
THIS WILL BE A STATEMENT IN REFERENCE TO CASE NUMBER 90 01 31
0233. THE STATEMENT IS TAKING PLACE ON THE 26TH OF JULY, 1994 AT
APPROXIMATELY 1430 HOURS.

Q Mahmoud for the tape would you tell me your full name?

A Mahmoud Abib, Mahmoud M-a-h-m-o-u-d Abib A-b-i-b.

Q And a date of birth.

A [REDACTED]

Q I don't know if you remember specifically the first statement I took from you back in 1990 shortly after Dr. Khalifa's death..during that statement you discussed and gave me a description of a subject by the name of Walter who used to live out in the trailer behind the mosque.

A Yes.

Q Do you recall how long he would have lived in that trailer?

A About a month and a half.

Q Before Dr. Khalifa's murder.

A _____.

Q Had he been in town prior to that?

A I don't really know, he just came for that short period..he said he found a job in somewhere in Denver, you know I'm not..

Q Somewhere in Denver?

A Yeah Denver or Las Vegas.

Q Okay.

A I don't really recall exactly but I remember Dr. Khalifa was giving him a reference letter.

Q When he would have been here it would have been around the same time that Benjamin Phillips was also here?

A He came..Benjamin first came in about three weeks or two..two to three weeks after Walter _____.

Q After he left.

A Yes.

Q Okay.

A They didn't come at the same time.

Q Okay..from what I understood the first time we spoke about

Walter he did electrical work in the mosque?
A Exactly..he did roofing work, he did electrical work, he did telephone wiring work..Rashad will trust anybody even if you know just met and they could do anything they would like..he spent hours in the attic doing something.

Q Do you recall what Walter's last name was?
A No..he well either Ben or Walter you know we..usually when a person introduced themselves as one name we wouldn't inquire even though we do now but..
Q Um hum back then you didn't.
A Yeah.

Q What I would like to do Mahmoud and maybe let me just go over this, I re-read your statement the other day that I took..
A Yeah.
Q ..and back in 1990 you described Walter as a black male, twenty seven to twenty eight years of age..
A Uh huh.
Q ..one hundred and seventy five pounds to one hundred and eighty..
A Uh huh.
Q ..approximately six foot to six foot two..
A Yes.
Q ..with you described big eyes, a big forehead..
A Um hum.
Q ..shallow eye sockets?
A Right.
Q ..and he maybe had a sister in Tempe.
A _____.

Q Did he have any facial hair, a beard, mustache?
A No he kept it shaved all the time.

Q Okay..did he have..was was he bald, did he have hair?
A He had receding hair..forehead.

Q A receding hairline?
A Yeah yeah.

Q Anything else about him that you could recall that was unusual, scars or tattoos?
A No.

Q I'm going to show you several photographs.
A Okay.

Q And this first one it's..I apologize it's a black and white and it's kind of hard to _____.

A That's all right.

Q Is that anyone you recognize?

A This is very close to him.

Q Very close to Walter?

A Yes, a little bit fatter though.

Q Could you say Mahmoud if whether or not that is the person you knew as Walter?

A _____ person..the mouth and eye..

Q The mouth and the eyes?

A Yeah and see and it's got a beard here..

Q Right and..

A .._____..

Q ..I believe he has a mustache in that picture too.

A Yeah but this is very very close.

Q Let me have you look at these others..whether or not any of these individuals are Walter or someone that you may have seen before?

A Okay..no I don't remember this person.

Q Okay..the closest one from this group of photographs that you've looked at is..

A Yes.

Q ..the first one that you saw, the black and white driver's license photo.

A Yes.

Q And again the mouth and the eyes look similar to..

A Very similar.

Q ..what Walter looked like?

A Very similar that's the way he used to smile and..it's just very similar.

Q Okay..you believe when he left that he he had a letter of recommendation from Dr. Khalifa.

A Yes.

Q ..and that he either went to Denver or to..

A Las Vegas I'm..

Q ..Las Vegas.

A ..apparently one of those midwest or western states..and he say he got a job there..if there are any records that you can pull out and he stayed at Travelers Aid of Tucson and

that's all right that's what at least he told us..because Rashad gave him that trailer.

Q Okay do you know how long he had been here before?

A No he just came in one day with his car with all his belongings in the car, said he came from Texas..he was driving a car with Kentucky plates..

Q What kind of car was it Mahmoud if you remember?

A I think it was one of those..it was a big Ford, I don't know what the models are.

Q Do you remember what color?

A White.

Q He was from Texas and he had Kentucky plates on the vehicle.

A Yes he had Kentucky plates on the vehicle.

Q And do you know how long he stayed or..

A In Texas or in Tucson?

Q No, with Travelers Aid, did they put him up in a hotel or..

A She say they kept they kept him there until he find us.

Q Okay.

A And so approximately probably a week or so.

Q So he came specifically to seek you out?

A No he came specifically for just looking for a job..

Q Okay.

A ..and _____.

Q He came here a month and a half before Dr. Khalifa was killed.

A Yeah yeah and he stayed with us about a month so that's..

Q But he left..

A He left in the middle of December.

Q Okay.

A And I..but he came late October.. November and December partially so..

Q Benjamin Phillips came in November, right?

A Benjamin Phillips not in November, in January..he only..he was only there for three weeks..four weeks rather..so for that whole month of January he was there that was it.

Q Do you have a lot of contact with Benjamin Phillips?

A Only on Fridays when when we have the studies nights, he don't come days.._____ as he was walking outside he asked me what it this place..you know he acted like he doesn't know anything about Islam and he wanted to know more about it..and as time goes went by within two weeks or so I realized that he knows a lot about Islam..so that really I was suspicious of that why did he tell me that he doesn't know anything but yet he..he's dressed in Islamic clothes and he knows more about Islam..that was one of little suspicions _____ also he would always go to Rashad and stay in the office with him.

Q He would?

A Yeah he would go in the office just straight and that was also unusual for a new person..especially at night when you have the studies, when we are all eating cakes and always staying in the main upper hall..

Q Um hum.

A ..he will go you know in the kitchen first and talk to Rashad about _____..looking around.

Q Did he ever have a key to the mosque to come in and pray when he wanted to?

A No no.._____..unless somebody gave him because most of the people had it.

Q But as far as you know no one gave him the key.

A No..he was there he was there..all Monday, Rashad started saying that _____ he was there the previous Mondays and it would a day before the two days before the assignation..he was there at the _____ all day which was very unusual _____..

Q All day long?

A Every time I come he was sitting there and reading a book and conversing with one of the people who are there..so he was there that Monday..that..

Q Did you ever ask Dr. Khalifa what he was doing there, was Dr. Khalifa there that day?

A Dr. Khalifa was staying in the office area which is locked and but and the hallway usually open for anybody so I..I never you know suspected anything that he was just reading the Koran and there was also someone who is a member who was working on the computer who was there and he was still sitting there talking to him..._____ that day.

Q Was that Edep? (ph)

A Yes.

Q Did you ever see him on Tuesday?

A No.

Q He didn't come to evening prayers?

A No he did not come evening prayers on Tuesday..the the lock the mosque lock became _____ locked from outside but you can open it from inside from that Monday _____.

Q Okay I..let me make sure I understand..you could open from the outside?

A No you cannot open from outside, only with a key.

Q Okay.

A But usually you know it's the kind of lock that you have to push in the little knob and it locks..from inside or outside.

Q Uh huh.

A But amazingly from inside you don't need to put that little knob.

Q It would unlock automatically?

A It will it's it's automatically unlocked from inside..from outside it's locked.

Q Is this are you talking about a dead bolt _____?

A It's not a dead bolt _____ it's the one of those that has two knobs on both sides and a key from outside and inside there's no key, it's just a little..

Q A little button you push in.

A ..yeah you push it in.

Q Okay.

A So if you push that in from inside it's locked from the outside it's locked..both sides.

Q Oh okay.

A All right?

Q Uh uh.

A But this time what happened is from inside it's unlocked.

Q And that happened on Monday.

A Yes, well if that little thing is in or not..it's unlocked..and outside it's locked.

Q Okay.

A So what we used to do people we used to forget to lock the little thing so..when they leave or when we are praying or trying to keep it safe _____ and I remember you know

Tuesday we were saying thank God we don't have to worry about this little thing, you touch at the door and it locks _____ so that was one of the very unusual things that happened _____ I told that in my testimony _____.

Q Okay..anything else Mahmoud that..that in the last four years that may have come to your attention that was suspicious that we haven't gotten back with you and asked you about?

A Well..one thing that you know changed is was that there was constant flow of people that used to come..I mean there was not a week that we did not have at least two or three visitors..

Q Um hum.

A ..who will come and stay for a day and take off when he was alive..as soon as he died we have not seen one person that came..that's very unusual so..

Q Did this stop those people just stopped..

A It just totally stopped yeah all those..there were many blacks _____ they don't come..so you know but there was a very very close close observing and constantly watching every step that we did..it was very obvious you know when I look back.

Q Watching Dr. Khalifa.

A Watching Dr. Khalifa..yeah..so many different guys coming in..changing..and it's very difficult to identify, they stay for a day and take off.

Q Anyone come out and showed you shown you any photographs of possible suspects from other areas?

A Yes..there was a lady that came from Denver.

Q Okay she showed you some photographs of people..

A She showed..

Q ..from Denver?

A ..me photographs, yes.

Q And had you recognized..

A I don't know she didn't say where they were from or anything..she showed me in your office here..

Q Okay.

A ..where the detectives are..she showed me around about twenty.

Q And you didn't recognize any of them.

A No...they were coming in and moving in and moving out.

Q If Walter were to walk in the door now would you recognize him as being Walter, the man that you knew back in 1990?

A Yes.

Q Okay.

A If I speak with him._____ I cannot, you know, that time changes he physically change his appearance..

Q Um hum.

A I I can still tell his eyes and his smile and talking..his voice.

Q Did he speak with an accent?

A No.

Q ..of any type?

A No..Ben Phillips spoke with an accent.

Q And what type of accent did he speak with?

A He said he was from the Caribbean somewhere I don't know..Jamaica or Trinidad or _____ remember having those conversations and I I told him you don't look like you have an accent, he say watch this so he changes that.

Q Since Dr. Khalifa was killed has anyone bragged to you or taken responsibility for Dr. Khalifa's death?

A No..no it's just total shutout, nothing..nobody really except the magazines that publish that..brag about thank God he's dead or..

Q Right.

A ..it's about time somebody took him, you know things like that..but nobody called and say they did it or..or admit it.

Q For the tape Mahmoud would you tell me your full name again?

A Mahmoud Abib.

THAT'S GOING TO CONCLUDE THE TAPE, THE TIME NOW IS 1446 HOURS.

INTERVIEWED BY

TRANSCRIBED BY

DET. WRIGHT 3519



J. AGER 22101

AUGUST 4, 1994 1430