

Statutory Declaration

I, Abraham Minnie, 1967 [REDACTED] & Annahatak Jimmy Joseph, 1954 [REDACTED], P.O box 936, Kuujjuaq
(Name, first name, address, birth date)

I do solemnly declare that,

We solemnly declare, meeting with Marie-Hélène Francoeur-Malouin, investigation agent from the Viens Commission, in Kuujjuaq, on July 9, 2018.

(Minnie): On my part, I made a complaint about myself being not well taken care at the nursing facility in Kangirsuk. The doctor was travelling that time. He was in Kangirsuk. It was October 2015. I was very sick and the doctor kept refusing to give me painkillers and I was getting worse every day. On the fifth day I was brought to Kuujjuaq by Medevac because they finally noticed that I was very sick. By the time of the arrival here in Kuujjuaq hospital, they brought me to the X-ray room and also did ultrasounds on me, and they found my gall bladder about to erupt. I was mistreated in Kangirsuk, the doctor said I was okay but I was not, and the nurses tried their best to give me something for the pain but the doctor kept saying no. He said I could only have Tylenols or something to kill the pain, but it was not the case. Jimmy was looking after me, my spouse, when I was very sick. He helped me a lot. I was really shivering from pain, I was like freezing. Jimmy even had to put blankets in the dryer to keep me warm. I almost fainted once from being sick too much, in pain. I went back to the nursing in Kangirsuk, I tried to ask for more pain killer, and they refused because the doctor said I didn't need it, only Tylenol but Tylenol won't help. I kept going back every day until I was not able to move around anymore. Finally, the doctor decided to send me to Kuujjuaq on the fifth day. When I arrived here, they did X-rays, ultrasounds, and they found the problem why I was very sick, my gall bladder was about to erupt. Right away, when they sent me to Montreal by Challenger, it took me one hour to reach Montreal, and upon the arrival they did a quick exam and right away they brought me to the surgery room. The surgeon doctor said that Tylenol is bad for the liver and it's bad for the spleen, the gall bladder. He said I was very lucky to be alive. If my gall bladder erupted, I would've died been in the worst condition if my gall bladder erupted. I tried to make a complaint about it but they don't take the complaints here if it's concerning a doctor.

Declarer signature _____

Declared before me, _____

at _____ on _____

Q1: Do you know why they are not taking the complaint?

(Minnie): If it's a doctor they can't take the complaint, that's what I was told. I had to change my doctor when I moved to Kuujuuaq because I was not treated right. At the same time, I made a second complaint. When I was getting medevac in the plane, in the Challenger, I was forced to be an interpreter for an eight-year-old child that was mauled by dogs. She was in a critical condition, she was very scared, could not understand French or English. The flying team, the nurse and doctor forced me to be an interpreter because the child could not understand. I was very much in pain and I didn't feel like talking but they forced me to be the interpreter. That's my second complaint. They should've had at least an interpreter with them. That was my second complaint when I was getting medevac on October 31, 2015. The second patient was an eight-year-old little girl that was very much in pain. She is from Tasiujaq. That's my complaint.

Q2: So normally are they able to manage to have someone to translate?

(Minnie): No. I just saw the news, they are starting to let a mother follow a child when there is a child being medevac.

Q3: But if you weren't in the plane, they would have been screwed and they would not have been able to communicate with the child?

(Minnie): They forced me to be an interpreter on the plane. I was so much in pain, I just didn't feel like talking but I had no choice. Knowing myself, I was so much in pain, scared, maybe dying, I don't know. Until reached Montreal, then I stopped being an interpreter for this child. She would calm down when I spoke in Inuktitut, she would listen to me but when I was in pain ... I was so much in pain, that's how I was that day.

Q4: Did it go well in Montreal when you had the surgery?

(Minnie): Yes, the surgeon and the surgery team, they did a good job on me. As soon as I reached Montreal, everything was well taken care of. I had no problem with Kuujuuaq but it was in Kangirsuk that I had a problem with the doctor.

Q5: You were telling me that the nurses were trying to help you as much as they could but the doctor said you wouldn't get pain killers and would go back home.

(Minnie): Yes.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q6: Do you know the name of that doctor?

(Minnie): Yes, Doctor [REDACTED] but they call him Doctor [REDACTED]. He is a [REDACTED] doctor. At the same time, this doctor, when he sees me in public, for instance in a store, he keeps saying: "You are not eating right". He is not supposed to say that in public, and in the hospital he talks loud concerning a patient when he is supposed to bring him to a private area. That's another story I forgot to mention.

Q7: There is a lack of confidentiality?

(Minnie): Yes. And when he was seeing me in Kangirsuk he said: "Killer is back. I am a killer." "What do you mean, I didn't say that!" I said that to him. "Someone said I am a killer", I said: "What do you mean, I am not saying you are a killer you are supposed to be helping me", and I told him that. I'm very thankful that the nurses tried their best but it was this doctor who was not helping me.

Q8: To your knowledge is he still here?

(Minnie): Yes, he still flies to Kangirsuk to meet patients.

Q9: I will ask the legal team if there is a way that you can make a complaint, because I don't think it's true that you can't make a complaint regarding a doctor. Maybe you can't do it for the KRG or who is taking care of the hospital but I'm pretty sure that you can make a complaint, so I will ask the legal team.

(Minnie): There is a complaint officer at the hospital here in Kuujuaq. Her name is [REDACTED] and she told me that when it's concerning a doctor, they cannot take complaints.

Q10: Maybe she can't take complaints regarding a doctor but there is someone that can make a complaint regarding a doctor so I will look into it and when I have the information I am going to send you the information.

(Minnie): That day, it was October 27, 2015. I tried my best to ask for pain killers and the doctor refused. I kept going back, I was getting worse, and finally I was sent out.

Q11: What was the reason for refusing to give you the pain killers?

(Minnie): He didn't explain why, just to take Tylenols every four to six hours, and it was not helping me. That was my complaint. Am I through?

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q12: Yes, it was perfect and clear. Sir, is it your turn?

(Jimmy): Yes, my complaint is concerning the police officers that mistreated me. I was bleeding, it was badly cut, and they didn't even take me into the hospital. I was bleeding on the wrist and even the vein, it was almost to the bone, you could see almost to the bone in the handcuffs.

(Minnie): The nerve was showing.

Q13: Because of the handcuffs?

(Jimmy): Yes. I was in pain, I was staying in the cell, I was wondering why they didn't take me to the hospital because it was bleeding as well, and it got me pretty mad in there. After they overused the force, they let him bleed to death in their cell.

Q14: When was it?

(Jimmy): Somewhere in March. March 13, 2010.

Q15: I think I have the deontology complaint that you made. You went to the coop store in Kangirsuk in order to do some grocery shopping and had a cut for falling down. "My face was covered with blood, and the police's name is [REDACTED]. He was pressuring me and I was trying to tell him I would be okay". Is it that story?

(Jimmy): Yes, that's the story.

Q16: "I told him that I would be okay and I can handle my own injuries. Then the police forced me to leave with him and started wrestling against me. He was pinching me around and his woman partner started to wrestle as well. Then they ended up arresting me for resisting arrest, uttering threats, which I had no intention at all, for sure I don't remember everything because I was a bit drunk, and my witnesses said I was doing okay until the police overpowered their station". Is it okay if I continue, just to read it? If you want to add some info...

(Jimmy): Yes.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q17: "I received a one-inch-deep cut and they did not even bring me to nursing for stitches. I received five different bruises on both of my arms. They also twisted my right arm. My one inch deep cut is located on my right hand wrist. Their handcuff cut my wrist, I also received bruises on my stomach. They gave me very heavy conditions for a crime I did not even commit. Like I said, I am old enough to handle my own injuries and they are trying to charge me with resisting arrest and uttering threats. My three witnesses are willing to support me, they said I never caused any problems until the police came to me saying: 'You have a cut', and I was bleeding. That's when I told him I was okay but the police overruled his order to follow him when I was trying to buy something, and he started wrestling me, hitting me, pinching me and punching me. Then his partner [REDACTED] got involved". Did you get any news about the complaint that you make to deontology?

(Minnie): They never came back with the results after he made the complaint. He was met at Northern Village office for televised court versus two police officers. He had his own witnesses. I went to pick him up when he was released after. It was late at night, when he came home, I tried to help him out because he was much in pain. When I tried to take off his Parka coat, I tried to pull the Parka's arm, because he was so much in pain. When I pulled it out, I found the cut myself, and he did not know. I had to show him, even his Parka was bloody, and his clothes were bloody. When I saw the cut, it was here. I saw the nerve and partially the bone. It was visible, it was wide open. I called the nursing right away, I asked for help. I said: "My spouse needs stitches", and she tell me: "Why?" I said: "He had a very bad cut on his wrist; he is not bleeding anymore but I can see the nerve and the bone", and she goes "How old is the injury?" I said: "He is been in a cell a good ten to twelve hours", and the nurse said: "No, it's too late, it has to be less than eight hours, fresh cut, otherwise they cannot do the stitches". I was so much in shock to hear this, and then she told him to go to nursing the next day because it was late at night. We went to the nursing on the next day, we saw a different nurse, her name is Shirley Isedora, and she was very upset about the nurse not doing stitches on him. She tried to clean it good, and close it. He ended up going to the hospital every day to get it cleaned, until it healed.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q18: So the nurse during the day was upset about the other nurse that said there was nothing to do and to come back the next day. Do you still have a scar?

(Jimmy): Yes, it's right here.

Q19: And the cut that you had before, was it on the same arm? And when they put the handcuff it went deeper, is that it?

(Minnie): Yes because the cop was pulling—pulling him, dragging him, inside the coop's store porch, until they put him down on the ground outside. A lot of people were watching.

Q20: You told me there was a videoconference between you, your witnesses and the two police officers, and you never got any answers? They never said if they were blaming them or not? The last thing that happened in that complaint is the videoconference, no news after that?

(Jimmy): No, no news.

(Minnie): One of his witnesses was forced to clean up, there was a lot of blood inside the porch. He had to change the water three times of the pail when he was cleaning the blood. He had to throw the mop in the garbage because there was too much blood. We were surprised to hear that.

Q21: The police never brought you to the nursing, they just released you ten hours later with a promise to appear, or with some charges?

(Jimmy): Yes. Resisting arrest.

Q22: And uttering threats?

(Jimmy): Yes.

(Minnie): I took the pictures.

Q23: Yes, I have it in my file. I think you sent it to [REDACTED] I have it in my file, the bruises and everything.

(Minnie): That was the first one and the second event. Different time, different year. But this one is worst that we made a complaint.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q24: So you can go with the second one that you want to share.

(Jimmy): The second one, I can't remember that, when is the second one?

(Minnie): Was it 2014?

Q25: Maybe I have it in here ... I don't have it, the 2014 event.

(Minnie): There was certain complaint we made. I think the police were trying to charge me for DUI, and they were my passengers but I was not drunk. I was driving my husband and his brother because they were not in shape to drive. The police followed me beside our house, there was two of them. They grabbed Jimmy out right away, and they said: "You have conditions not to drink, you are not supposed to be drinking", because of the event, the second one. And then, he was so intoxicated he doesn't remember anything. I had to take pictures again. Someone was passing by, she wasn't sure what was happening. I know her name. They grabbed his brother, he was behind the passenger side, they dragged him out and put him down, and one of them had to put his foot on the neck, and I was saying: "What are you doing? You are hurting them!", and they kept telling me to shut up. I told them: "Call your boss, I want him to watch, I want him to deal with us instead of you guys. You guys are too dangerous to handle us!" So the other partner, the police officer called the boss, the sergeant. He came over and I explained to him. He was so much in shock when I told him that his police officers were so much violent towards him and his brother. He had marks again, he had bad cuts, and his skin was ripped. I took that picture, and the cut on his face, I don't know, I can't remember. I took pictures. I was so upset I had to make a second complaint. I won the case. The police tried to charge me for DUI, the investigator I guess closed the file. Two years later, a police officer came to me and she said: "I have good news for you Minnie, you are not going to court anymore, and your file is closed". They went through the investigation and it was very poor, missing information. And I said: "No wonder, I was not drunk".

Q26: Did you make a complaint at the police's deontology for that as well?

(Minnie): Yes I tried. They never came back to my complaint. They opened a file but they never came back to my complaint.

Q27: I know that for deontology it's a one-year gap, if it's going further, if it's something that happened in 2015, I can't make a complaint today. So was it after one year or was it really quick after the event that you make a complaint?

(Minnie): After the event, it took me a few weeks to make a complaint. It was the same year.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q28: No news, no comeback, at least to tell you they would not go further, nothing. You sent the complaint and that's it.

(Minnie): I think the reason why they closed my file was because I made a complaint. I took a lot of pictures again.

Q29: You had a lot of proof. Do you happen to have the name of those police officers?

(Minnie): Constable [REDACTED], and I forgot the other name, but they are in my complaint. I am going to go through his e-mails...

Q30: ... and see if you can find a copy of the complaint?

(Minnie): Yes.

Q31: You have my e-mail address, you can send me a copy.

(Minnie): I had no e-mail at that time, I was using his e-mail to send my complaint, but I created my own personal e-mail and I have a business e-mail.

Q32: Do you know which year it was? You said 2014, maybe?

(Minnie): I think it was 2014, but I will check with the e-mail.

Q33: It could be good if you have the copy, if not, just send me the date, the name.

(Minnie): I sent the pictures, and I saved the pictures, they are in our computer.

Q34: I think I have some of the pictures. Our informatics system is down in Val-d'Or so it's not working here as well, and the internet is low, so what I am going to do is take a note and when I am back from my vacation, I will tell you which pictures I have in my file.

(Minnie): Okay. And I have a question: the third complaint he made, I think it was too old, 1972.

(Jimmy): Forty-six years ago.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q35: It's sad but we have a decree from the government and a mandate, and we can't go further than 2001.

(Minnie): This is the main event.

Q36: I think [REDACTED] explained to you....

(Minnie): She did. He has been having flashbacks, and the police don't understand why—he went through a lot.

Q37: Do you have some follow-up here, do you have someone that you can talk to?

(Minnie): No.

Q38: I know we have someone from the wellness team, I don't know if she has arrived yet, but she can make contact for the people on the community from the local services, to help you after you shared with us. Do you want me to see if she has arrived yet?

(Minnie): It's up to him.

(Jimmy): Yes.

Q39: Do you want to add anything to the stories that you shared?

(Minnie): For the police brutality, those were the two complaints that I had concern. I am a former SQ constable. The way I see the police these days is unbelievable. They are not treating the suspects right.

Q40: Do you have any recommendations on how it could change in the future, how it could be better, do you have some recommendations?

(Minnie): I would recommend that the way we were trained by the SQ, we have to respect the suspect even though he got charged. Our priority was to respect the suspect, and also the victims and witnesses, but when it comes to suspects, we have to respect them even though they are charged, and until it is proven guilty through the court. But the police they are doing excessive force and I find it not right at all. They intend to give orders without the judge's approval, without prosecutors.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q41: They are kind of overstepping their mandate, their role?

(Minnie): Yes, and there are quite a few incidents that was death involved. They are not trained well, we always receive newcomers that are not trained well. They are in a rush style. It's so much changed these days. We always get to see new faces that are not experienced and for us, when we were SQ constables, we were taught from A to Z in Nicolet, and they did a group training. They provided good services, training and all that. All the time, even though the suspect is charged we still have to respect them because there are second stories, other stories, we have to gather them up and it's going to be up to the judge only, not the police itself, that's what we were taught. And to respect others.

Q42: Do you think that the manager of the supervisor of KRPF is not looking deeper into people that are coming, about their training and things like that?

(Minnie): Yes. The way I see it, seems like one day they hire a young officer, they are not trained. They are here to try out, unless they have training but no experience. First of all, it would be nice if they learned about Inuit culture and all that instead of quickly doing whatever.

Q43: So they are trained but not trained into the Nunavik realities?

(Minnie): Yes. We were taught to respect others, Cree, Inuit, Innu, we were gathered at training centres. We had SQ officers that were training us, and there is the Montreal police also, partially was training us too because we were in the South. Since we are from the North, they had a native division with the SQ who has come here a lot of times, meeting Inuit, hiring Inuit, we don't see that anymore.

Q44: Since when did the KRPF arrive?

(Minnie): 1995. That's the year I left. I did five years and they wanted me to stay but I refused because I was not willing to change; I was sticking with the real SQ book, program. They respect Inuit very much compared to KRPF these days. That's how we were taught, and that's how I was trained.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant