

Note: this statement was taken by DC Mark Prince - the main investigating officer - one year after the crime.

Form MG11(T)
Page 1 of 4

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and SB; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of: MAYERS, LEANNE

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: UNEMPLOYED

This statement (consisting of 9 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: L M Mayers

Date: 03/07/2003

Last year I was spoken to by Police Officers regarding the murder of the Korean girl in Channinster in July. At that time I was asked about my association and knowledge of a male I know to be Omar BENGUIT and I gave the officers some information. However at that time I did not really want to get involved, partly through fear and partly through lack of trust of the police and I declined to make a written and signed statement.

However I now realize the importance of what I can say and I know other people have come forward with information and I am therefore now prepared to make a statement and give evidence if necessary .

I have known Omar BENGUIT for about five years since I was about 13 years old. It is fair to say that our relationship was not particularly close but based on the use of drugs and crime, particularly shoplifting to fund our drug addiction.

I specifically remember the time of the murder of the Korean girl as I learn't about it from the TV news whilst visiting my mother in West Howe, Bournemouth. I recall that the murder had occurred the night before.

I know that on that night, of the murder, I visited an address of 47 St Clements Road Bournemouth where I spent some time with a woman called Joan SHERIDAN from whom I bought some Crack Cocaine. I would have left around 11 o'clock (2300) that evening but can not remember where I spent the rest of that night before visiting my mum the next day. Around that time I didn't have a fixed address but was staying at addresses of various people in the Bascombe area.

However, I can say with some certainty that I did not stay with Omar BENGUIT.

About a month or so before this date Omar moved into a flat in Linwood Road,

Signed: L M Mayers
2000(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

2604

690

Charrninster. I have never actually stayed overnight in Omar's flat and perhaps only ever visited it on two, actually three occasions.

One occasion I did go was very soon after he moved in and there was very little furniture it. We arrived there in a taxi which was driven by a South African driver called Sean from Boscombe. We had previously been in the flat of a girl called Natalie who lives above a bank in Southboume and Omar took some of his belongings and furniture from her flat to his. I recall that Sean the taxi driver came into the flat at Omar's with us to share a crack pipe. Although Omar has never spoken to me about the murder, thinking about it, I think he is capable of it.

Note the correction later in the statement. A phenomenal memory, or due to police coaching of evidence?

On the weeks leading up to the murder, Omar's crack habit was particularly high and although I never actually saw him use it or threaten anyone with it I saw him carrying a knife whilst at Joan's in St Clements Road. This was a silver knife with a curved blade of about 6 inches with serated teeth

In the period just after Omar moved into his flat I used to score crack from an address in Charminster Road above some shops opposite the Richmond Pub. The person I used to get drugs was known to me as 'Black Mikey'. He was Jamaican very short and stocky with short dreadlocks. He had a gold tooth and I think he was dealing for another black guy called 'Prento'. I specifically recall Black Mikey used the mobile phone number of 07950 420753. On one occasion I remember arranging to score crack from Black Mikey by using a telephone kiosk opposite the address in Charminster Road. I met him in the alleyway at the back of the flat and at the time Omar was with me and the two of them made an arrangement for Omar to return again with me if he wanted to score himself. I left the mobile number of Mikey at Omar's flat for him to use.

From my visits to 47 St Clements Road I have met a chap called Half Caste Nick. He is mixed race, more white than black, tall muscular and from London. He has a girlfriend called Sally who appears blinded to Nick's activity. Nick is a bully and very intimidating towards others.

I can say that Nick and Omar have been present together at 47 St Clements Road and have been in conversation with each other.

I would like to clarify the knife I previously referred to could have been a flick or lock knife and the blade was not actually curved but had one straight edge and a curved cutting edge.

So not "serrated"

Going back to Omar's flat in Linwood Road, I confirm I visited on three occasions. The first time I was alone, the second visit was the one I previously mentioned with the taxi driver. On the last visit I went with a male called John McCLEOD during the daytime. Whilst there on that occasion John was in need of a crack hit but Omar didn't seem to be bothered but only interested in himself. Omar and John had been out the night before doing Ecstasy in Bournemouth. After staying about three hours I left and never returned to the flat again. I have no direct knowledge of the murder but have heard various stories. I have been told Omar was responsible and half caste Nick was there at the time but neither have discussed it with me.

(To clarify the night I was at 47 St Clements Road, the night of the murder when I left around 11 o'clock (2300), also present were Mick MCCLUSKIE, Brummie Clare, half cast Darren and Joan, all of whom are other drug users from the Boscombe area. Through my dealings with Omar BENGUIT I have met two of his brothers. Both work in the Metro Takeaway Bar in Old Christchurch Road where I have visited with Omar when he has got money and food from them. I can not recall their names, having said that, I think one is called Hamid and he is the shorter stockier one of the two.

On MAY 17th this year (17/05/2003) I was released from Eastwood Park Prison. I specifically remember on this day walking past the Metro takeaway on my way to the Off Licence nearby.

This was in the early evening and on going into the Metro just for a chat I saw that the smaller stockier brother, HAMID I think was on his own. He said to me, "We have been looking for you."

When I asked why he replied, "Omar says he was with you on the night of the murder" I hadn't previously spoken to them about the murder and was surprised by what he said as I knew I wasn't with Omar.

He went on to say, "My family have got a lot of money. My parents will give you five grand alone if you get him out of court"

I took this as a serious offer. He was not joking and left me in no doubt that they would pay me £5000 (FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS) if I said I was with Omar on that night. I didn't really give him an answer and left.

A couple of weeks later I was in Southcote Road one early evening when I was

Continuation of Statement of: MAYERS, LEANNE

Form
MG 11(T)(CONT)
Page 4 of 4

again approached by Hamid. This time he was with Omar's other brother. HAMID said, "Why haven't you been in touch we've been looking for you."

He went on to say that Omar was innocent and wouldn't kill anyone.

He said "The same offer stands." "Get him out of court and our parents will give you five grand , plus more from me and my brother."

Whilst he was saying this the other brother was present and could hear it. HAMID also said, "I'll book an appointment with Andy PITT now." I know Andy PITT is Omar's solicitor.

I said back to them, "Im not going to do it, I'll end up in jail for Perverting the course of justice."

As they left Hamid said, "Come round the shop if you change your mind." I haven't heard from either brother since.

I would like to say that as HAMID was doing the talking the other brother was agreeing everything he said.