

Statutory Declaration

I, Kanarjuaq, Saira, Ivujivik, 1963 [REDACTED]

(Name, first name, address, birth date)

I do solemnly declare that,

I solemnly declare, meeting with Annick Wylde, investigation agent from the Viens Inquiry Commission, on May 2 2018, in Ivujivik.

Q1: You want to speak about which services today?

A1: First, I want to speak about the police. When they built new houses, I was living with my mother. She was elderly and she bought a new house. When we moved to our new house, I wanted to wash the whole walls. I was just washing walls and the police officer came in and arrested me. I asked her why she was arresting me and she said it was because the mayor asked her to bring me to jail. But she lost her job after. She had another incident with another person and we complained so she got fired.

Q2: What's her name?

A2: [REDACTED]

Q3: You didn't know why she was arresting you?

A3: Because the mayor told her to put me in jail.

Another time, I was drunk and I was making phone calls, "giving everybody shit" and the police came up and put me in jail. He was alone. There was just one police at that time. I was still upset and a couple of hours later, I wanted to go to the toilet so I was taken to the washroom. He started to say I had to go back to my cell. I said "Just a moment". And then he said I had to go back to my cell and I said not now. And then I was not peeing in the moment but I was not rushing to go back to my cell. He saw that I was not on the toilet and he started to beat me up. I got angrier because I've been beaten up. I was on the floor, he was punching me and kicking me. I didn't want to go back to my cell anymore

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Declared before me, _____

at _____ on _____

because he was beating me up. I didn't want to get up, he was kicking me so many times, kicking me on my body. He didn't want to touch my face. So he dragged me to the cell.

The next day, I got home. My whole body was aching. I decided to go to the nursing station. I wanted the nurse to examine my body. It was black and blue. And then she asked me what happened and I told her it was the police. She didn't believe me. She told me "The police would never do that".

Maybe after a year, I had to go to the nursing station for sickness. We were waiting in the exam room with our files and I waited for so long. I took my file and I decided to go over it to see if I could read anything in there. Since it was my file, I thought it was alright for me to go through that. Then I saw that report that I tried to make to the nurse a year ago about the police officer who had beaten me up. What she wrote was what she had in mind. She wrote this person came in with black and blues on every part of her body and said the police beat her up but that's not true, she's crazy or something. That's what I was reading so I decided to take that part of my file and put it in my pocket. I was so angry. I didn't want to have a false report in my file. So after a while, the nurse came in. She was very nice. She introduced herself and welcome me and asked me how I was. I'm so honest, I told her I went through my files and I took one piece of paper and put it in my pocket. She asked me why and I explained her that the previous nurse made a false report about me when I've been beaten up by the police. The nurse told me I wasn't supposed to do that. I said I didn't know but I believed this nurse wasn't supposed to do that either to me, to my file. She said "That's true" and she said "Come and have that paper back in the file" and I said "No, you're not putting it back in my file". She said "Can you at least show me that paper?" So I showed her and she read it a little bit and said "Don't tell anybody, when you go home, burn that paper". She didn't want anybody to find out. That's what I did when I got home. I burned the paper.

The same week I was beaten up by the police officer, I was then one of the municipal counselors and we were supposed to have a meeting. While we were waiting, I asked our mayor to take pictures of me because what they took from the nursing was not true. But if I had a picture, it would be a proof. So he took my pictures, here in this room. But years went by and each time I've seen those pictures, I got angry, more upset. So I decided to throw them.

Q4: Did you ever make a complaint about the police officer?

A4: I tried with the counselors and the response was "You're not the first one to complain about this policeman. He beat up that person too, and then that other person" They did nothing, they just heard their stories. So nothing happened. But that policeman never came back.

Q5: What's the name of the police officer? Do you remember his name?

A5: No. He was alone. Right now, we always have two policemen. 

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Q6: Where is he from? Is he Inuit?

A6: No. He's white.

Q7: When did this happen?

A7: Around [REDACTED]

Q8: And the nurse that made the false report?

A8: She was very young. I've never seen her before and she never came back here either. But the other nurse, the one I told about me taking the paper in the file, her name is [REDACTED].

Q9: Did you feel any discrimination or racism when you met with the police and the nurse?

A9: When the police started to beat me up, I felt discriminated. I was thinking that if I was a white person, I wouldn't be beat up. And the nurse, just because I'm native and the policeman is white, she didn't believe my story because she said the policeman would never do that. I felt discriminated. I start to feel that all white people, no matter what kind of job they have, if they are white, they think they can just label us.

Another thing... In 2015, I got drunk again. This time, I don't remember what I did but I woke up in jail. The police made me sign a paper the next day and I was released, going home. And then I received a paper that I'm supposed to go to court. I was a municipal counselor and I was very shy going to court. I went to Salluit and met my lawyer. Ivujivik is so small and back then, we didn't have much people interested to become a counselor. So I told my lawyer that I cannot lose my position as a counselor, that my people needed me. If I has a criminal record, I couldn't be a counselor anymore. I told him I regret what I did, that I didn't even know what I did because I was too drunk but I told him I could do something with my drinking. And that's what happened and my lawyer helped me. I was very lucky. I didn't get a criminal record and they let me go. I was very surprised about that. You know what I said before about the white people, well that lawyer made me change how I was thinking about them. Just because of that lawyer. She helped me. Now I don't have a criminal record and I don't drink anymore.

Also, there's married or common law couples... Their wives or girlfriends, they get very jealous at me. And this married couple wife, she started to come to my house, grab my hair, try to beat me up but since I'm bigger than her, I just put her down and lied on top of her. But she had her hands on my hair. And she said "Two of my daughter are coming to beat you up" so I closed the door with my feet. Then, later on, between midnight and two in the morning, her daughter broke my window, so I had to call the police again. The policeman said to call each time she bothers me. And finally, I charged her. So she

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was going to court and the policeman came with the papers and said "Do you want to be in the court, when she's in court, do you want to talk?" I said yes so they made me sign. But they never recall me. I don't understand.

The community knows what happened. Some people believe her because she's married and I'm single. But my friends and my family believe me. And then, one time I had to go to the police station and that policeman started to accuse me that I'm fooling around with a married man. I said "Who?" and he mentioned his name. It was this person who was jealous and I told him "Look at the community. Half of them believe her and half of them believe me and you believe her, which is not true". So, I'm wondering, in the police station, if they have these highlighted false notes about me. And I'm wondering if the nurse has these false highlighted notes in my files. I don't trust nobody anymore.

Q10: How did you feel when you got arrested and the nurse made a false report, how did you feel when it happened to you?

A10: I felt that the policeman was supposed to help people and try to improve somehow the community. And with the nurse, I think they are supposed to help too. Both of them should be kind of a counselor.

Q11: Do you have any recommendations for the police and the nurse station?

A11: In the past, we used to have older policemen. Back then, they were patient and more into community. But right now, we don't see older police officer, they're all young. They have no life experience. They don't know our culture, our land or anything about our way of life. Even if they are younger than us, they feel so high... I don't know, they have this attitude. We need older persons because they are working with people who are in pain in their heart, in their mind and in their soul. They need to have experience about these kind of things, and try to understand, and try to help them, or try to make them understand. These young policemen, they have no idea. I find the policemen have the hardest job because they're dealing with very angry people and some are confused because of their past, their history. And before coming to North, they have to get a course about the North.

In March, this "Good Touch, Bad Touch" came in the community. It was about sexual abuse and some policemen, DYP and the Social Services were attempting this course. And there was this female police officer who was there for the course. She used to work here for 2 years but then she was sent to Kuujjuaq. While we were talking about sexual abuse, we got to the point of the history of the North. We talked about residential schools, ships coming up North and trade fur. And this police officer said "I wish I had acquired that before coming up North as a policeman. I would have more understood about the North people. It would have helped me to understand them more."

They should have a course about Nunavik history coming from 1600 up to 2018. They think that Inuit are just drunk people. But it's not all Inuit like that. They really need a course because in our community, there's 2 policemen, 1 social worker, 1 DYP and I don't know how many teachers who are

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white. And there's nothing in this community that they are used to. So sometimes, they get together and talk about Inuit. This policemen will talk about who have been in jail, what they have done and the social worker will talk about her patients, the DYP will say "That family's child was taken because they're drunk" They're careless. They get together and talk about those stuff. They're not supposed to do that.

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Enquêteur

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