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Student dies nine months after she fell into a coma while having routine surgery and sparked end-of-life legal battle

- Aden Hailu, 20, passed away Monday at St Mary's Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nevada, after her heart stopped
- Hailu had been in a coma since April 1, when she failed to wake up from anesthesia after an abdominal surgery
- Doctors declared Aden brain dead on May 28, but her father insisted on continuation of treatment

By [ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

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A 20-year-old college student at the center of an end-of-life legal battle over her treatment at a Reno hospital died while still on life support Monday.

Aden Hailu passed away at around 4.30pm at Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center, where she never awoke from anesthesia after surgery April 1, 2015, said David O'Mara, the attorney representing Hailu's father and family.

O'Mara said the family was told Hailu was pronounced dead after her heart stopped and efforts to revive her failed.

Rest In Peace: Aden Hailu, 20, passed away at a Reno, Nevada, hospital while still on life support on Monday, more than eight months after she fell into a coma

Hailu was a college freshman when she went in for surgery to remove her appendix on April 1. She never woke up from anesthesia

Aden's father, Fanuel Gebreyes, was at the hospital and noticed Hailu had trouble breathing - even with a ventilator. But Gebreyes wasn't in his daughter's room when her heart stopped. Hospital officials have declined to comment on Hailu's death citing privacy laws. Gebreyes lost a bid in court last week to delay brain electroencephalogram, or EEG, tests that the hospital said would show she was brain dead and would never recover. Washoe County Family Court Judge Frances Doherty had given Saint Mary's the green light to conduct brain wave tests, but indicated she wouldn't rule until at least January 22 on the question of life or death. O'Mara said Tuesday it didn't appear the tests had been done. The family lawyer earlier accused the hospital of wanting to pull the plug on Aden to cut costs. He said Gebreyes felt that as long as there was a chance the 20-year-old woman was alive, the hospital should treat her or find a place that would. The father appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court after the doctors at Saint Mary's pronounced Hailu dead last May 28. The high court ruled Doherty too quickly rejected the family's bid to keep Hailu on life-support and sent the case back to Doherty. Hailu's father, Fanuel Gebreyes (pictured in court in December), lost a legal battle last week to delay EEG tests that the hospital said would show his daughter was brain dead

Washoe County Family Court Judge Frances Doherty had given Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center in Reno the green light to conduct brain wave tests on Hailu a week before her death. The judge last week said she wanted both sides to submit arguments about whether additional EEG, CT scan and eye reflex tests should be performed. Attorneys representing the hospital argued it was unfair to force the hospital to treat Hailu indefinitely. The hospital said money wasn't the issue, but that administrators needed to respect doctors' medical judgment. Lynn Sack, aide to Washoe County Coroner Ellen Clark, said Tuesday that because Hailu died at a hospital, there was no need for a public autopsy. Hailu was from Las Vegas and was a freshman at the University of Nevada, Reno. Doctors say she suffered severe low blood pressure and a lack of oxygen to the brain during surgery to remove her appendix and explore the cause of unspecified abdominal pain, according to court documents.

A lawyer representing Hailu's family earlier accused the hospital of wanting to pull the plug on Aden (pictured left with a friend and right) to cut costs. Her father wanted the hospital to treat her as long as she was alive. Saint Mary's doctors said three EEG tests conducted during the first two weeks of April showed declining brain function, and no EEG tests were performed after that. Gebreyes, meanwhile, refused to consent to new brain wave tests. He insisted that Hailu needed treatment, not tests, including thyroid medication and a tracheostomy so she could receive nutrition through her throat, not just intravenous fluids. The judge told the father he could move Hailu to another facility if he wanted, but O'Mara had told The Associated Press the family couldn't find a place to take her.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3385800/Woman-Reno-hospital-end-life-case-dies-life-support.html#ixzz44I28VJ3H>

Comment:

We are grateful to Paul Byrne MD, for his great effort to save Aden Hailu's rights and life. We know she is dead just few days before Nevada Supreme Court Hearing and we wonder if this death is a natural one or something useful to solve international death controversy broken out on the case. But we know the answer:

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