

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

Gloria Beacom daughter of Oscar Calleja Urry and Maruzza nee` Pace born in Sliema and residing in Zebbug, states on oath in the English language.

Chairman Imhallel M Mallia :

So you were one of Daphne's friends.

The Witness :

yes.

Chairman Imhallel M Mallia :

Can you describe the experiences you shared with her especially the ones that relate to the public and how the public used to respond to her presence as far as you were aware that is. Your shares experiences with her.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

What the Honour is asking, things which you were present yourself.

The Witness :

Ok; I was present for a number of things. I was present on the 7th of March in 2013 where we had gone to Imdina for lunch and we bumped into Peter Caruana Galizia and Daphne, and we went into the Rabat feast. I don't know whether I go further .

Imhallel A Lofaro :

I know what she is going to say. But go on please.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

...but we like you to say because you were actually there.

The Witness :

What would you like me to say is what happened?

Chairman Imhallelf M Mallia :

Yes yes.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

...and as much detail as it is not too painful for you.

The Witness :

Ok. anyway, we bumped into Peter and Daphne and we were talking about buying some cakes. Peter recommended this shop, so we went into Rabat. And there was the Rabat feast so there were a lot of people in the streets. So we ended up sort of we've been to the crowd following Peter. We get to the shop which was at the top of the road and we realize we lost half our group of friends, Daphne included. So we decided to walk back down the road and as we were walking down the road we came across this scene where people were sort of moved ..

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Where were you? Do you recall the address? The road

The Witness :

The name of the street?

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

... its Saqqajja Hill for example?

The Witness :

No, no any other; we were near the it's a Pastizzi Shop, that road. We carried on walking straight, you know?

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Towards St Paul's church

The Witness :

Exactly exactly. In fact the shop we wanted to get to was near the church, so was a confectioner. Anyway, so we started walking down and we suddenly found the people sort of moved to the side and this woman screaming obscenities and shouting. And she was facing this doorway. So there were 2 priests in front of the door and she was shouting – ohorguha minn hemm; ohorguha minn xagharha; dik mara hazina.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

You've tramped ...

The Witness :

Sorry.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

You were following Peter towards the cake shop and now you was telling us you ended up behind the door.

The Witness :

No, ehe we were walking towards the cake shop. We went in. We bought our staff, we realized we've lost half of our group, Daphne included, so we decided to walk back down the road.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Ok.

The Witness :

As we were walking down the road sort of halfway down the road..

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

So back toward Imdina direction?

The Witness :

Back towards.. walking back towards Imdina, we found sort of people sort of separated, this woman standing in the middle facing the doorway and she was shouting all these things, and we stopped and....

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

When you say 'we', who was with you? Yourself and ..

The Witness :

There was me, there was my 11-year-old son, there was another girlfriend of mine and there was Peter. And she was shouting ...

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

And she was shouting – ohorguha minn hemm..

The Witness :

Ohorguha minn hemm, ohorguha minn xagharha, dik mara hazina. And I looked towards the door and there were these 2 priests standing there. So I walked up to the priest and I told him by any chance are my friends in here? And just he looked at me and told me - gibu l-Pulizija issa. So I turned around to look my other girlfriend who was on the other side of this woman and I told her – they are telling us to get the police. This woman, the one who was

shouting started shouting even more, and we basically we told her - listen we are getting the police for you. So my friend walked down the road towards Imdina and I walked towards Rabat to look for the polices, and as I started walking up I found a huge group of police coming down towards me. Somebody had reported it, you know? Anyway, we all ended up that at the police station....

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Now when you say 'we'

The Witness :

All of us

Chairman Imhallel M Mallia :

Ok. Just a second. What happened? You saw this group of police coming towards you

The Witness :

Yes.

Chairman Imhallel M Mallia :

You approached them, and then what?

The Witness :

Yes. I approached them; they came with us towards the door..

Chairman Imhallel M Mallia :

The doorway, ehe

The Witness :

The door opened; what we didn't realize is as Daphne was walking she met some people; so when the door opened there were a few people, you know? In..

Chairman Imhallel M Mallia :

Inside

The Witness :

In the Convent.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Friends of yours and Daphne's ..

The Witness :

No, some of them I didn't even know. And we all ended up escorted up to the police station and we all made our statements. And eventually we were all called in for a trial. That was one. And another one ..

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :

There were people who were ...persons who were charged with something...?

The Witness :

Yes yes.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Will produce to details at a later stage.

Imhallef A Lofaro :

Isn't this the case of the Mayor of Zurrieq?

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Yes yes. Ok. But obviously then ...

The Witness :

There are 2 stories to it. You know? Because I am telling you my part. There was another part which is what made her going to the ...

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Yes yes.

The Witness :

But I wasn't there for that.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Ok. But were you told by Daphne anything about that later – at a later stage?

The Witness :

I heard what was happening because, you know, when everyone was giving their statements we were at the police station together ..

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Any other ...?

The Witness :

Yes; another time we had gone to village, restaurant, quite place in winter, and we had dinner. My husband went out to smoke a cigarette between the starter

and the main course and he came back in, said nothing. We finished our meal; we left the restaurant and he told me, it so strange to tell me, as we were ...as he went out there was a small group of people and they were going – smajt li hawn Daphne, qieghda hawn gew, you know? They were sort of gossiping and gathering. And till we left they had left. He said I didn't mention anything so I didn't want to ruin the evening . I felt I should mention it to Daphne; I didn't want to scare her so I just sort of told her listen tis this and that. I wanted her to be aware of it. And that was it.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Going back to the Rabat incident; do you recall any person particular who was there? Because the case

The Witness :

The woman I am talking about they never found.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Ok; but was there anybody else that you might recognize? If there wasn't ..., because not expected to recognize everybody! But ..

The Witness :

No I didn't.., I ..

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

Ok.

The Witness :

Another time Daphne had told me that she had been to beach club and she was coming out of the sea, and she found somebody with their mobile phone taking photos of her. And you know, things started getting ..

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

What was the atmosphere like towards the last few years ..of her life. I mean from Panama Papers onwards, from the Chris Cardona Acapulco stories etc; did this...how can you describe the atmosphere? If you can. I mean you know, you were friends, socially events, not obviously following her footsteps! How were things? How did you see them?

The Witness :

Well, I mean if you ask me from Daphne's side she never really told me that she.. you know? I think anything that she wasn't to express she is sort of let it out in her writing. She would never say listen I am worried about this or, .you know? Nothing. But it wasn't her to.., you know? She wasn't that sort of

person. The sort of wallowing something; she is sort of carryon with life, you know? But things were getting .. she didn't even need to say anything. It was visible.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

When you say it was visible, what is visible to you? I mean again, you were there; you've described already a couple of incidents which are bad enough frankly; but anything more then that?

The Witness :

Yes, I mean driving to work and seeing a billboard with black and white photos with Daphne's face on it and the rest are politicians you know? .. thinking why is she there? And another time, I think it was ..yes, her friends started getting targeted, started getting written about; only reason being was to make you feel uncomfortable to be seen in her company. You know, in fact I think it was summer of 2017 were were organizing to go out and I rang her up and I said - listen we will be doing this this and that; and she told me - I am not gone to come. And I said - why not? She said - because it is so not fair that you are gone end up photographed written about. You know? She felt uncomfortable. She tell me it is not fair on all of you. So I think she was feeling it, you know? She..; and the saddest is, you know, besides her journalism; there was so much more to her. You know?

Chairman Imhallel M Mallia :

Like what? Tell us.

The Witness :

Interests? Such a wide variety of interests. I mean she loved travelling. She loved talking about food, about music. You know? There was her journalism, but she had a life besides that!

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

In fact she had a magazine, she added a magazine ..

The Witness :

Of course, she loved the interiors, you know? If you needed to buy a gift she was the perfect person to call to say - listen, where can I buy this, this and that? Everything.

Imhallel J Said Pullicino :

You understand that we are here to examine authorities ... government entities..

The Witness :

Pardon?

Imhallel J Said Pullicino :

We are here to investigate the Inquire on the activities of government institutions and government entities. What the general public or how the general public reacts to something its not exactly our remits unless you can identify that or give us as a cause of that reaction government or authorities that promoted. And I understand from what you are saying that the only real person who could have influenced that was occupying a government post was Mr Bedingfield. Because the rest are I mean as far as you can see the reaction of persons to a political situation which.. controversial, ok? And therefore what I am saying is what we are after is not the reaction of.. the general public.

Dr Andrew Borg Cardona :

The object to the exercise in this respect Your Honour was that the result was that what Ms Beacom is describing ...

Imhallel J Said Pullicino :

.... but the result we know; but the real persons whom you have identified has could have contributed to this situation on Mr Bedingfield and his blog.

The Witness :

Yes and he is written a number of posts.

Imhallel J Said Pullicino :

..... because if that's extend to a newspaper on the opposition party that wouldn't ...our remits, you know?

Imhallel A Lofaro :

Did she ever tell you that she is being threatened as such?

The Witness :

No.

Imhallel A Lofaro :

No.

The Witness :

No. But like I said, she wasn't the type, and if she was feeling something she would probably write it. She wouldn't sit down and sort of gossip or.. you know? No, not at all.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :

Ok. Thank you very much.

Din hija s-sustanza tax-xhieda ta' **Gloria Beagom** 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