

STRATHCLYDE POLICE

WITNESS STATEMENT

Surname: Gauci

Forenames: Anthony

Address: "Maryville" Triq IT-Tiben-San Giljan

Telephone No: [REDACTED]

Business Address: Shop Premises known as "Mary House" 63 Tower Road, Sliema

Telephone No: [REDACTED]

Born: Malta

Aged: 50

Occupation: Shopkeeper

"Statement taken by Detective Chief Inspector H Bell on Friday 1st September 1989.

STATEMENT

I was born in Malta on 6th April 1944. My father Edward Gauci is the owner of a "CLOTHES SHOP" known as "MARYHOUSE" the shop is located at 63, Tavern Road, Sliema in Malta.

My father has suffered a "heart attack" and he is very excitable and gets upset easily.

My brother "PAUL GAUCI" also works in the shop and also my sister sometimes.

On Friday 1 September 1989 a local police officer (Malta Police Officer Detective Inspector Godfrey Scicluna) along with two other men visited the shop premises at 63 Tower Road.

I was introduced to these men and I learned that the two men were police officers from Scotland (Detective Chief Inspector Harry Bell and Detective Sergeant William Armstrong).

The police officers spoke to my father and I learned that they were making inquiries regarding Trousers which the clothing firm, known as "Yorkie" in Malta, had supplied to our shop.

It was explained to us that "Yorkie" Clothing had supplied 5 pairs of Gents trousers sizes 1 x 32 - 2 x 34 - 2 x 36. to our shop on the 18th November, 1988. I was also shown a

Sample of brown material checked pattern,  
I then showed to the police the trousers which we still had in the shop from this order and handed such to the police. They were 1 x pair brown coloured trousers Yorkie make and i .....coloured pair trousers alos Yorkie make.

I explained to the police that the other three pairs of identical trousers <sup>must</sup> have been sold That is the "32" and ..... "34". The police explained that they would want to keep the trousers I had just shown to them and I was asked if there was anyway i could recall when and to whom I had sold the other trousers.

At this point my father began to get excited and upset. He is an old man, and I contacted my brother "Paul" who came to the shop and spoke with the police.

I then .....with my father and attended to customers who came into the shop.

A short time later I saw that my brother Paul ..... Paul showed the police.

1 x "Pairs of Pyjamas" with a distinct pattern

I then remembered that one day during the winter in 198... I had been working alone in the shop. It was about 6.50 pm just before closing time at 7 pm a ~~young lad~~ <sup>young man</sup> entered the shop and he ~~started to ask~~ and I can say that the man bought three sets of the ..... same pyjamas, which "Paul" had now shown to the police. I think they were all large size. I immediately informed the police and I then made this statement.

I recalled that the man did not seem to care what he bought. He asked for a gents jacket and when I asked him for his size he then asked for the biggest size which was "sizw 42".

I took an imitation "Harris Tweed" type jacket which has been in the shop for about 5 years. I showed the man the jacket and he said he would take it.

He then asked for trousers and I can recall that I sold him a pair of the "Brown Trousers" and also a lighter pair which I suggested could match the jacket.

He the man then bought a "Baby Grow". It was "Blue Coloured" with a "Sheeps face" on the front. It was the type with the boots I mean the material covering the feet.

The mans behaviour was strange that is why I can now remember. It was as if anything I suggested he buy he would take it, I even showed him a "Black coloured (umbrella?) and he bought it. He also bought a .....cardigan a large sizw we do not have any left but it had coloured/black. I cannot recall exactly.

The man paid cash he gave me the money in Maltese pound notes. I did not make out a receipt I counted up all he had bought I marked it on the brown wrapping paper I used to put the goods in, I made up two parcels which I tied with "String" which comes into the shop with bundles on tea towels.

The man said he had other shops to visit and he picked up the "umbrella" and he siad he

would come back shortly. He paid me in the cash which I think was 56 Maltese pounds He then walked out the shop with the "Umbrella" which he opened up as it was raining.

I continued to parcel up the goods which I made up into two parcels about 15 mins later.

A short time later I cannot now recall how long the same man came back into the shop. He was not carrying anything else that he had bought elsewhere. I asked him if I should carry his parcels to his car. I assumed he had a car. He said that he was in a taxi and he took up parcels from me and he walked out of the shop. I followed him to the door and he turned left and walked up the street. I saw a "White coloured Mercedes Taxi parked at the corner. I then came back into the shop. I cannot recall anything in particular about the White Mercedes. This type of car is used as a Taxi in Malta. I assume the man got into the taxi it was an old type.

#### DISCRIPTION

I would describe this man as follows:

He was about 6 foot or more in height. He had a "big chest" and a large head. He was well built but he was not fat or with a big stomach. His hair was very "Black". He was speaking "Libiyon" to me. He was clearly from Lbiya. He had an Arab appearance and I would say he was in fact a "Libyon" I can tell the difference between "Libyons" and "Tunisians" when I speak to them for a while. Tunisians often start speaking French if you start talking to them for a while.

He was clean shaven with no facial hair. He had dark coloured hair. He was wearing a dark coloured two piece suit I think it may have been Blue coloured. His overall appearance was smart. I will think things over tonight and try and recall anything else about the man. I cannot recall any rings or watch on this man.

I would say that the jacket was to small for him, although it was a "42" inch size that is British inches. The man spoke to me all the time as a Libyan. He has not been into the shop before or since. I have examined the jackets still in the shop and I have supplied the police with a similar jacket.

Prod No. 1 x Gents Jacket "Anglia" make.

I now recall that I left the "coat hangers" on the jacket when I sold it to the man. I have also given the police a

Prod No. 1 x "Plastic Hanger" with brand name Anglia.

The jacket brand name was Anglia. The factory is "Bernards" & Sons in 1 Souard STreet Marsa, Malta.

The police also have the trousers, jacket and pyjamas I sold the man as follows:

Prod No 1 x Pair of Brown Coloured gents trousers "Yorkie" clothing make size "36".

Prod No 1 x Pair of light Brown coloured gents trousers size 36 I think.

Prod No 1 x set of Pyjamas

Prod No 1 x Gents Jacket

I have also supplied the police with a sample of

Prod No Brown wrapping paper

and

Prod No Length of "String"

I used these to wrap up the mans parcels which were in two bundles.

The "Baby Grow " with the "Sheeps Face" on the front was supplied to our shop by a company in Malta known as "Big Ben" we do not have any left in stock. I have signed "labels" (Production labels) for all the items taken by the police.

I cannot remember the day or date that I met this man. I would think it was a weekday as I was alone in the shop. My brother Paul did not work in the shop that afternoon as he had gone home to watch a football match on television. He may be able to recall the game and this could identify the day and date that I dealt with the man in the shop.

The mans behaviour was very strang. He was looking about and he saw the "babygrow" on the rack beside him. He said "what age" I said up to 2 years, he said he would take one I aske dhim what colour and he said "Blue" but he didn't seem fussy. He just looked around the shop and pointed if he saw anything. On picking out the trousers I asked him what size and he said more or less my size. The Libyans do not really know their sizes or bother. The Libyans normally jsut put their elbow into the trousers and if it fits both sides they say they will take it. I do not know how they do this. I then gave him the brown check in 34 size. The light trousers were in a 36 size.

I would think that he paid me in Maltese £.10(?) notes and I gave £4 change.

The total bill would work out as follows

Anglia Jacket	cost	£29.50
2 Pairs Trousers	"	£15.00
3 Pairs of Pyjamas	"	£15.75
1 x Umbrella	"	£ 1.50
1 x Baby Grow	"	£ 3.25
1 x Woolen Cardigan	"	£11.50
	Total	£76.50

I am sure that I gave him £4 change. I could have given him the 50 cents of the bill.