th floor apartment in Los Angeles aged 55.

Bing, who frequented the same social circles as Epstein, had a history of addiction and had reportedly become depressed during the Covid-19 pandemic, a source told TMZ.

The connection between the two had long been observed. In 2008, celebrity blog Gawker named both Bing and Epstein as members of Bill Clinton's 'billionaire boys' club'.

Following Bing's death, Carrie Mitchum, the aunt of his late girlfriend Allexanne, claimed in a Facebook post that although Bing was not particularly close to Epstein, Allexanne had persuaded him to 'make a statement via his attorneys telling what he did know' about the financier.

And in 2021, Epstein's final cellmate, Efrain 'Stone' Reyes died after reportedly contracting Covid at his mother's apartment in the Bronx.

Reyes, 51, had been jailed on drug charges and was transferred to a private prison on August 9, 2019, leaving Epstein alone in his cell, a day before the paedophile was found dead.

Reyes's lawyer said that the two men had developed a good relationship while sharing a cell.

He said Reyes did not want to be transferred because of 'the relationship that he built up with Mr Epstein', adding: 'I think my client's presence stabilised Mr Epstein.'