

# Hunt under way for suspected robber, killer

By XU WEI and MA WEI  
in Chongqing

A massive manhunt is under way for a man police believe shot and killed a railway police officer on Friday.

The suspect, Zhou Kehua, who is also the suspect in a series of robberies and killings dating to 2004, is thought to have committed his latest homicide when the officer was patrolling a section of railway in Chongqing on Friday afternoon, according to an officer from the Chongqing public security bureau who did not want to be identified.

The attack has intensified the fears that have been stoked by the 42-year-old gunman's alleged crimes. He is believed to target people who are withdrawing money from banks and has become adept at dodging police manhunts.

The search for Zhou has been going on since Friday morning, when he is suspected of having killed a woman and injured another two in a robbery in which he is thought to have stolen 250,000 yuan (\$39,300) from the victims.

By Sunday afternoon, large numbers of police officers, Armed Police Force officers and People's Liberation Army soldiers were combing the slopes of Geleshan Mountain, where Zhou is believed to be hiding. As part of the search, notices offering rewards for clues to Zhou's whereabouts have been posted in almost every street in urban parts of Chongqing and police have established checkpoints on many large streets and at tollgates on highways.

The Chongqing police are offering a 500,000 yuan reward for tips leading to Zhou's capture dead or alive.

The Ministry of Public Security has classified Zhou as a "class-A" suspect. In all, 5.4 million yuan in rewards are being offered for tips leading to his capture, according to media reports.

On Geleshan Mountain and in its environs, police officers have been dispatched in groups stationed 50 meters apart on roads leading up and down the mountain. A large number of officers, meanwhile, were standing at the top of the mountain road.

A publicity officer from the Chongqing police declined to release new information about the search for Zhou, who is suspected of killing 10 people in Chongqing, Nanjing and



**Zhou Kehua** is suspected of killing 10 people and injuring five in a series of shootings and robberies since 2004.

Changsha since 2004, including the police officer and the woman who died on Friday.

In the hunt, the police have had to battle against temperatures as high as 40 C and the dense bushes and forests of Geleshan Mountain. Their search has uncovered a mountain cave that Zhou is believed to have stayed in. Inside it were two cigarette cases, a T-shirt and human waste. Media reports said police extended their hunt to Chongqing's Tongliang and Bishan counties on Saturday morning.

Wu Changming, a 52-year-old resident of Geleshan township, said police officers in the township are on guard 24 hours a day.

Relatives of the two people who were injured in the shooting on Friday declined to be interviewed on Sunday. The victims are receiving medical treatment at a hospital in Chongqing.

Previous media reports have described Zhou as cunning and ruthless, a man who never stays in hotels and is capable of surviving in the wild.

A police source in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, has confirmed that Zhou is also suspected of having committed a shooting and robbery in Nanjing in January, the news website people.com.cn reported on Friday.

Zhou is believed to have shot and robbed a man in front of a bank on Nanjing's Dongmen Street on Jan 6 just after the man had withdrawn 200,000 yuan.

Media reports have also said Zhou served a short prison term in Yunnan province in 2005 after he had been found guilty of trafficking firearms.

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## TIME LINE

SINCE 2004, ZHOU KEHUA IS SUSPECTED OF BEING INVOLVED IN A SERIES OF ROBBERIES AND SHOOTINGS.

### • April 22, 2004

One woman was shot dead and another woman injured in a bank robbery in Jiangbei district, in Southwest China's Chongqing. The suspect took 70,000 yuan (\$11,005).

### • May 16, 2005

Two suspects shot and robbed a couple near a bank in Shapingba district in Chongqing. A passer-by was also shot. The couple died. The suspects made off with 170,000 yuan.

### • March 19, 2009

A People's Liberation Army soldier standing guard outside a garrison in Chongqing was shot dead. The victim, identified as 18-year-old Han Junliang, was shot twice in the chest with a pistol. The suspect took the garrison guard's submachine gun and ran.

### • Oct 14, 2009

A 56-year-old farmer was shot dead in a park in Tianxin district of Changsha, capital of Central China's Hunan province. The suspect used a homemade gun.

### • Dec 4, 2009

A 41-year-old man was shot dead outside a bank in Tianxin district of Changsha. The victim had withdrawn cash and was walking to his car when the suspect shot him in the head. The suspect took 45,000 yuan from the man.

### • Oct 25, 2010

A trading company owner was shot dead in Yuhua district of Changsha.

### • June 28, 2011

A 48-year-old businessman was shot in the head and stomach as he got out of his car near a construction site in Tianxin district of Changsha. The man was taken to a hospital and survived.

### • Jan 6

A 42-year-old man was shot in a robbery in Nanjing, Jiangsu province. He was robbed shortly after he withdrew 200,000 yuan from a bank in the Xiaguan district. The suspect fled the scene by jumping into a vehicle. The victim died in a hospital.



Police officers block access to the arch that collapsed in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang province, on Sunday.

## Arch collapses in Hangzhou, killing two tourists, hurting one

Accident on tourist-filled shopping street thought linked to heavy rainfall

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Two people were killed and another one injured when an arch collapsed at a major tourism attraction of Qinghefang in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, on Sunday morning.

The accident happened around 9:30 am, shortly after the traditional commercial street Qinghefang opened to the weekend tourists.

Lu Jine, a 58-year-old woman from Hubei province, died at the scene, and 62-year-old Jiang Guiying, a tourist from the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, died after being rushed to a hospital.

Qin Yang, 65, Lu's husband, broke both his legs and spent four hours in surgery at Hangzhou No 1 People's Hospital.

A doctor surnamed Yao said Qin was in a critical condition when he arrived at the hospital but his condition had been upgraded to stable after the surgery.

Qin's son, who wished not to be named, told China Daily that his father is likely to undergo more surgery. He said the government should explain to him how the tragedy could occur.



The arch, shown earlier this year, stood on a street built in the style of the Song Dynasty.

"I was only 10 meters away from the accident," said Zou Feng, a tourist from the nearby city of Jinhu.

"I heard a big crash from behind and it took a few minutes for the dust to disperse, and I didn't know what happened at first but few minutes later I realized that the arch collapsed.

"There was a woman who was under the ruins — I could tell she was a tourist because she held Hangzhou's city map in her hands, another 60-something man had his legs smashed."

Qinghefang Street, in the center of Hangzhou and close to the West Lake, was built in the style of the Song Dynasty (960-1279) when Hangzhou was the capital of the dynasty. However, the arch was not a historical building.

Local government said the arch was built in October 2001. Its base was made of reinforced concrete and it had a wood structure on top.

Local authorities said initial investigations indicated the collapse was caused by a fracture in the reinforced concrete and wood connections.

Further investigation is under way, a spokesman for the Shangcheng district government, which administers the street, said at a news conference on Sunday.

Some residents suggested the collapse could be linked to the recent heavy rainfalls brought by typhoon Haikui, which recently tore through the city.

"The timber structure itself is safe in terms of wind and earthquake resistance, how-

ever, its ability to prevent decay is poor, that's why blocks of stone are usually used as seats to stop direct contact between soil and wood," said Zhou Gang, an architecture professor at Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology.

"The traditional handicraft to bond stone and wood (for this kind of arch) needs to be exquisite because unlike structures built by bricks or concrete, arches can't resist high winds, not to mention typhoons," said Zhou, who specialized in civil engineering and housing safety issues. Typhoon Haikui caused widespread flooding and disrupted traffic when it moved through Hangzhou last week.

Zhou Yiyi in Hangzhou contributed to this story.

## 'Zhou was quiet, well-behaved'

By XU WEI in Chongqing  
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Zhou Kehua, the man suspected of committing a series of violent robberies and killing several people since 2004, is unsociable but likes reading, according to his family's neighbors.

In an attempted raid on Friday, Zhou is alleged to have killed a woman and wounded two men outside a bank in Chongqing's Shapingba district.

"I didn't believe it was him until I saw the wanted notice," said Zhu Guoliang, 52, whose home is less than 100 meters from the three-story house owned by Zhou's parents in the district's Ertang village.

Wang Guobi, a 72-year-old resident who said her son was a classmate of Zhou's at school, recalled: "He was not a naughty or talkative child. He was a good boy."

Wang's son declined interview requests.

Zhou's parents' home is on top of a small hill surrounded by vegetable fields and pigsties. Compared with the bustling metropolis scores of kilometers away, the village looks like a forgotten corner, with a narrow, winding trail connecting the homes.

Zhou spent most of his childhood here, right up until his early 20s.

Zhu recalled Zhou as quiet and well-behaved.

"He never chitchatted after work," said Zhu, who worked for a time with Zhou.

"Whenever we finished loading a truck, he sat in a corner and read. He never offended anyone. But he also never joined us," Zhu said.

Zhou had more than four years of working experience as a river-sand miner in the 1990s. He was forced to quit as the village contracted the

sand mine to private contractors, and Zhou had several jobs after that.

"He worked as a cargo loader and bus driver. Then he went to other cities as a migrant worker," Zhu said.

Zhu said Zhou is a "relatively loyal son" to his parents, who are not very well-off and seldom socialize.

"After he got married, he often visited his parents with his wife and son."

Zhu heard from neighbors that Zhou, already a wanted suspect in several provinces, was back home when his father died in August 2011.

"People said he was back around 9 or 10 pm and left in the morning.

"He is very similar to his father in his character. Neither of them liked to talk. His father would be irritated when someone played jokes on him.

"But I never remember Zhou getting offended. He was quiet and liked being alone."

## Facial mask pulled off shelves after death

By SUN LI in Fuzhou  
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Watsons China has pulled one of their facial masks off shelves across the country following the death of a 42-year-old woman whose relatives claimed the product caused the tragedy.

According to news portal fjsen.com, the woman from Fuzhou, capital of East China's Fujian province, surnamed Jin, purchased Watsons' White Pearl facial mask in July.

After using it on Aug 6, Jin's body turned red and her lips purple and she was rushed to a hospital where she later died, the report said.

On Friday, Watsons China

posted a statement on its Sina Weibo micro blog stating that the product met national quality standards and passed a toxicological risk assessment conducted by a third-party agency in Europe.

More than 900,000 boxes of the facial mask have been sold since 2010 and no complaints have been reported about allergic reactions to the mask, the statement said.

There is as of yet no evidence to prove the facial mask is the cause of Jin's death, said a spokeswoman for Watsons China, who identified herself as Zhang.

The brand has been removed from Watsons China's stores out of an abundance

of caution, Zhang said.

"Watsons customers who may have purchased the product at our stores can return it for a full refund," she said, adding tests on the product are under way.

If tests prove it is safe it will be returned to shelves, she said.

The company said in an earlier statement that Jin's family has not agreed to cooperate with it in its internal probe and an autopsy.

Fuzhou police said the incident is a civil case and is still under investigation.

An officer with the Shangjie police station, which administers the case, said police are trying to help family members

negotiate with Watsons China. Jin's relatives could not be reached on Sunday.

A dermatologist at Fujian Medical University Union Hospital surnamed Wang said she had never come across a case in which a person died from using a facial mask.

Most problems related to facial masks are allergy-based, she said.

Wang urged customers to read instructions carefully when choosing cosmetics.

Watsons China is part of the health and beauty retail and consumer division of the Hong Kong-based A.S. Watson Group. It operates more than 1,000 stores on the mainland, according to its website.