

# South China Morning Post

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Front Page

Hong Kong

China

Asia

World

Business

Markets

Focus

Sport

Property

Technology

Index

Archive

Special Reports



## 'Abused socialite feared scandal'

ANGEL LAU

A socialite on trial for her Swiss lover's death never complained of what she alleges was his abusive behaviour for fear of scandal and embarrassment, a jury heard yesterday.

Maria Remedios Coady, 43, described herself as "very humanitarian" and said, "I have one line that I would never cross - to hurt people, and to hurt him".

The "him" was Gregoire Daniel Weil, 42, who was allegedly stabbed to death by Coady in their rented Wan Chai flat on December 20, 1997. Coady, a fashion designer, denies murder.

She said she cared for Weil "more than anyone else in his life".

"I have fallen victim to the most serious chain of events which placed me in the wrong place at the wrong time, and to the wrong individual," she said.

Weil, once a gentle and charming man, turned out to be "highly disturbed and sick".

"He took it upon himself to seek retribution, to vent his angst, implicating me for his final act of catharsis," she said.

Yet the accused said she still regarded Weil as "a very nice person" to whom she bore no hatred or grudge.

Prosecutor John Hagon alleged Coady lied and worked for money in the name of charity.

"Why are you here, sir? Are you not making money, sir?" she retorted.

Mr Hagon asked why she had never complained to the authorities about Weil's alleged abusive

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**I have fallen victim to the most serious chain of events which placed me in the wrong place at the wrong time, and to the wrong individual**

behaviour.

"I don't like scandal. I don't like embarrassment,"  
she replied.

The trial continues today before Mrs Justice Verina  
Bokhary.

### **Back To Top**

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[Front Page](#) | [Hong Kong](#) | [China](#) | [Asia](#) | [World](#) | [Business](#)  
[Markets](#) | [Focus](#) | [Sport](#) | [Property](#) | [Technology](#) | [Index](#)

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