

INTERVIEW OF KOUTHER DRISS

DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT PAUL BULMAN

DETECTIVE ROBERT MACHUGH

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

1 (Answers by the translator are for THE
2 TRANSLATOR)

3 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Could you just
4 ask him to show you what his name, date of birth,
5 contact phone number, and address are?

6 MR. DRISS: [REDACTED] 61, [REDACTED].

7 THE TRANSLATOR: All right. You guys have his
8 address and stuff.

9 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah. Just
10 explain to him that we're doing a criminal
11 investigation regarding a shooting that took place last
12 night. We'd like to ask him a few questions, and
13 that's he's being video and audio recorded.

14 THE TRANSLATOR: Correct.

15 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Basic background
16 - how long has he lived there?

17 THE TRANSLATOR: Three years.

18 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Three years. And
19 how long has he had a roommate?

20 THE TRANSLATOR: Three years. His roommate
21 lived there before him. He came here and moved in with
22 him.

23 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: And going back
24 not last night but the night previous, was he -- was he

1 there when the police were there for a fight?

2 TRANSLATOR: What time? You have an estimated
3 time?

4 Two days ago he worked until like 2- 3 o'clock.
5 He was there for the rest of the evening.

6 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: And where does he
7 work?

8 THE TRANSLATOR: He works at the gas station
9 near his -- near his house.

10 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Okay.

11 THE TRANSLATOR: Near his house, right.

12 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: East Coast?
13 That's the gas station?

14 DETECTIVE MACHUGH: (Nods head)

15 THE TRANSLATOR: East, right. Just sometimes,
16 right?

17 MR. DRISS: Sometimes.

18 THE TRANSLATOR: He works there for
19 (indiscernible).

20 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: What's that?

21 THE TRANSLATOR: Normal expense is why he works
22 there, to pay his bills.

23 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah.

24 THE TRANSLATOR: That's why he works there.

1 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: He doesn't have
2 any other jobs?

3 MR. DRISS: No, no.

4 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Going back to
5 Friday night, did he recall the police being there?

6 THE TRANSLATOR: So Friday he was hearing
7 banging.

8 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Right. Can you
9 ask him the approximate time of that?

10 THE TRANSLATOR: 7:30, 8:00 maybe.

11 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Okay. What did
12 he hear?

13 THE TRANSLATOR: Banging. Banging on -- heard
14 banging on the first door. I'm assuming the outer
15 door.

16 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Uh-huh
17 (affirmative).

18 THE TRANSLATOR: Banging, banging. And then he
19 went in to answer the -- he opened the door and let the
20 guy in. That's what he said.

21 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Did he recognize
22 the guy?

23 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah. He -- once he opened
24 the door, he recognized him. And he said -- I asked

1 him his name, and he said his name was Al. And he lives
2 in the apartment -- so as you walk in, he lives in the
3 apartment on the left.

4 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: After he let him
5 in, did he hear anything else?

6 THE TRANSLATOR: So he didn't hear anything,
7 but he said that the guy opened his door; and he was in
8 the kitchen cooking dinner. When he opened the door,
9 he asked where his roommate was, and he said I don't
10 know. And then he just shut the door.

11 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: So he lets him
12 into the apartment.

13 THE TRANSLATOR: Lets him in. He goes into --

14 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Into his
15 apartment?

16 THE TRANSLATOR: Yes. And he goes into his
17 apartment. So he goes into his apartment. The guy he
18 let him walked into that apartment on the left.

19 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah.

20 THE TRANSLATOR: All right. He -- he didn't
21 hear anything.

22 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Okay. So was he
23 cooking dinner himself?

24 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah.

1 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Okay. So he let
2 him in, and then went to cook his dinner?

3 THE TRANSLATOR: Right.

4 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah. And that
5 was it for Friday night?

6 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah. That was it.

7 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: That was it?
8 Okay. So that was Friday. So can he tell us what
9 happened on -- to the best of his recollection on
10 Saturday?

11 THE TRANSLATOR: Can I ask him another question
12 about Friday?

13 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah.

14 THE TRANSLATOR: I'm just going to ask him if
15 he heard anything prior to the knock on the door.

16 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah. That would
17 be good. And -- so after he went home there was
18 another altercation in the apartment where furniture
19 was broken up, and there should have been some loud
20 banging by --

21 THE TRANSLATOR: When was this?

22 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: This was Friday
23 night.

24 THE TRANSLATOR: Friday night?

1 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah. So after
2 he let him in, he went -- the guy went in and had --
3 was involved in a fight with his roommates, and he
4 broke a significant amount of furniture and then fled
5 the scene before the police arrived. The police
6 arrived Friday night as well as Saturday.

7 THE TRANSLATOR: Okay. So let's go with just
8 Friday.

9 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah.

10 THE TRANSLATOR: It was broken on Friday?

11 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yes.

12 THE TRANSLATOR: And this was after --

13 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: So he let him in.

14 THE TRANSLATOR: After he let him in?

15 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah.

16 THE TRANSLATOR: Right after?

17 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Shortly after.

18 THE TRANSLATOR: Shortly after, okay.

19 ALL RIGHT. So he claims that he heard sounding
20 like someone banging on the apartment door as well.

21 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: This was after --

22 THE TRANSLATOR: This was -- about 15, 30
23 minutes after. He -- sounded like someone was banging
24 on the door.

1 So within like that 15 minutes he heard like
2 what appeared to be -- what he claims the door banging.
3 He also felt like the floor shaking and like the
4 building shaking. He says they do that all the time,
5 not the first time.

6 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: And that's the
7 next question I was going to ask. That was frequent?
8 Did he ever --

9 THE TRANSLATOR: He claims that -- yeah.
10 That's normal there.

11 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Normal?

12 THE TRANSLATOR: Right.

13 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: They're always
14 fighting?

15 THE TRANSLATOR: Right. And he thinks the guy
16 that he let in is like -- he seems like -- he says he
17 seems like he's always like on drugs or something.

18 He spoke to Al's brother and says that --
19 basically discussed that, you know, there's something
20 going on. (Indiscernible)

21 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: (Indiscernible)

22 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah. That there's like --
23 always like commotion or -- you know.

24 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: And you know,

1 what happened after that? Did he go to bed after a
2 certain time then just didn't -- does he remember the
3 police coming that night? Did anyone ask him anything
4 that night?

5 THE TRANSLATOR: All right. I'll -- I'll ask
6 him from the time he knocked on his door and left,
7 right?

8 MR. DRISS: Yeah, he left.

9 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Okay. He left?
10 Yeah. Tell me after he left.

11 THE TRANSLATOR: Okay.

12 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Very important if
13 he can tell me approximately what time Al left.

14 THE TRANSLATOR: Friday you guys want to know?

15 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah, Friday.

16 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah. He doesn't know when he
17 actually left. He just knows that he heard a lot of
18 slamming of doors, so he couldn't really make out --
19 you know, people were coming and going. He just didn't
20 know the exact time he left.

21 You have that? 7:30, 8 o'clock he was making
22 dinner.

23 DETECTIVE MACHUGH: Him?

24 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah. He was making dinner.

1 That's when the -- the guy knocked on his door.

2 So after he made dinner, he went upstairs and
3 ate, and he didn't see anything or hear anything.

4 All right. So Friday he heard commotion,
5 right. This was like after. Like it went -- it was
6 silent, and then he heard like commotions. And there
7 was the police because he saw the police light, but he
8 didn't come out of his room to -- to see what was going
9 on. And then he -- so the guy he works with at the gas
10 station told him -- and he went to his shift on
11 Saturday morning -- that the police were there last
12 night, meaning Friday night.

13 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: How long ago did
14 he tell Al that, you know -- not Al, Anthony, Al's
15 brother, that Al had problems and was always drunk and
16 stuff?

17 THE TRANSLATOR: About a year ago.

18 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Year ago?

19 THE TRANSLATOR: Maybe a little bit less, maybe
20 a little bit more.

21 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Got it.

22 THE TRANSLATOR: But Anything, I guess, is the
23 manager there?

24 DETECTIVE MACHUGH: Yeah.

1 THE TRANSLATOR: All right.

2 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: All right. If we
3 can go to Saturday now.

4 THE TRANSLATOR: All right.

5 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: You know, so at
6 some point the police are trying to get into the
7 apartment again, and he actually lets them in --

8 THE TRANSLATOR: Okay.

9 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: -- the front main
10 door.

11 THE TRANSLATOR: Okay.

12 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Can you just ask
13 him like on Saturday if he heard anything and what --
14 what he heard up until when he let the police into the
15 front door?

16 THE TRANSLATOR: Okay. From when he left work,
17 you want me to start there?

18 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah. I mean, if
19 he saw -- when did he first see Al come back, if he
20 did.

21 THE TRANSLATOR: Okay.

22 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Did he hear him
23 come back and --

24 THE TRANSLATOR: Okay.

1 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: -- and then walk
2 us through to the point where he let the police in.
3 And then, you know, go and see if heard or saw anything
4 else.

5 THE TRANSLATOR: Okay.

6 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: He's saying he's
7 working Saturday. What his work schedule is on
8 Saturday?

9 THE TRANSLATOR: Sorry, 7:00 to 1:00.

10 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: 7:00 to 1:00 on
11 Saturday.

12 THE TRANSLATOR: 7:00 a.m. to 1300, 07 to 13.

13 So after work he went into his apartment, and
14 he was just relaxing. And then he heard banging on the
15 door, "Open up, open up, police" --

16 (END OF AUDIO FILE 1)

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18 THE TRANSLATOR: ...what he told me. Then he
19 went downstairs and opened the door, and there was a
20 young female police officer there. And then he let
21 them in, and then he went to his apartment. And then I
22 asked him between the time he got off --

23 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Do you know what
24 time that was?

1 THE TRANSLATOR: I'm sorry. 3:30, 4 o'clock.

2 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: 3:30, 4:00, okay.
3 And it was a female police officer?

4 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah. So around 3:30, 4:00 he
5 heard a female officer say, "Open the door. Please
6 open the door. It's the police." He came down and
7 opened the door, saw the police officer. He let them
8 in, and then he went to the apartment -- back to his
9 apartment.

10 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Did he hear
11 anything else after that?

12 THE TRANSLATOR: After the police?

13 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah. After he
14 let them in.

15 THE TRANSLATOR: As soon as he let them in, he
16 heard them banging on the apartment door. Let them in.
17 It's the police. He says the police officer said,
18 "We're here to help. We would like to help you, just
19 please let us in." And that went for -- he's saying
20 like anywhere between 30 minutes to an hour they were
21 talking through the door.

22 So then after he heard that, he heard Anthony
23 yell through the door to open the door.

24 So he says that's all -- that's all he --

1 that's all he heard and seen, and he knew that it wasn't
2 going good when the police were there.

3 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Ask if heard any
4 gunshots?

5 THE TRANSLATOR: Let me just think of the word.
6 Two shots.

7 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Did he hear any
8 yelling before the shooting?

9 THE TRANSLATOR: All right. He said that he
10 didn't hear anything before. He didn't come down.
11 There was a lot of police. He just heard two shots.

12 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Can you ask him
13 if he saw anything from the windows?

14 THE TRANSLATOR: He didn't really see anything.
15 He saw -- he saw the police through the window, and he
16 thinks that the problem was out of sight from the
17 window.

18 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: From his window,
19 is he looking out on the front of the street or the
20 side of the -- the side of the building?

21 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah. He says just direct on
22 the road. He can't see left or right.

23 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: What road is
24 that? Is that 20?

1 DETECTIVE MACHUGH: Yeah, Main Street.

2 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Can't see left or
3 right?

4 THE TRANSLATOR: Right. He can see -- you can
5 see like left to right just a couple of meters. You
6 don't really see the broad --

7 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Anything else
8 that he can add that he knows about Al, or has he seen
9 Al threatening or involved in physical altercations or
10 having weapons like bats, or sticks, or clubs?

11 THE TRANSLATOR: No. He -- he tries to avoid
12 him when he sees him. He doesn't want to deal with
13 him. He just --

14 So he claims that, you know, Al is nice and
15 angry and mad, but a majority of the time he's angry
16 and mad more than nice.

17 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: And when he was
18 angry and mad, was he off his head in drugs and
19 alcohol?

20 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah, sometimes.

21 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Generally just
22 tried to avoid him if possible?

23 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah.

24 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Can you ask him

1 if he's aware of any other witnesses that we may not
2 have talked to, anyone else he saw, civilians that we
3 might try to talk to that may have perhaps saw
4 something and, you know, police didn't, or any sort of
5 help like that?

6 THE TRANSLATOR: Saw a guy named Devin.

7 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Devin is his
8 roommate.

9 THE TRANSLATOR: Oh, Devin -- okay. Got you.

10 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Can you ask him
11 if he knows the identity of a woman who picked Al up
12 Friday night and drove around, or if he knows Al's --
13 Al's girlfriend, and if so, who that person is? If
14 he's ever seen him with a woman?

15 THE TRANSLATOR: He doesn't know her name. He
16 knows what she looks like. You want me to have him
17 describe her?

18 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Yeah. If he can
19 describe her, that would be good.

20 THE TRANSLATOR: All right.

21 Thirty-five to forty, black hair, blue eyes.
22 Blue eyes is a question mark. I think he's just kind
23 of saying blue, but I'm not confident with that answer.
24 Short build, kind of like slim, not -- yeah. Kind of

1 like --

2 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Medium build?

3 THE TRANSLATOR: Medium build.

4 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Does he know what
5 kind of car she drove?

6 THE TRANSLATOR: All right. So could be a Rav-
7 4 black.

8 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Small SUV?

9 MR. DRISS: Yeah, family car.

10 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Like a Rav-4?

11 MR. DRISS: Yeah.

12 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Is it newer or
13 older?

14 MR. DRISS: Not new, no, no.

15 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: No?

16 MR. DRISS: Not new, not old, middle.

17 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: No way you
18 remember the plate?

19 MR. DRISS: No, sorry.

20 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Did she ever use
21 a credit card at the gas station to get gas?

22 MR. DRISS: Sometimes credit card, sometimes
23 cash.

24 THE TRANSLATOR: So she got -- she did get gas

1 there before. Not in that vehicle, in a different
2 vehicle, and she used her credit card.

3 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Six months
4 earlier?

5 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah, give or take.

6 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Does he know her
7 first name by chance?

8 THE TRANSLATOR: No, he doesn't. Doesn't know
9 her name, and I just asked him maybe a first letter.
10 He doesn't remember.

11 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: No phone number?

12 THE TRANSLATOR: No.

13 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Any idea where
14 she lives?

15 THE TRANSLATOR: He sees her two to three times
16 a week.

17 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: He said maybe in
18 another city?

19 THE TRANSLATOR: Yeah. He thinks she lives in
20 another city. And I asked him what city, and --

21 Yeah. She comes in for a little bit and then
22 just leaves. She doesn't --

23 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Can you think of
24 anything else? We asked for a phone number. Would

1 anyone else that works at the gas station maybe know who
2 -- who she is?

3 THE TRANSLATOR: Maybe Mikey.

4 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: And that's Mikey
5 who?

6 THE TRANSLATOR: Mikey was working yesterday.
7 He might know her name.

8 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Ask him at this
9 time we don't have any further questions, but if we do
10 have any additional questions, would it be okay if we
11 spoke to him again?

12 THE TRANSLATOR: No problem.

13 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Thank him for his
14 time, and if he could -- we will now take him home.

15 DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT BULMAN: Thank you very
16 much.

17 DETECTIVE MACHUGH: Thank you.

18 (END OF FILE)

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CERTIFICATION

I, Marianne McKenna, Court Approved Transcriptionist for Christerson Court Reporters, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript from the audio recordings received by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office.



Marianne McKenna, Transcriptionist