

1                   **TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF DEPUTY KETHLIN CUTCHER**  
2                   **INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY CORPORAL YURI MELICH**

3                               **CASE NUMBER – 08-74777**

4                               **DECEMBER 19, 2008**

5                               **YM – CORPORAL YURI MELICH**

6                               **JA – SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN**

7                               **KC – DEPUTY KETHLIN CUTCHER**

8 **JA:** (Coughs.)

9 **YM:** The date right now is December 19, 2008. And the time right now is 0935 hours.  
10 I'm Detective Melich with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Also present is  
11 Sergeant John Allen. And also present is, please state your name?

12 **KC:** Kethlin Cutcher.

13 **YM:** Alright Kethlin, you understand this is being recorded?

14 **KC:** Yes, I do.

15 **YM:** Any objection to that?

16 **KC:** Nope (negative).

17 **YM:** Okay. Kethlin, we had uhm, asked you to come down today because we want  
18 some clarification on exactly, well if you could tell us, where uh, you had met the  
19 caller on the call that you came back here for on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August.

20 **KC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

21 **YM:** And you walked out there with Sergeant Allen and uh, just tell me about where  
22 you think it happened and what you remember.

23 **KC:** Uhm, I know that it was from where we have the command post to the curb. So it  
24 was in a straight line.

25 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

1 **KC:** Uhm, a wooden area that have the big trees. It wasn't in the one that you can  
2 really go inside. So it was big trees. It was a grass area first, like in the, not real  
3 grass, but it was like (unintelligible).

4 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

5 **KC:** Grass first, then we start having the trees and all the branches on the floor, on  
6 the ground. And then it had like a little hole.

7 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

8 **KC:** Uhm, kind of like a step down.

9 **YM:** Right.

10 **KC:** And then it was the bushes.

11 **YM:** Okay.

12 **KC:** And you can see that like it's a little, it's not a entrance, but you can see that, you  
13 know, you can go in.

14 **YM:** And like a little path?

15 **KC:** A little path, yes. Thank you.

16 **YM:** Was it something that he had to move all the stuff out, or could he just easily  
17 walk in and out?

18 **KC:** First when you go down you don't have to move anything around. But when you  
19 go a little bit in, yeah (affirmative), they had a bigger branch, bigger b...uh,  
20 branches.

21 **YM:** Okay. So he had to move stuff out of his way to get in and out? Do you  
22 remember? If you don't that's fine.

23 **KC:** When...no, I don't remember. When he, when he was coming out already he  
24 was in the area that you don't have to. Was a lot of branches on the floor; maybe  
25 four feet uh....

1 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).  
2 **KC:** ...no, this much.  
3 **YM:** About three feet high?  
4 **KC:** Three feet high. And then uhm, where he was coming out. So I don't know if he  
5 had to do anything when he went in.  
6 **YM:** Okay.  
7 **KC:** But he was coming out of the bushes when I got here.  
8 **YM:** Oh, okay. So when you first arrived he was actually coming out?  
9 **KC:** Yes, he was.  
10 **YM:** Okay. And it....  
11 **KC:** That's when I ask him.  
12 **YM:** And it was a trail he was coming out of?  
13 **KC:** No, it wasn't a, I don't know if it was a trail. The only thing, see, I paying  
14 attention, because he was already coming out of the bushes, the only attention I,  
15 I took was from where he was.  
16 **YM:** Okay.  
17 **KC:** That's why I remember the grass, the little step down.  
18 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).  
19 **KC:** And then I know there was a little entry, but I don't know if it had a trail  
20 afterwards.  
21 **YM:** Okay. John?  
22 **JA:** Okay. Alright, uhm, and, and about how far back off the road was uh, Deputy  
23 Cain when you pulled up? Uh, I think outside when we, when we were walking  
24 down, before we went on tape you were, uh, you were trying to show me. We  
25 were walking one time....

1 **KC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

2 **JA:** ...just seeing if you couldn't remember where you guys were. And you indicated

3 to me that he was a considerable distance back in the, when you first pulled up

4 he was, he wasn't right by the road. He was off the road....

5 **KC:** No, he was....

6 **JA:** ...for a distance.

7 **KC:** Yeah (affirmative), he was on the bushes already, after the grass area, after the

8 little step down. He was already inside.

9 **JA:** He was in the bushes?

10 **KC:** Yes, he was....

11 **JA:** Okay.

12 **KC:** ...in the bushes when I was coming out.

13 **JA:** Alright.

14 **KC:** He was coming out of the bushes.

15 **JA:** Alright, so uh, so you can say that, you can say that he wasn't just, he didn't just

16 stand by the road. He actually, although prior to your arrival, he actually did go

17 back into the bushes because you saw him coming out?

18 **KC:** Yes, he did.

19 **JA:** Okay.

20 **YM:** Did he tell you about what he found or if you saw anything?

21 **KC:** Yeah (affirmative), I ask him, "So what's going on?" Because he got here before

22 me and he was already coming out of the scene....

23 **JA:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

24 **KC:** ...where he was supposed to be. And he say, "Oh, no, it's nothing. It was just

25 trash. It was a bunch of bags with trash."

1 **JA:** Okay.

2 **KC:** So, but that was....

3 **JA:** What did the, what did the, what did the caller, what did he say when uh, Deputy  
4 Cain said that it was a bag of trash?

5 **KC:** I don't remember. I just recall that he, he was upset and he, at least he look at  
6 me and told me again, "But she say she was close. She was very close."

7 **JA:** Alright.

8 **KC:** So, I, I don't know.

9 **JA:** Did he seem upset with y'all, or did he just seem upset generally?

10 **KC:** No. I think he was just, he was upset that we didn't find what he want us to find  
11 and that's how it sounded....

12 **JA:** Right. Right.

13 **KC:** ...and his, his face expression.

14 **JA:** Alright. Okay. Did anybody ever take the guy back in there and say, show us  
15 the bag you're talking about? Do you remember?

16 **KC:** Not when I was present.

17 **JA:** Okay.

18 **KC:** I don't know if the, I don't know if someone did....

19 **JA:** Prior.

20 **KC:** ....when I wasn't here.

21 **JA:** Okay. Alrighty. Okay. Uhm, and, and well just for the record, when we walked  
22 down, do you believe that, and you're pretty sure it was uh, on this side of the,  
23 uh, the, the curb down there?

24 **KC:** Yes.

25

1 **JA:** But uh, you're not, you can't say for sure exactly where you, where, well where  
2 uh, Deputy Cain....

3 **KC:** It is, I'm sure it is from here to, yeah (affirmative), because the big trees, they just  
4 go so far.

5 **JA:** Right.

6 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

7 **JA:** Okay.

8 **KC:** So it has to be from here, where the big trees end.

9 **JA:** Okay.

10 **KC:** I don't know how many feet is from here. Uh....

11 **JA:** Okay.

12 **KC:** ....and like I say before....

13 **YM:** That's okay.

14 **KC:** ...I'm really bad....

15 **JA:** Alright.

16 **KC:** ...with measurements.

17 **JA:** That's fine. That's alright.

18 **YM:** And here, here is our, just because we're recording, here's our command post.  
19 It's parked right up against.....

20 **JA:** (Coughs.)

21 **YM:** ...next to the uh, wooden fence.

22 **KC:** Yeah (affirmative), so it is from the wooden fence until where the end of the big  
23 trees go. So that's before the curve. I'm a....

24 **YM:** Okay.

25 **KC:** ...hundred percent sure.

1 **YM:** Okay.

2 **JA:** Alright.

3 **KC:** Because we never made it to the curve.

4 **YM:** Okay.

5 **JA:** Alright.

6 **YM:** Do you remember a light post being nearby, or?

7 **KC:** No. The only thing I remember is that when after we talked to the caller we

8 walked to the other side because....

9 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

10 **KC:** ...before I thought was a uhm, I had an impression it was a pond. But walking

11 now I can see that it is a fence, but it's not a pond. It's kind of like a, just a, a uh,

12 vacant lot or something.

13 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

14 **JA:** Okay.

15 **KC:** But I remember that we went the other side. We walk and look around a little bit,

16 just to making sure there was nothing there too, and then we left.

17 **JA:** Okay.

18 **KC:** So.

19 **JA:** Alright.

20 **KC:** But I'm a, a hundred percent sure that it is between the fence and where the big

21 trees finish.

22 **YM:** Okay.

23 **JA:** Okay.

24 **KC:** Because I remember seeing the big trees.

25 **JA:** Alright.

1 **YM:** Fair enough.

2 **JA:** We sure appreciate you coming down. Can you raise your right hand? You  
3 swear and affirm that the statement is true, uh, that you made is true and  
4 correct?

5 **KC:** Yes, I do sir.

6 **JA:** Okay.

7 **YM:** Thank you very much.

8 **KC:** You're welcome.

9 **End of recorded statement.**

10 **This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.**

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**CORPORAL YURI MELICH, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**

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