

Witness Statement

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of: John Patrick Pape

Age if under 18: Over 18 Occupation: Promo Producer

This statement (consisting of 8 pages) 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 in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: [Signature] Date: 2.03.17

Tick if witness evidence is recorded x Confirm Witness Details Form has been completed x

I am making this statement to assist the IPCC with their investigation into Operation Wasabi. This statement relates to the contact I had with the police from August 2014 when I was informed of my friend Gabriel's death, through to October 2015, when I was informed that a man had been arrested on suspicion of murdering him.

I have referred to a number of documents throughout the interview to aid my recollection of events. These are a document entitled 'account of what I did' written before the trial in 2016, a retrospective account of Gabriel's Inquest from 22 October 2015, a document outlining questions of how Gabriel died, Facebook correspondence between myself and Thierry Amodio, various emails Peter Kelly of Galop sent to me after Port was arrested, and an email from DC Daniel Martin from Serious Crime and Command.

The first contact I had with the police was on 28 August 2014. From memory I was home at the time, working. I think there were four officers who came to my home. It felt like there were four officers but I'm not sure. They asked if I know Gabriel Kovari and I explained I was his landlord. I was told Gabriel had been found dead in a graveyard. I think I was told that he had been found in the early hours. The officers came into my front room. I was in state of shock, and it was over 2 years ago now so my memory is fallible. My impression was they weren't Barking and Dagenham police; that they were local to me. I'm not sure why I drew that conclusion. They were saying they didn't know the circumstances when I

Signature: [Signature] Signature witnessed by: [Signature]

Continuation of Statement of: John Pape.....

Following this between 6 and 8 September 2014 there was a process of him sending me the statement, me making little amendments and sending it back. This was by email but I no longer have the email chain.

On 21 September 2014 I was contacted by an officer; Yinka Adeyemo-Phillips who wanted a number for Gabriel's family. She left me with a number which I presume was hers. I think she said she was from CID. This conversation was pretty brief from memory. I spoke to Thierry and asked him to contact her which he did. Thierry then contacted me to say he'd spoken to her that day and she informed him that they had found a 2<sup>nd</sup> body in the graveyard.

I called Adeyemo-Phillips back that day between 5.24 and 5.30pm. From memory I was at East Croydon station during this call. I was concerned for my safety which was why I called. I had received a text from Gabriel the Friday before he died, on the day he left my flat. It wasn't from his phone. This was a number belonging to Cosmos Marcus. I knew he was ex-army, Sensitive/Irrelevant and had been in my flat with Gabriel, therefore he knew where I lived. I'm not concerned about him now but at the time he un-nerved me. That's why I had a genuine concern for my safety. I explained to Adeyemo-Phillips that I was concerned for my safety and I remember saying if this is murder you have to tell me. I think she said it's not murder. I definitely left that call thinking it's not murder and that's what I messaged Thierry to say. I recall her being brusque. I don't think the call was very long. Thierry asked me if I had mentioned the death of Walgate. I said I hadn't, and he said he would mention it to the police.

I think it was the weekend after the 21 September 2014 that I was contacted by phone by Jacqueline Baxter to take a second statement. My memory is that this was my first contact with her. It was a short conversation. It came out quickly that I'd already made a statement, which she hadn't known. She was apologetic and said therefore she didn't need anything from me. I had wanted to speak to her as my head was spinning with it all. I suppose in the back of my mind I thought this doesn't seem very thorough. She was nice but I didn't want nice, I wanted dedicated. I don't think I was sitting on further information as Thierry hadn't

Signature: **Signature** ..... Signature witnessed by: **Signature**