

EXHIBIT I

Charges in bar murder The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec) July 29, 2000, Saturday, FINAL

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BODY:

Three men arrested as suspects in a vicious beating that ended the life of a Montreal man are expected to appear in court today.

Commander Andre Bouchard, head of the Montreal Urban Community police major-crimes division, said only one of the three will be charged in connection with the death of 39-year-old Christian Thomas.

Sacha Montreuil, 26, of Brossard, was arrested yesterday morning on a charge of second-degree murder.

Adam **Guerbuez**, 25, of Brossard, and Frederic Morin, 22, of Montreal were also apprehended yesterday morning but both face a less serious charge of assault causing bodily harm.

A brawl occurred on June 24 after Thomas exited Bar Chez Helene, at 3150 Belanger St. E., near the corner of 9th Ave. He was left unconscious on a sidewalk.

Bouchard explained the difference between the charges is due to an autopsy that indicated one specific blow to the head caused Thomas's death.

The 39-year-old's skull was damaged during the altercation. He slipped into a coma and died six days later.

Bouchard said the motive behind the beating appears to be nothing more than short tempers in response to an exchange of words. He would not speculate on whether alcohol was a factor.

"It seems there was no great fight. Just a short verbal exchange and then (Thomas) was attacked," he said.

No weapons were used in the assault, but Thomas was punched and kicked repeatedly while on the ground.

Bouchard said investigators ruled out a theory that a group of skinheads inside the bar at the time were involved.

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