

CITY OF YORK
POLICE DEPARTMENT

STATEMENT

FROM: ESTHER SOTO
BY: DETECTIVE ROLAND CAMACHO
DATE: DECEMBER 12, 1998
TIME: 1345 HOURS
PRESENT: DETECTIVE ROLAND CAMACHO AND ESTHER SOTO
LOCATION: DETECTIVE DIVISION OF THE YORK CITY POLICE
DEPARTMENT
INCIDENT: MIRIAM ASCENCIO DOUBLE HOMICIDE

Q Would you please state your name?

A Esther Rhodan.

Q Where do you live?

A 549 Manor Street, Lancaster.

Q Okay, your phone number?

A Here?

Q Here in York is fine.

A 845-5808.

Q Do you know that the statement you are about to give is being recorded?

A Yep.

Q Do you have any objections to this statement being recorded?

A No.

Q What is the highest grade you completed in school?

A 11th.

- Q Do you know how to read and write?
- A Yes, English and Spanish.
- Q Okay good. Okay, Esther, we were talking about the case where Milton and his brother, Noel, came to the store and were talking to you about.... Let's go back, just tell me in your own words how you first came to know Milton, okay, and his brother, Noel, and tell me about the day that Miriam was killed.
- A Okay I know him, Milton and his brother because they go to the store. And
- Q Okay you own the store where?
- A 457 South Queen Street.
- Q Okay and they go to your store?
- A And they go to the store to buy stuff and that's why I know him and Milton.
- Q Okay. The day that Miriam was killed, tell me about that day, what happened that day?
- A Well they went to the, to my house at 549 Manor Street by like around
- Q Okay hold on, earlier in the day when you were at your store, in on Queen Street tell me about how Milton came there with your, your husband and they went to the store in Lancaster.
- A Lancaster or over here.
- Q The first day, the first time that you saw Milton that day, okay, tell me, tell me about that.
- A Uh huh, well he went with my husband to Lancaster to buy stuff for the store.
- Q Okay.
- A And Milton's wife, she come to the store to ask ????? where he are and what clothes he got. So I told her that he was in Lancaster with my husband but I don't see his clothes. I don't know what he used, that's not my problem, you know.
- Q Uh huh.
- A He's not my husband, you know what I'm saying.

Q Do you remember about what time that was that she came to the store?

A I don't know what time.

Q You don't know. So Miriam came to the store looking for

A Him.

Q For Milton?

A Yeah.

Q And Milton was in Lancaster with your husband buying groceries for your store.

A Yeah.

Q Okay.

A And when she left I, two or three minutes, I don't know, his brother comes to the store with his wife.

Q Okay, now his brother is, we know him to be Noel, okay, what's the name you know him by? You can say it in Spanish.

A ???????? Italiano

Q Okay which means the Italian.

A Yeah.

Q Right.

A Because he always says that he's the Italian.

Q Right but you knew that he wasn't.

A Yeah.

Q Okay what, what did Milton's brother say when he got to the store?

A Well when he went to the store, I said to call to his wife because she say to call her. So I gave him my, my phone you know my phone to him so he was, he called her back of the store, back of the store and he was like screaming to her. They was arguing in the phone.

- Q So....
- A Noel he was sitting down there with his wife and he said that she not going to, she not going to stay with him.
- Q Right. Well....
- A ??? Noel say, the Italiano say, you know what I'm saying?
- Q Right.
- A Because she know more information about.
- Q Okay. Milton was in the back of the store talking on your cellular phone to Miriam, right, his wife.
- A Yes.
- Q He was arguing with her.
- A In the phone not cell phone.
- Q Oh on the regular phone.
- A Yes.
- Q Talking to his wife, arguing with her.
- A Yeah, yeah.
- Q Okay, Noel was there with his wife, and you heard him say that she knows a lot of information about us.
- A Yeah.
- Q Meaning him and Noel, him and Milton, right and that she can't go on living, right?
- A Yeah, she's
- Q Something's got to happen to her.
- A Yeah.

- Q Because she had a lot of information about
- A Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Q Okay. Then what happened?
- A Then when he finished, Milton finished, to talk to her then Milton say that he going to kill her. Okay but then the brother say no that he going to do it.
- Q Okay.
- A Okay.
- Q Milton said, "I'm going to kill her."
- A Yeah.
- Q Okay and then Noel said, "You're not going to it, I'm going to do it."
- A Yeah. Because he was so angry.
- Q Noel was angry ...
- A So angry with her.
- Q With her, with Miriam.
- A Yeah.
- Q Okay, great. Okay what happened the rest of that night?
- A Well they was all day there and they was talking and we was talking about, you know, the store and this and this and all that stuff.
- Q Okay.
- A So you know we don't pay attention about that.
- Q Okay.
- A So it was like 11:00, 11:00 o'clock in the night. My husband, kids they was there, you know his kids. They was there and all that stuff it's like, like 11:50 or 12:00 o'clock, okay. Well we closed the store. They was outside. My kids they left first and well we

said bye, see you because it was so late.

Q Okay.

A And we were so tired. So we go away. So we went to Lancaster 549 Manor Street. We parking the car back of the car, house.

Q Okay hold on. Before you left the store, right, Noel did something or he said something that you told me earlier. That he was still angry, right.

A They was angry but they still there from the store.

Q Right, but what, before you guys left what did Noel or Milton say maybe a couple of hours before you left to go home that night to go to Lancaster what did Noel or Milton say to you or Noel do that led you to believe that he was still angry. That, that made you see.....

A No, you know what, I don't... when he say that I don't pay attention about that.

Q Right.

A Because I was working in the store and it was a lot of people hanging outside. So we leave it like that and we was talking about other stuff, you know. But then when we turned the car on, we closed the store and talked the car, they was right there.

Q There were still there?

A They don't leave, they, they stayed there.

Q They stayed in front of the store on South Queen Street.

A Yeah because there was a lot of people and they was talking all together.

Q Okay, all right.

A So we leave, they, I leave.

Q Right.

A And we leave.

Q But they were still

A So I don't see him if he go to his house.

Q Okay but he was still angry, right, about

A They was angry, they was angry.

Q Okay, good. Okay you went home to Lancaster.

A Yeah.

Q Okay it was you and your husband. You drove your van or your husband drove your van.

A Uh huh.

Q Okay. You got to Lancaster, do you remember what time it was?

A It was like, like 12:40, 12:50 something like that.

Q Okay 12:50 okay, what did you do when you went home?

A Well I was tired. I was taking a shower and we went to sleep.

Q You went to sleep.

A Yeah.

Q Okay about 7:00 o'clock in the morning what happened?

A Well around like 7:00 o'clock somebody was knocking on the door. So my husband went down there. Okay and when he opened the door he saw Milton come first and then Noel come second.

Q Right.

A Noel's wife she stay in the van.

Q Now whose van were they in?

A Milton's van.

Q And Milton was there?

A It was in front of mine, my house.

- Q And they were parked in front of your house?
- A Yeah.
- Q Okay.
- A Okay Milton closed the door, the, the door and my husband was sitting down on the step.
- Q Okay.
- A And my husband say to him what are you doing here at that time. Okay.
- Q Why are you at my house at this time?
- A Yeah at this time.
- Q Okay.
- A And I'm so, I'm nervous and my husband told him why are you nervous?
- Q Right.
- A Oh because we killed, we, he say, we killed my wife.
- Q Okay, we, we
- A We.
- Q Him and Noel?
- A Yeah.
- Q Okay.
- A And my husband stand up and he was so nervous, so nervous you know because he cannot believe it.
- Q Right.
- A Because you talk to a person and they told you that, so he was so nervous. That then my husband said why he do that. Well because she's knows a lot about a lot of stuff about us. She made me angry because she wanted to call the police and we don't let her call the police.

Q Okay.

A And then he say that he knocked the door on her house okay, she was having a towel.

Q She had a towel around her?

A Yeah.

Q Okay.

A And she opened the door and Milton go inside the apartment.

Q Okay.

A He pushed her.

Q Okay.

A And when Milton see the guy, Milton went to the guy and Italiano, Noel, when he take the knife and cut her.

Q Okay.

A You know he garganta cut her.

Q He cut her throat?

A Yeah and he kicked her.

Q And he kicked her.

A You know he, he broke you know her arm and el me dijo que que, yo no se you know he put the knife in her eyes or something like that.

Q Okay.

A You know ?????? he was there. I'll fuck her and I'm glad that I fuck her.

Q Okay, now who was telling you that, Milton? Is that Milton told you that or Noel said that?

A Noel said that.

start again

- Q Right.
- A But then Milton say that he killed the guy.
- Q Okay. Did he tell you how he killed the guy?
- A Well he said with a knife he put it in, in
- Q In his chest?
- A Yeah.
- Q Okay, did they say... Okay continue.
- A We was panic, I was so nervous and so panicky my husband.
- Q Right.
- A That they say oh we can stay here or you can, you know we can stay here. My husband say no. You cannot stay here.
- Q Right.
- A No you cannot stay here. I don't want to be involved in that.
- Q Right.
- A I'm so nervous now. We was so nervous we say you better leave. You better leave.
- Q Okay.
- A But that time ?????? phone.
- Q Right.
- A And that time we was so nervous and they was acting so different with us.
- Q Right.
- A Like trying to, like trying to do something with us.
- Q Right.

- A. But then like a few minutes, my two kids they knocked on the door. And we opened the door. So there was Rhora 24 years old, 19 years old but they don't do nothing to us because it would.
- Q Because they knew that the kids were there?
- A Yeah, the three kids.
- Q Okay.
- A So the, the thing is the only thing they, they do they, they you know, they....
- Q They left?
- A They left but my husband say you better call the cop. They say that you did that and you okay but not disappear. You know don't go away.
- Q Right.
- A If you want to I'll do you a favor and I'll call the cop and you can talk to the cop and relax. But they was so
- Q Hyped up.
- A Hyper, you know.
- Q Right.
- A So, so excited and, and then they was down. You know what I'm saying.
- Q How long did they stay?
- A Milton was ????
- Q How long did they stay in your house for?
- A I think like 45 minutes.
- Q For about 45 minutes. Okay, before they left did they tell you where they were going when they left, when they were leaving?
- A Well they say they going to go to Florida.

- Q Who was in Florida?
- A They don't got nobody there but they say they're going to go over there. And then over there they passed to Santa Domingo.
- Q So they told you they were going to the Dominican Republic.
- A Yeah, yeah.
- Q Okay.
- A But then when I see the newspaper.
- Q Right, hold on one second. Who were they going to stay with in the Dominican Republic? Did they tell you?
- A No they don't tell me.
- Q They didn't tell you?
- A No.
- Q Okay.
- A That day that he went to the house, okay, and then they go away.
- Q Right.
- A That day we went to York to the store.
- Q Right, right.
- A We don't open the store that day.
- Q Right.
- A Because we was so nervous.
- Q Right.
- A Okay we were so cry. He was, my husband would cry, I was so cry because I cannot believe it. And we was knowing we could call the cop or not.

- Q Right.
- A You know what I'm saying. You understand that?
- Q Right, I understand.
- A My husband say don't tell nothing, leave it like that because that's not our problem and we don't get nothing.
- Q Right.
- A I said don't worry because he got problems with his heart.
- Q Right.
- A And I was like controlling him.
- Q Right.
- A Don't worry about it. That's not our problem
- Q Right.
- A And we leave it like that.
- Q Okay.
- A But then like that day it happened so we stayed at the store we don't open the store. The next day we opened the store. So I bought a newspaper. And I was reading the newspaper. They got the phone number right there they say please come talk to the police or whatever.
- Q Right.
- A And I was like trying to call but at the same time they made me stop because then my husband going to be worry so much that I want you know something happen to him.
- Q Okay.
- A So I say, I don't know any, if I call over there and say something they going stop me. They going to keep me here all day talking, talking and talking, you know, they ain't going to worry about there. And I don't know what's going on with him.

- Q Okay, right.
- A Because he no feeling good.
- Q Right, right.
- A So I really, leave everything like that.
- Q Okay.
- A So because it wasn't my problem you know.
- Q Right I understand. Let's go back to when they were at your house and they were telling you about what happened. Okay, what happened. Did they say they did anything to the bodies at all? Did they say that they did anything to them, to the bodies?
- A Well....
- Q Like Noel, I guess Noel was talking about
- A Well Noel, he's the one who killed her.
- Q Her, okay.
- A He killed her.
- Q Did he....
- A That's what he say.
- Q That's what he told you, he killed her.
- A Yeah.
- Q Did he say.....
- A His brother, Milton,
- Q Right.
- A He's the one who killed Tom.
- Q Did, did Noel say anything about the body? Did he do anything to the body?

- A No he say that he just ????? the knife. That he was glad that he do that. Not Milton, Noel.
- Q Right, do you know where the knife went?
- A No because he don't tell me nothing. I don't ask him you know.
- Q Right, right.
- A That he satisfied that he.....
- Q That he did it.
- A Do it, because she deserved it. You know.
- Q Uh huh.
- A And we was saying, we, you know, my husband talked and you know, why they do that. She's a human. You know what I'm saying.
- Q Uh huh.
- A Nobody can take life from nobody. When my husband say that he going to call the cops, you know, that's why they was acting different. You know what I'm saying?
- Q Right.
- A Well they know everything now and they going to call the cops, they going to catch us.
- Q Right.
- A So that's why then my kids come. They don't do nothing.
- Q Right.
- A Maybe they want to do something with us.
- Q Right.
- A But they don't do it.
- Q Okay, Milton, while he was telling you about killing the guy that was in the house, what did he say? Did he say he did anything to the, to the guy's body or anything like that?

- A No. They, we don't ask. We was so nervous that we don't ask. He just say what he do, what him do and that's it and then we trying to talk why we don't call the police or
- Q Call the police, okay.
- A And then they want to stay in the house and I say no. They not going to stay in the house.
- Q Right.
- A So they, they go away.
- Q They take off. Did they say if Cathy was with them when this happened at all?
- A She, when, when Milton come and knocked the door that he went inside and then Noel went inside. They closed the door.
- Q Right.
- A When my kids knocked the door and they went inside then she went.... inside.
- Q She came inside the house
- A With the kids.
- Q With the kids?
- A Yeah. But she was like 9, she doesn't know because she was with them.
- Q She had no idea as to what happened?
- A She, I think she knows because the day that, that I was telling you, that they was in the back of the store, the Noel,
- Q Was talking to her.
- A With her.
- Q Right. Okay when, when Noel was saying she knows too much about us, you know, what did he mean by that? That she knew too much about us what was he into or what was he doing that, that he had to worry about the police? Do you know?
- A Well he before all that stuff, was going around and all that he was telling us that he was trafficking drugs. He was doing that or sent a woman, he paid a woman to Santa

Domingo and she was put some drugs in her body and they come over here and when he was over there pays cash. A lot of stuff, I don't pay a lot attention you know.

Q But was he saying that he was wanted by the police at all? Did he ever tell you that? That we were looking for him before this happened?

A No, no, no, no, nothing at all.

Q No, never said that.

A The thing is when they tell us that, that story.....

Q Right.

A There was panic for us.

Q Right.

A They say they don't care because they, they do it before.

Q Right.

A You know what I'm saying, they killed before....

Q Before.

A So they don't care.

Q They'll do it again.

A They do it again. They'll kill.

Q Right, okay Esther, is the statement you have just given me true and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief?

A Yes, yes.

Q When this statement is type written okay, and you have had the opportunity to read it, so you know it's your own words, would you be willing go to sign it? Just saying that this is what you said and we didn't make anything up.

A Yes, yes, yes.

Q Okay. The time is now 1404 hours end of statement.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____ Witness

Date and Time Signed

Typed from the Dictaphone by Secretary Patricia A. Boeshore, York City Police Department
Detective Bureau. Completed at 9:40 a.m. December 10, 1998.