

Reward offered for info on missing chef

by UPI

LONDON -- A British charity is offering a \$15,000 reward for information about a 35-year-old York University chef, who police say may have been a murder victim.

Claudia Lawrence was last seen leaving her job March 18 and detectives are now treating her disappearance as a suspected murder, the Guardian reported Friday.

The charity Crimestoppers says it decided to offer an "enhanced reward" because of the level of interest in the case.

Police in North Yorkshire believe Lawrence disappeared after meeting someone she knew.

The newspaper said detectives are working on descriptions of men seen at or near her home as well as a report of a couple arguing near the university on the morning after she vanished.

Since Lawrence disappeared, police have searched 270 houses as well as 1,000 student rooms at the university. They have taken statements from 868 potential witnesses and fielded 900 phone calls from people offering information.

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