

L-Atti tal-Inkjesta datata 19 ta' Novembru 2019, rigward skont it-Termini ta' Referenza ta' l-Inkjesta Pubblika dwar l-Assassinju ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia.

Seduta mizmuma llum l-Erbgha 26 ta' Frar 2020, fis-2:00 p.m. fit-Tieni Sular, Awla 20, il-Qorti.

Xhud **Corinne Vella** ri-prodotta, bil-lingwa Ingliza u bil-gurament taghha tghid :

The Witness :

In the last hearing I was asked about to specific references to Daphne one as a witch and one particular image of her in dehumanized form. So I've done some research as I said I would and I summarized it in 2 separate documents. There are 2 separate documents because in the case of the image in dehumanized form that I only found an association with Neville Gafa`.

Chairman Judge M Mallia :

Only with Neville Gafa`.

The Witness :

That's what ...that's the only one I could find.

Chairman Judge M Mallia :

That is the only one you could find.

The Witness :

If I can explain briefly the image is a doctor image; it's not a constituted image the one to from screech; the body in the image came from an artwork which was photographed and has appeared very frequently online. The only doctor version of that artwork which I found online does not showed Daphne's face. And the only doctor image with Daphne's face I found on Neville Gafa's facebook. There maybe others which I have not found. But I searched quite extensively and I didn't find ..

Judge A Lofaro :

And was it he who used that image first?

The Witness :

I couldn't find any earlier instances. But as I explained ..

Judge A Lofaro :

So it was he who used it first as far as you can ascertain today.

The Witness :

As far as I can ascertain based on what is currently available, that is the earliest image I could find. Mr Gafa` himself could explain further. In the case of references to Daphne as 'Sahhara tal-Bidinja' I drew that up as a separate document because it's a reference that has been used extensively over the past couple of decades. The first time the term 'Sahhara tal-Bidnija' was used was by Lino Cassar in his column in It-Torca where he has a crusher point. Lino Cassar didn't mean it in a negative sense. The meaning that Lino Cassar used was of Daphne as a sorceress not as a witch. A sorceress is a positive image normally portrait at somebody young, attractive, alluring and fascinating. Is physically attractive and in possession of supernatural powers which are positive not negative. So if you exercise magic it's a white magic not a black magic.

And this is something Daphne herself explained and have included her explanation here in her own words. It's the because of cross culture and translation problems that meaning had become morphed and he meant he refer to her as sorceress because he at the time was endlessly fascinated by me, (that is I am where I am quoting Daphne). He was endlessly fascinated my me in those days and would chase my tail with boundless but fruitless enthusiasm. It's perfectly understandable at that time he used the expression he was 2 years older than our father. Daphne was a young woman, and had just started writing; so that might explain his meaning, but that became morphed over the years into the meaning attached in terms 'Sahhara tal-Bidnija' became turned from sorceress to witch, and a witch is always portrait as old, ugly, isolated and repulsive evoking fear and suspicion and meriting social rejection and usually death. And the supernatural power of a witch are malignant, dark, and negative, and unlike, and enchantress, a witch practices black magic which is a force of evil and often associated with the assistance of a devil.

Chairman Judge M Mallia :

And do you know who started using it in that sense first?

The Witness :

The very first instance would be hard to trace because it has been used so extensively. But I found in an obituary written in 2012; an obituary about Lino Cassar; it was published in Malta Today; it was written by Tony Abela who is

a Judge but who at the time was deputy leader of the Labour Party; and he acknowledged that negative reference that Sahhara tal-Bidinja the little reference carried a negative imagery. His words were – Sahhara tal-Bidinja along with other governments sycophants. evokes Shakespeare's seen of a number of witches fundable in a cauldron fuming within a cursed poison. To be used against anyone in disagreement with government. The best pointing out that he meant disagreement with government because at that time in 2012 his party was in opposition. So the criticism of anyone in opposition is what he meant.

I did not find any visual or literal references to Daphne as Sahhara tal-Bidinja in a positive sense. I looked on social media, I looked on broadcast media; I could not find anything. All of them were negative. Portraying her as a witch. And this is something Daphne herself acknowledged; you can literally hear it in her own words which she gave in interviewed to the Council of Europe research project. And the project were searching threats on journalist across Europe. It hasn't been published, but extracts are available. And most recently an extract which included in a broadcast published by Tortures media called 'my mother's murder'. It was all said by Paul her son. And in this you can hear several extracts from the interview. But in one particular episode you hear her say this was like *The Crucible*. *The Crucible* was a play in 1950' by also Arthur Miller, you would know; and the references the 17th Century say a witch trials in a Massachusetts. That appears in episode 2 of Tortures media.

I have attached also visuals of the material which I reference; you know a random those search, and these were only done today, a random search on google for the words sorceress returns visuals of somebody young attractive and alluring, a random search of visuals using the word 'witch' returns completely different picture. Including, which I've highlighted here, one of the images which appeared on Neville Gafa's page. I should add that this is particular relevant not just in Daphne's case but for the wider remit of the Inquiry; that appears to be you know a strong problem with misogyny in that a woman journalist being critical of people in power is very quickly branded a witch. Is has happened to Caroline Muscat. Hardly it was also happened to me and I don't work as a journalist. After Yorgen Fenech was arraigned I gave a short statement to the media waiting outside the court that was reported on television Malta and other media as well; but the television Malta report appears on Neville Gafa's facebook page where suppose saying - who does she think she is? Follow the string of comments all abusive, including pictures of me portrait as a witch. That's a serious problem that needs to be addressed. I don't mean it is a serious problem for me; I mean it is a serious problem generally.

Anyway, so it's all documented here. There are 2 copies.

Judge A Lofaro :

Thank you.

Din hija s-sustanza tax-xhieda ta' **Corinne Vella** dettata minnha stess fil-prezenza ta' l-istess xhud.

Niddikjara li traskrivejt bl-ahjar hila tieghi x-xhieda ta' l-istess xhud.

Saviour Scicluna

Traskrittur