
THIS IS SERGEANT ARMIJO. I'M TAKING A TAPED STATEMENT. THE
DATE IS THE 22ND OF FEBRUARY. THE LOCATION IS AT THE...741
EAST SIXTH STREET. UH, THIS WILL BE REFERENCE THE HOMICIDE
OF DOCTOR KHALIFA. THE TIME IS NOW 508.

A 741...East...

Q Sir, can you state your full name please?

A Uh, MOTESHUM ERISEN (ph), that's how you say it in Turkish...
uh...ERISEN, you would pronounce in, uh, English.

Q Okay, can you...can you spell your first name please?

A M-U-H-T-E-S-E-M, and the last name is E-R-I-S-E-N.

Q Okay, uh, are you currently residing in Tucson?

A Uh, living you mean? Yes.

Q Yes.

A Yes, _____ (inaud)...

Q What's your address?

A It's, uh, 5250 South Campbell, Number 242.

Q Do you have a phone there?

A Yes. 294-9089.

Q Do you work?

A Yeah, um, I'm just gonna(ph) start working as a taxi cab
driver...I just got a job recent...you know...and...

Q Okay, um...

A I've been trained as a taxi driver. Uh, uh, my mind is not
clear to start the job yet.

Q Where are you from?

A I'm from, originally, Turkey. Istanbul, I was born in
Istanbul, Turkey.

Q How long have you been in this country?

A Uh, since 1976.

Q Okay. When did you come to Tucson?

A 1983. January of 19...1983.

Q Okay, and you have been a member of this mosque...for how...

A Since then, yes.

Q Okay. Had you heard about this mosque before you came to Tucson?

A No, I was introduced by a friend that lived in, uh, Tucson and went to U. of A., and...we went to college together in New Jersey. That's how I got to know it(ph).

Q Okay. You were telling me, just a minute ago, that you were...we were talking about the death of MALCOLM X(ph)...

A Ah-huh(affirmative).

Q ...and DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING...

A Right.

Q ...and you were going to start telling me a...an involved narrative on...on some ways that these might be involved in what happened here.

A Yeah, that's right(ph). Only(ph) uh, there's, uh, I think November 1989...I'm pretty sure it was November...one of us... uh, DOCTOR KHALIFA was supposed to go(ph) one(ph) of the biggest, so-called Islamic, uh, conferences. And I know... you know his family was worried that he shouldn't go...was very dangerous. These, uh, meetings ran by...backed up by Saudi Arabia and...and all his enemies...ha, were there and the family was concerned that he shouldn't be going there. So EDIP YUKSEL...I don't...you know that gentleman...he... he...they were supposed to go together then DOCTOR KHALIFA changed his mind that he send(ph) 'em(ph) over there. And... those are the people, okay, uh, are strictly against...you know...the word of God alone. You know, they're against, uh, you know...the Islam should be the way they built up on it so...this is not...you know...this is not, uh, new. This has been going on for...as long as the human...you know...have received a scripture from God. There was always people didn't(ph) like the way that God gave 'em(ph) the scripture. Anyway, get to the point, getting at the point, these were the enemies of DOCTOR KHALIFA. But he wanted the...you know...pass the message. Uh, because his position was very high position as a messenger of God. And finally, EDIP YUKSEL went there and passed some pamphlets... you know...because there are people that...there that might've believed...you know. We cannot...just because of the..uh, those people...enemies of God...we cannot hold the information...we have to...you know...we've...he felt...we all felt...you know...obligated to pass the message to them. So EDIP YUKSEL went and, uh, passed those messages, okay, in December...they have a magazine called, uh...Moslem Journal...

Q Ah-huh.

A ...okay. And this magazine...we didn't, uh, receive this

A magazine. I don't know...you might have a copy of the article. It was written by these people and...these people are under the leadership of W. W. MOHAMMED. WALLACE MOHAMMED.

Q Ah-huh.

A And this is very significant that...you know...everything is like...okay, I and DOCTOR KHALIFA talked about things... you know...on and off. But there was not a single time we ever talked about Black...so-called...Moslem community in the United States. This was very significant that came two weeks before he passed away that...I was watching... when MARTIN LUTHER Day was, uh, was not too long ago, it was the, uh, what was it, November...or...

Q Uh-huh(ph), oh no, it was in January.

A ...January, okay. I was watching it...you know...I had nothing else to do. I was watching how he was assassinated and I know he was a man of God. He wanted to...in his speech last words, he said, "All I want to do is God's will." So, this man was assassinated and MALCOLM X, I was watching...and DOCTOR KHALIFA wanted to, uh, me to tape that, uh, speech. Which I... he told me he could never catch it...you know...to tape it, so I...I watched the whole program and, after watching the program, I came to him...and for all these years, I ask him... you know...I don't know why...out of the blue, I said...this guy...ELISHA MOHAMMED(ph)...we...you know...one of his widows came and visited us pretty often so...I said I...he wasn't a believer because his uh, his widow was talking highly about him. I don't know about these people...

Q Okay now...ELISHA MOHAMMED'S widow, what was her name? Do you remember?

A I don't...no, I don't...

Q Okay.

A ...remember but you have a....

Q She was talking highly of who?

A The...ELISHA MOHAMMED.

Q Ah-huh.

A I had a(ph) impression on to...I watched T.V., this is the facts of the...you know...the...what happened...the truth in the past. I thought that maybe he was a believer...you know. But I found out that...you know...he was behind...uh...uh... of the assassination of MALCOLM X.

Q Ah-huh.

A I still...you know...I wanted his consultation. I just...I

A don't know. I had never interest...you know...I had no interest. I knew very little about the so-called Black... you know...uh, community...Islamic community in the United States. That day...following day, I asked him, I said..."What do you think of, uh, ELISHA MOHAMMED?" I understood from T.V., from the facts...they..you know... they said...you know...he was behind the killing of, uh, MALCOLM X. And I said.."He was not good, was he?" I said, "He was not a believer." He said, "You're right, he...he was the one killed," that was his opinion. And my strong feeling because all these facts I saw on T.V. So...we were talking about that and I said, "How about this guy?" I...you know...I never knew this guy and... you know...I never saw him. But he knew him, I said, "How about this guy?" I coul...I couldn't, uh, remember his last name was MOHAMODOSO(ph)...I said, "Was he one of his sons?" He said, "Yes, not from that woman that we know." So I said, "What is he?" I said, "Is he any good or...?" He told me...he says, "No, he's no good." He received the message from him...from DOCTOR KHALIFA and the miracle...and the cult(ph)...number nineteen in the Koran...he said, "He's no good." He had a long time to sleep on it if he was good, he would accept it. 'Cause it's from God. So...this...this, uh, you know...this is very significant all these years that all this came up about the Black, uh, so-called Islamic..you know... community. And these people I know...uh, he told me...he... I never question him how he knew, but God always guided him. He knew that FAREHAN...FAREHAN...how do you say his name?

Q FARICAN(ph).

A FARICAN was no good. He got some kind of, uh, millions of dollars from Arabs to...you know...he was...he sold his soul. So...(ahem) at the same token to...you know...ELISHA MOHAMMED...was not...so there's a power struggle between the Black community...uh, to who was gonna(ph) be leader...

Q Ah-huh.

A ...so, even though WALLACE MOHAMMED...which...who is one of ELISHA MOHAMMED'S sons...he has some...you know...so-called power in Chicago. Okay, after EDIP YUKSEL passed those, uh...

Q Fliers?

A ...there were...yeah, fliers...this was the really...the biggest...uh, gathering of the so-called Moslem com..community in that conference...three thousand, if I'm not mistaken. So they were there. Some of 'em(ph)...they were bothered because, uh, he passed...and he...he was threatened...you know...to be

A killed. We're gonna(ph) kill you. So...shortly after that... (ahem) this is their magazine...we have a...a Black gentleman...brother, that lives in Chicago...ha..had one of the magazines...those wet(ph)...Molem(ph)...uh, journal. He made a copy of that article. Right after it happened, they talk about...you know this...you know...EDIP YUKSEL came around and passed these fliers out...I want to get the article...really, this is what I'm...I'm (sighs)...saying what I heard. But I know article(ph) is...is...is either in your possession or it's in the office. But I can get the maybe...original of that magazine from that brother in Chicago.

Q Ah-huh.

A Okay? That the article was talking about...then they said... it(ph)...you know...they said anyone that rejects the traditional so-called Islam like...they...they have narrations...they call 'em(ph) how(ph) these(ph)...should be killed. So, I'm pretty sure, uh, you know...after all these...they're talking about EDIP YUKSEL passing these around and anyone does not...you know...uh, believe the way they believe, should be killed. Of course they're not gonna come out and say "DOCTOR KHALIFA should be killed." So, that happened shortly after...that's not a coincidence... that these people...or(ph) got very bothered...they were stirred up by these...by this EDIP YUKSEL's...you know... move(ph)...you know. So...(sighs) uh, recently I...ha... you know this is...I don't know how your beliefs are, but this is...there's no such a thing on earth as coincidence. I don't believe in coincidence. There's a reason for everything...

Q Ah-huh.

A ...from God. There's no such a thing, coincidence. Few days ago...you know like...uh, you ca...you can say signs from God but...only certain people can see these signs.

Q Ah-huh.

A You know...few days ago...out of the blue, for no reason... SAMUEL KHALIFA pulled out the picture with DOCTOR KHALIFA and this, uh, WALLACE MOHAMMED. Was taken in Saint Louis, I think that was the time that DOCTOR KHALIFA gave the message to WALLACE MOHAMMED. I have a picture that I wanted to show you. He just pulled that picture out...you know... he's very sad...SAMMY'S very sad. I said, "What are you doing with this picture," you know...he put it on the desk...he says, "I don't know, I pul...found it in...nowhere in there...somewhere, I dugged up these things." You know...

A that was...that was something significant. You know that was...I don't know why that...there's a...you saw the pi..uh, the office...there's...there's tons of pictures there.

Q Ah-huh.

A And there's more pictures in the drawer. I mean...you saw how many pictures I went through.

Q Right.

A So, out of all those pictures, SAMMY pulls this framed picture out. So that was the...WALLACE MOHAMMED...talking with DOCTOR KHALIFA, and I asked him before...you know... like not too long before he passed away, I said, "Is this guy any good? What is he...you know...how...what...I really don't know anything about these Black so-called Moslems." He said, "No, he's not good, he's dangerous." He said, "He's dangerous." So...okay, uh, there's this lady...was a... Black-Afro president of Tucson. I...I showed you...I gave you the picture of her car...black, Ford, Fairmont...

Q Ah-huh.

A ...the plate's number is, ha, there was like somebody took a perfect picture for that...for this reason. And her picture...okay, I...I really...this is my opinion, strongly believe that she told something to LINDA ABIB(ph)...you know...MAHMOUD'S...MAHMOUD ABI...ABIB'S, uh, ex-wife...

Q Right.

A ...well or they're...they're separated now. That...I know she told her, uh, husband that there's a retribution coming to you from Chicago. She wouldn't tell any more. Uh, this is the...when she was going through her separation...this... the lady... (inaud)...I don't know her name...you probably could pop it out from computer by the plate number...

Q Ah-huh.

A ...that they were together...very, very good buddies. You know, I think, uh, LINDA ABI...ABIB was staying in her house and everything. She...she was helping to...you know...get over this situation or something. And, uh, I know...DOCTOR KHALIFA never liked that woman. He knew that she was no good...some kind of...

Q We're(ph)...we're talking about LINDA ABIB now...

A No.

Q ...or we're talking about the other one?

A We're talking about the other...uh, EMANS(ph)...uh, her name

A is...this is not her American name, but she adopted this so-called Moslem name.

Q Ah-huh.

A Uh, he asked me, uh, he s...he smiled at me and said, "How do we get rid of this, uh, woman, EMAN?" I asked him, I said, "Do you want me to throw her out? I'll be more than happy to do it." Because she's a truck driver...acts like a big macho guy or...you know...she's that type of a woman. He said, "No, no, no, God will take care of it." So... these are signifi...significant things that...I mean... unusual things happened before he passed away. I don't know what...you know...this woman was doing something...is some type of...into something that, I don't know how much she knows to tell...I think she's the one, really, I can't think of anybody else to tell LINDA ABIB there's a retribution coming from Chicago. I'm just wondering if she was the one that inform(ph) everything happen. You know... th...there...there was nothing, you know, secretive about us. Everything we did was open to everybody, was written down in the monthly paper and send(ph) out even to the enemies.

Q Ah-huh.

A So they know the truth. So, she probably gave 'em(ph) the exit, entrance...you know...I don't know if...you know... (sighs)...if the door was forced, I don't think it was forced. Because I saw the locksmith changing the, uh, lock right after...I think(ph) on Thursday. And I looked at the...door, it was not, uh, tampered with. And somebody asked him, he said, "No, it was not tampered with." I'm thinking they either had a key, which is no big deal, or they could've opened it with a credit card. But, I have a strong feeling that somebody gave a lot of information that who was here, or who was previously in this mosque.

Q Right(ph).

A Okay, there is this group...big group behind us...the Arabs... the...you know, so-called Black community...you know. I'm thinking...you know...if...if these little guys hated DOCTOR KHALIFA because he spoke the truth of God...they tried... you know...they tried in Canada or they said, I'm gonna kill you, I'm gonna...uh, you know...they tried to grab them and...you know...they couldn't...all these years... they really couldn't do anything. But all of a sudden, you know...it's not...i..it cannot be overlooked. You know... this(ph) things happened in November and a couple months...

A ...right after couple months...you know...uh, we lost DOCTOR KHALIFA after that. Because this was a real big, world wide so-called Moslem gathering in Chicago. So... what...what I'm gonna...you know what I'm getting in(ph) to(ph)...if there were individuals...okay...you...you might have some idea that...you know...who'd(ph) done it. You know...like you must be thinking a...something to solve this case that...okay, if there was, uh, somebody that really...you know...gave information o..obviously they knew or they coulda(ph) watch(ph) the area or... but there was somebody...you know. I don't know if it was one or two people...it doesn't really make that much difference. Okay, there was a guy among us, okay...left to go to Detroit. I don't know if you...aware...Detroit has the biggest population of Arabs...after Arabia in the world. That's...that's pretty...I mean that's...something to think about. And this guy had _____ (inaud) big wit...weakness towards money. I knew him. He acted like he was with us, watching DOCTOR KHALIFA'S back.

Q What was his name?
A OTIS SMITH(ph).

Q OTIS SMITH?
A I show you...I don't know about this guy. Remember in the picture...the big fat belly...

Q Right.
A ...this guy...his wife made comments to LINDA ABIB like... "We're gonna come over and take over that mosque." They were power thirsty. More important than that, they had weaknesses towards money. When he came...last time in the conference...I knew...you know...they weren't with us. You know, this was obvious because they did bunch of things... you know. They were outta(ph) here and...he told me, I said, "What are you doing? You know...how you make a living?" He said, "Oh, I'm passing the word, brother." I said, "How?" I mean you gotta(ph)...earn some money to get buy. I mean my work...my wife works...you know...I work. I have to go to work. I...you know...I can't...I'm trying to establish my own business...you know it's...it...sometime things work, sometimes don't. But I know this guy was very lazy. He had weakness towards women and money. Okay? Uh, a true believer has no weaknesses to anything. There(ph) he's...he has no lust to every...anything. So, I just ask him again, I said, "Well you have to make a living." He says, "I'm just passing the word of God." And, I don't know, maybe he...he lives on his, uh, wife's, uh, I don't even know if his wife works. But, uh...I don't know why his wife would make such a comment

A to LINDA ABIB that, uh, we're gonna come over and take over the mosque. I mean I'm thinking...you know...was WALLACE MOHAMMED or whatever the heck their name...is gonna put him in charge when he comes back and...there were a bunch of things coming to my head. You know, I even...honest to God, I even had...there was a thought went by my...you know...head, I said...okay, let's suppose there was somebody that did this...was previously with us. I said, who would it be. I thought of everything. You know like, I said...ERIC...that guy looks like ERIC KOLER(ph) from Switzerland.

Q Sure.

A Uh, I said, no maybe not, I don't know. Then I said, how about that guy from Salt Lake City, Utah. You have the videos...y'know(ph). (Sighs) Uh, you know, I thought about... I think he was a biochemist. Maybe he could buy those, uh...

Q Where...where is BILLOV(ph) PHILLIPS from?

A Who?

Q BILLOV PHILLIPS?

A Who's BILLOV PHILLIPS?

Q He's one of the people that...that was, uh, in one of those video tapes....cassette(ph)...and he was...he was going point by point in his video tape of, uh...about, uh, why DOCTOR KHALIFA was wrong. One of the video tapes...

A Oh, one of debates...tape.

Q Yeah, well it wasn't a debate, it was just him. He was doing this...

A Oh! Oh! That guy f...Jamaica. He's Jamaican. He's Jamaican. He told me.

Q Where's he...where does he live?

A I have no idea. But, he...we were...as a matter of fact, we were watching...this is another significant...I never watched... we were watching this tape. The tape was old. But we were watching...right...you know...MR. ARMIJO, I cannot avoid this...I don't know why...this black thing came all before he left. You know this is a sign from God. It...it's not a coincidence. All these...MARTIN LUTHER KING, MALCOLM X, all this coming and like...within a week or two weeks time a period, it never happened before. I'm talking about this guy...you know I said...I don't think OTIS is...is..is good. He...you know...he agreed with me. He knew.

Q What...what is OTIS' la..last name again?

A SMITH.

Q And where does he...

A Uh...

Q ...where...what...?

A ...Detroit, Michigan.

Q What's his wife's name?

A CAROLYN SMITH.

Q Is she Black as well?

A Yeah. Big...they're both...she's big and tall and way overweight.

Q Okay.

A All these names came up and I was...going through...I said... I said to my wife without...you know...I try to share these things. I said...you know like that guy, OTIS, you know...you think he would've done it? You know she...she was like...

Q Ah-huh(ph).

A ...she thought it was a crazy idea. But my wife is naive, you know. Because the money is, uh, is some people's weaknesses that they would sell their own soul. And the...the Saudi's got plenty of 'em(ph), and they've been going around buying these guys. You know...I think _____ (inaud) was bought...I mean these...these things are going through my head and they could be behind...you know...the Chicago group, or it could be a professional guy. I mean...these guys...as far as I understand, these guys left no fingerprints. Right? They must be obviously wearing gloves, something. Okay, you're not gonna say anything?

Q No, I'm not.

A Okay. I don't...I don't know if they left fingerprints. I'm just trying to...MR. ARMIJO, please understand...if you can...uh, give me...you know...information. I'm not gonna chase those guys. There's no...uh, I will not take the law in my hands. That's...that's...but if somebody tries to kill me it's...uh...there is such a thing, self defense in the scripture of God. I will not let them...you know...uh, kill somebody and I will not sit down and watch. You know, this is everybody's duty. And I will defend myself.

Q Okay.

A But I will not..I want you to understand..I'm very frankly, I want to tell you that I wou...I wouldn't chase these guys. Because God has...has his hands on these guys already.

A I just wanna(ph) know our enemies..you know...there's bunch of people are here and I don't know if it's a good idea... that just to sit and...you know like a sitting duck for them. You know...I..I just don't...

Q Okay. Let me...as long as I've got this tape running, let me ask you a couple more things...

A Okay.

Q ...and then we'll shut the tape and...

A Alrighty(ph).

Q ...Okay? Um, this woman, EMAN....?

A Yes.

Q I've got a list of a...of an EMAN CALEET(ph).

A Yeah, that's it.

Q Is that right?

A That's correct.

Q Is, uh...has she been back?

A No.

Q When did she leave the...

A She leave(ph) right before hi...his departure. About a week, I would say.

Q Okay.

A Le..let me give you the exact...to...okay, I made a...I gave a speech, she wasn't there. That's one, two, three weeks before his departure.

Q Before his death?

A _____(inaud), yeah.

Q Okay.

A So something...

Q Did she say anything to anybody or did she just stop coming back?

A He just...no. He...she said that she's a truck driver. She's got a job she was leaving. I don't know how...she got fired before.

Q Where did she come from? When did you first meet her?

A Oh, first? She start coming to the mosque...I don't know... three years ago. I can't exactly remember. But I can find out. But(ph)....

Q And how did she...how did she become a member of this mosque?
How did she...how did this come to her attention?

A _____ (inaud)...like I said before, it's open to
everybody.

Q I..I realize that but I mean did she just wal...do you remember
if she just walked in or if she...?

A How she heard a...about us, I really didn't know.

Q Okay.

A I don't....if...if it's important, I can find out how she
claim(ph)...you know. There's so many people in there...
pfff....I don't know how they heard about the message and
came. And I don't know how she came to the mosque. I...I
don't know, but...there was something about her that...if
I'm not mistaken, she was like...uh, wanted information.
Like...written speeches of, uh, if I'm not mistaken, she
wanted a tape of, uh, this speech about...you know...
Friday's speeches.

Q When did she tell LINDA ABIB that something was going to
happen out of Chicago?

A Uh...we think she's the one di...uh, did tell...oh, around...
a month...a month before it happened.

Q So we're talking in December sometime?

A Yes.

Q Okay.

A She was...LINDA ABIB was not only making...uh, I want to tell
you this that...she call(ph) one day he(ph)...uh, MAHMOUD
ABIB has it on the tape. Uh, she said his bodyguard,
MUHTESEM..referring to me...she told me, obviously...you
know...you can go around, nobody sees me in the true
community...true believers, they don't see me as a bodyguard,
they see me as a friend watching...you know...uh, close
friends. You would watch your close, uh, friends' back if
he had many enemies. So, LINDA ABIB made a comment like,
his bodyguard, MUHTESEM, he's..he's...uh, excuse the
language...his ass is up the creek also. You know, these
things like...that statement...I made a big deal out of that
statement. I said, "Why did she say that?" Out of the blue,
why...you know...I would...I didn't ignore...I said there's
something more in..in this. We were listening to the tape,
I told MAHMOUD, I said, "MAHMOUD, there's something...she's
saying something that there's more into it...you know...
th..than what she's saying."

Q Okay.

A I don't know why.

Q Let me stop this and turn the tape over, okay?

(END OF SIDE ONE)

(BEGINNING OF SIDE TWO)

A Man(ph) did he disappear.

Q We're starting the second side of this tape. It's a continuation. We're continuing on, we're now in the mosque at seven, four...

A Three, nine.

Q ...three, nine East Sixth Street. Can you, uh...while we were off tape, we came over to the mosque...

A Ah-huh.

Q ...and we started talking about a number of...a number of people that were involved with the...the mosque here. Um, you mentioned, of course before on tape, uh, EMAN...

A Ah-huh.

Q ...I-M-A-N?

A KHALID.

Q KHALID.

A Ah-huh(affirmative).

Q Which is K-H-A-L-I-D.

A Right.

Q And you mentioned to me that...that there was another gentleman who she knew, who was here in the...

A Ah-huh.

Q ...in the mosque.

A Right. His name was MICHAEL, if I'm not mistaken. I..I'm pretty sure...I thi...I'm not...they told me that he was one of...remember you asked me a question? Who were...were the last comers(ph)? It took me a fa...while because this is a shock for me. And...it took me...for awhile...it was BEN, MICHAEL and there was very few people, but I couldn't remember MICHAEL'S name. That he was one of the one that was introduced...so what I heard...by IMAN KHALID to this mosque.

Q Okay. He is...a...how old?

A Around twenty-five.

Q And about how tall?

A Five, eight. He's medium, uh, weight. Medium height. Uh, you know...he...

Q Is he dark complected? Is he..he's a Black...

A No, he's...he's...he's light complected...light...

Q Is he...

A ...real light comple...li..li...complexion, uh, he had and...

Q That's for a Black?

A Yeah.

Q Okay.

A Right.

Q And...how long was his hair?

A Was short.

Q And did he have any facial hair? A mustache or a beard?

A He had big forehead...big, wide forehead.

Q Did he speak with an accent?

A No.

Q Okay.

A He was American.

Q And how many times do you remember him coming here?

A Oh...eight, ten times.

Q And that's over what period? About when did he start?

A Every week, see every Friday we would...he would come. Every Friday for...two, three months...I'm not sure but...around that much.

Q Okay. This is two or...

A Eight, ten times.

Q ...two or three months before DOCTOR KHALFA was killed?

A No, it...wo..I don't...I can't remember...exactly when he stopped coming. And last few visits, there was more time in between, like instead of coming every week, he would come every other week. You know that g...uh, that got my attention, and I never questioned him. I didn't really speak with the guy that much.

Q But you don't know when he stopped coming, but it was sometime before DOCTOR KHALIFA died?

A Yeah, it was like...I think it was about two or three weeks before.

Q Okay. Um, the other thing we talked about...we talked about, was that CAROLYN SMITH got a phone call? Or CAROLYN SMITH called, uh...

A IMAN, that we strongly believe. Is...is that what you're talking about?

Q No, this...this is the morning of the...of the sa..of the homicide.

A Right.

Q Two hours after...who did...

A Well(ph)...

Q ...who did she call?

A CAROLYN SMITH and OTIS SMITH called SOAD...uh, that's...m..m.. DOCTOR KHALIFA'S sister...and his brother-in-law...uh, AHMED RAYAD. And my first reaction was...I said...how did they know.

Q Okay, now...

A It's been only couple of hour...hours.

Q And OTIS and CAROLYN live in Detroit?

A Right.

Q And they...and supposedly they call from Detroit?

A Right.

Q Okay. And...AHMED and SOAD...

A SOAD, yeah.

Q SOAD?

A Ah-huh.

Q Um, RYAN?...RAYAN?

A Yeah, RAYAN.

Q They, uh, were do they live?

A They live, uh, I...I guess(ph)...

Q Here in town?

A Ye..no, y..they live in one of these apartments.

Q One of the apartments back here.

A Yeah. I forgot the number.

Q Okay. Uh...did they say how they knew...he had died?
A They tol...they told me...my first reaction, I said how did they know, and they said...I don't know who told them.

Q Okay.
A And...somebody else told me...I s...you know...uh, GWEN is a relative of, uh, OTIS SMITH. GWEN, I don't know her last name. You have her name on that list...supposedly called them up. And I said, how does she knew(ph)...See, there are people that wishy-washy...I don't...trust..they...they seem to be with us, but they're really not sincere. I don't know what...they do and...I said okay, if she knew, how does she know.

Q Ah-huh.
A Then...you know...I just...

Q Okay. W...let's talk for a minute about BEN.
A Okay.

Q BEN is a Black male...
A Ah-huh.

Q ...that showed up about how long ago? How long before DOCTOR KHALIFA died?
A About a month...not ev..well, about a month. Maybe three weeks. Very short time before he...he passed away. Maybe I would say three weeks...

Q Who...
A ...back(ph) in three weeks.

Q ...who was the first one that talked to him?
A I did. MAHMOUD was the first one saw him trying to come into the mosque and MAHMOUD ABIB told me...he said...can you tell.. this brother wants to know about...you know...the Koran and the faith...our faith. And I set on this couch with him about an hour...talking...

Q Okay, we're talking about the couch that's in the...room adjacent to the main room of the mosque. This is where the computers are.
A Right, ah-huh(ph)...

Q Okay.
A ...as soon as you enter the mosque, it's the little room on the left.

Q Okay. And..uh, what did he tell you?

A He just told me that he saw a dream that...you know I...I was wondering...I said...wha...what made you come to this mosque, I said...wha...what was it that drove you here. He was saying, uh, I saw this dream, uh...he really ne.. never answered the question, actually. He said, I saw this dream, there was one guy, uh, was calling me...he said...he was calling me with something on his head. He was trying to tell me...had a turban...you know how the Middle Easterns wear a turban on their head...

Q Ah-huh.

A ...that's what he was trying to describe to me. He said... he was telling me...calling me...come...and he said he was diving under the water. This was his dream, and I just... you know I was really puzzled, what did that dream mean for him to come here. In other words, I didn't see the connection. He was just...I felt like he was voiding(ph) my question. Why...he's telling me...I'm asking you know... well, where are these apples from, he says, I bought this orange from Florida and I was eating all the way from there to here. That...it was like...I...I thought nothing of it. He was just...you know...

Q Okay, he sat down here. Did he tell you that he knew anything about Islam?

A No. He told me...it was clear...my impression that he knew nothing about it.

Q And where was he from? What..what was the impression he gave you?

A As far as I can remember, he...I asked him that question. He said, "I'm from here, I was born here, and raised here." That... I really didn't...I don't know...I didn't...I had a funny feeling about that...

Q Di...

A ...to be honest.

Q Did he have an accent?

A Uh, couple of times I noticed like he'd talk like a...you know...a Jamaican...you know...and I was like...then maybe I said it's my imagination because I have an a..accent.

Q Ah-huh.

A You know...maybe...I can...you know like...he said certain words funny. See I can notice thi..uh, this because I have an accent so...but, you know...I..then I wasn't sure.

Q Do you know...do you remember what kind of words he said funny?

A No, I wish I could remember. But just this...you know that Jamaican is..uh, accent is very distinguished. I thought that he was Jamaican and...and he...he told me something, I cannot really recall, but he said I was born and raised in Tucson, I think. That's what he said, but I felt funny when he told me that because if he was born and raised here, all these years, why didn't he come...you know... this sign has been there for...fourteen years, I believe. I...I don't know how long. As long as I've been here. Why, all of a sudden, he comes..._____ (inaud).

Q I'm going to stop the tape for a second.

A Okay.

Q Okay, we're turning the tape back on. Uh, somebody came into the mosque and we had to turn the tape off for a minute. Uh, okay. So...what we were...we were talking about...about BEN and about the fact that he gave you...to believe that he was from Tucson, and yet he had some sort of an accent that you think might've been Jamaican.

A There(ph) well(ph)...I'm..I'm not really sure. Sometimes you know...I don't know...I'm not pretty sure but he...couple of times...he...you know he just...he sits...certain words had an ac..accent on it. So I wasn't sure...you know..and you know how Jamaicans look a little different than, uh, American Blacks. So he had that Jamaican look on him.

Q Was he, um, was he old? Was he young? How old was he?

A He was about twenty-five, I would say. Twenty-five.

Q And...what did he tell you he did...for a living?

A He told me he was passing those...you know...coupons...

Q Ah-huh.

A ...for saving...he..he said...I, uh, I had one of 'em(ph)... DOCTOR KHALIFA gave me...WOW! You know I never thought about this...DOCTOR KHALIFA came out and he...he gave me that coupon. He was wondering and this guy, BEN was sitting...and he said...he was...I took that and I thanked him and I put it on the table...and there's that...there was a table here...

Q Ah-huh.

A ...I don't know what happened. Oh is that...no. Anyway, he w...he went like this. He wanted to look what...what it was. Then, uh, I said...wh..wh..what's...what do you need... what...why...do you need something from the table. You know,

A there was a bunch of papers. He said, "No, I passed these."
He's so...he recognized what he...he saw, and he said, "Oh,
I passed these, I work there."

Q Okay.

A Then...

Q Works where?

A Works in those coupon..uh, place. I don't know, the people
that make...he...

Q Well, what is the name of the place that he worked?

A I don't know. Th..th...the..the coupon place that...he was
distributing them to the houses or...I don't know, that
doesn't make sense because they mail those, don't they?

Q Okay.

A I think he was wondering what DOCTOR KHALIFA gave me, honestly.
Because he...he told other people he works in Tucson Shopper.
He tolds(ph) in Jack-in-the-Box. And he told me he works for...

Q Who did he tell he works for the Jack-in-the-Box?

A I can't remember. But I know, AHMED RAYAN knew...saw him
working in Tucson Shopper.

Q Okay, um...did he know...about(ph)...

A Oh! I remember one more thing about...very important.

Q Ah-huh.

A That he wanted to move...you know that trailer on there?

Q The trailer in the back? Yes.

A Yes, he wanted to move there.

Q Okay.

A He said he wants to move there.

Q When did he say that?

A Oh, about...you know a week after...

Q Week after he got here?

A He got here.

Q Okay. He was around here, was he around here a lot.

A Yeah, I would say for a new person, he was here a lot.

Q Uh...

A For a newcomer he was here...a lot. Especially...uh, towards
his death, he was here many, many times. Like I told you on

A the way coming in to the mosque. He wanted to come alone with MAHMOUD and I...we were going somewhere. He wanted to know where we were going. He kinda(ph) wanted to... he said, "Oh, I'll just come along if you don't mind... with you." I said, "No."

Q He said he didn't know anything about Islam?

A Right.

Q Did you get the impression that he...that he...that was true?

A Ye..no. Because he..he made co..comments, I...I wish I could remember exactly. I've...I like got my atten... intention because...attention because...a newcomer, if..if this guy, uh, knew nothing about...you know...the religion.. that he wouldn't...he made comments like...you know he said words that I recognize. A newcomer would not learn that fast. I mean it's very...

Q Okay, these are...these are words that you would use in the religion...?

A I think...uh, as far as I can remember, when...when he said that...really, I was really surprised. Couple times at least, it happened. And, uh, and...I...at that time I thought nothing of it.

Q Okay. The last time you saw him was when?

A Sunday night.

Q The Sunday before the homicide?

A Right.

Q And where was he?

A _____ (inaud) two or three days. He was sitting on this couch. He had his, uh, hand under his chin...you know.. staring at this direction.

Q Okay, this in the direction of the closet that's on the northside of this room?

A Right. Right, like...he kept looking and like...he was thinking something...then about...you know...that night, I remember him sitting here. He came in very quietly. Then he set(ph) here, didn't say too much, and as soon as DOCTOR KHALIFA saw him like...he had an expression on his face like... you know...what is he doing here.

Q That was DOCTOR KHALIFA had the expression on his face?

A Right, right.

Q Okay.

A I noticed that because...I...like I told you before, he didn't, uh, feel comfortable with himself...I don't know how to explain to you. First time he was here, he really didn't like...he was like...he had this same expression. You know, if not more that time...first time he saw him. Like, what is he doing here.

Q Did um...when he came in and he sat down here, who else was here?

A There was BEHRUZ, there was my wife..._____ (inaud)....

Q BEHRUZ and SUSAN and...

A And...

Q ...you and...

A ...and...there...afterwards, uh, _____ (inaud), uh, this woman(ph) came and...there was ABDUL _____ (inaud) came...to help with the computer, he's very good at computer. And...but that night that...he's really spent a lot of time, that guy, BEN...and he was...

Q Had he ever done that before?

A Not that much.

Q Okay.

A You know that...I was telling you...I don't know if this is on the tape...and I was telling you...I remember him asking me, he said, "Can I come anytime?" He was like...uh, clearing with me. I don't know why he would ask me. You know like I'm... I'm...I'm...ever...like everybody here...why was he asking me that...if he could come over. And I told him as long as... you know...you don't bother...going into the office, that's off limits and...you can come if...if your intention is to read the scripture. Yes, you can come in.

Q When you...when you went in to the main room of the mosque to pray that night...

A Yes.

Q ...did...did he do anything...?

A Yes, he..he joined us which was a very surprise. I noticed a newcomer, after a couple of weeks. You know...like...that was the first time I really noticed this guy's really... praying with us. I mean...I don't remember anybody giving, uh, the directions...we have a pamphlet about how to pray... you know.._____ (inaud) and...bow down. You know like... I remember, as a matter of fact, he did pray before and you know like...this guy claimed that he didn't know much but...

A I...I...you know remember many, many people come...they're sincere, they ask, how do I do this, what do I say. But this guy never asked that. How did he know how to bow down, how to form(ph) _____ (inaud) okay...we can say, okay, he saw it from us, but how about what to say. What do you say...you know...inside of you...when you're praying. He didn't ask anything.

Q What the...what do the prayers say.
A Details...yeah. Details are very important.

Q And how late was he here?
A That night...I think he was here...around seven-thirty, eight o'clock. He was here a really long time. He was one of the last ones left.

Q Was DOCTOR KHALIFA still here when he left?
A Yes.

Q And who else was here when he left? Were you here?
A Yes, I was here. I always left like...after DOCTOR KHALIFA or with him.

Q The night before DOCTOR KHALIFA was killed...
A Ah-huh.

Q ...uh, what occurred in the mosque? Was there...was there... there was an evening prayer?
A Yes, and ma...

Q What time would that have been, roughly?
A Seven-thirty.

Q Seven-thirty?
A Night...night prayer. The last prayer.

Q Right. And...who all was here for that, do you recall?
A Yes, my wife, SUSAN, I think EMILY was here. There was DOCTOR KHALIFA, LISA, MAHMOUD...MAHMOUD slept in that hallway. We didn't wake him up, then after five minutes we left...he joined us. And...I mean...he went outside, that's what I mean. And there was LISA, EMILY...uh, I think SOAD... hi..his sister and AHMED and his...their kids were here. And that was the night that I really felt that I was...I had... I don't know if I ever told you this...I had...you know... you know we're all human beings...sometimes that we have this feeling there's some eyes...you're being watched. I had that feeling that night...that...when I was getting into my car, I had strong feeling...I get...you know...I get chills

A this. My hair's standing up...evil eyes were watching me. I felt... at(ph) that feeling.

Q Who locked up that night? That Tuesday night?

A Well you know what happened? This..you know...this was Tuesday...I think we were telling him on Monday...the lock... the old lock...okay...it was a...you have to lock it inside. You know...you know you turn it...uh, push it in...twist it. (Sighs) A couple nights before he was assassinated, he... we noticed...he didn't even know that...we noticed...I thought that somebody fixed it and I thought oh, maybe God's angels fixed it that way. Because he mentioned those(ph)...you know...th..there were detectives warned about...you know this...there's a plot going on, just watch yourself. After that, the mosque inside, it was locked...you know. And outs... I mean...I'm sorry, inside you can open the...you know...and outside it was locked. So, we were wondering who...who did it...you know. Who did it. And the(ph)...

Q Okay, so the door was...the door was ope...you could open the door from the inside...

A Yes.

Q ...but the outside was locked? And...

A Outside was locked but...but...the...

Q ...okay(ph) this was _____ (inaud)...

A ...the lock is not designed that way, though. See?

Q Okay. And when did that...when did that first happen?

A Couple days before his assassination. And he was...I thought that it was on...okay, uh, from goodness, from angels. But he said that from like evil. I had an impression...when he made the comment, it was from evil...people did it. Do you understand what I'm saying? Like...

Q Yes, I understand what you're saying.

A To he...he was...he'd...I..I...that took my int...I said, oh, like I said, "Who did this?" You know...everybody were puzzled..."Oh, we don't know." And the locksmith that took out that old lock he said, "Oh, this is weird," he said. Because inside it's not a design like(ph) the...the knobs were not designed that way. Some locks you can open it from inside, but it's locked always outside. That...that lock, uh, was not like that...designed that way.

Q Okay, who was the locksmith that you guys called?

A I can get...

Q Okay, I need to get that from you. Uh...

A But we have the old lock, I think.

Q Okay. I need that too.

A Okay.

Q Is...is, uh...so the last time you saw BEN was Sunday night?

A Yeah.

Q That you recall?

A And I think(ph)...

Q Were you here...were you here Monday or Tuesday in the daytime?

A Hm...daytime? Yeah.

Q _____(inaud)...

A Like...like three o'clock I would come...three-thirty.

Q Okay, what time would BEN usually show up when he would come around?

A In the evening. See, first we notice, I think it was Monday, that lock was...you know...so...yeah, I..I'm..I think, I'm almost positive that we noticed on Monday, and we were telling him on Monday...you know.

Q Okay.

A Like somebody fixed this lock...inside it's...you can open, but outside it's locked.

Q On...Tuesday night...the night before he was killed...

A Right, right.

Q ...you were...you were here...

A Ah-huh(affirmative).

Q ...and you were one of the last ones to leave? Did you leave before he did or...or after he did?

A (Sighs) He left and...this is...this is funny..you know. He said...uh, we were teasing...I was...you know he was trying to speak some Turkish with me...you know...and he said some things that I...I was trying to..uh, teach him how to say "good night" in Turkish and he couldn't say it..you know. I know...something was on his mind...all these things...I knew...so...he...he...he went back and came back, he said, "Oh, guess what? I forgot my keys." I said, "Oh, you're back, you're back." And he was saying "good morning" in Turkish and I was teasing him. Then he left...after that... I took my, uh, family to dinner...the Village Inn, and I took...we took my wife's car and came back. And we were the...

A ...before that...you know...I don't know if I ever told you. Um, I felt like something is gonna(ph) happen.

Q Ah-huh.

A I told BEHRUZ and MAHMOUD, I said, please you guys...uh, are...li..live here and that's really...you know I said, "Please keep a close eye on the...on him and on the place."

Q When BEN came into this...into the mosque...he never went into the kitchen area, or back into the...that you know of?

A No, he was heading that way and DOCTOR KHALIFA was not comfortable at all. He...he's...he really...he stopped. You know, I can give you the exact date that he came to this mosque. You know why?

Q Why?

A Because there's a very, very sincere lady from, uh, Washington, D.C. She lives actually in Maryland. She left that, uh... the second of...January I think.

Q The second of January?

A Yes. She was leaving. I can find out exactly when...when she left because my wife, I think, took her to the airport. Second or the third. So, BEN was coming around that time. So that's... well two or three weeks is right estimate like...

Q Who did he...who did he talk to first? You?

A Yes, well MAHMOUD introduced...

Q MAHMOUD.

A ...he had to go to work, I think...or...he was going to take a nap or something. He introduced hi..him to me and I told him about...the...you know..._____ (inaud)... I...I..I'll be honest with you, remembering his face. He didn't even show that much interest.

Q Okay(ph).

A He didn't ask questions, I was the one talking. See, normally if somebody has interest...that they ask...what makes you think...say...you know...like..what I'm...was making comments like...he was just sitting there..."Oh, I have to like listen to this guy and I'm gonna listen." Because...when I usually make...tell these things to people, they ask questions, because they're very deep subject. He's like...you know...he was like...listening to me, that's all.

Q Okay. I'm going to conclu...conclude this interview because we're almost out of tape here.

A Alright.

Q Okay? Um...the time is now...looks like 620.

A Ah-huh(ph).

Q That concludes this interview. Is this interview given totally, voluntarily on your part?

A Yes, yes.

Q Without force or fear or...

A Definitely.

Q Okay. That concludes this interview. Thank you.

A Okay, thank you.

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