

**TRIBUNALE DI PERUGIA CORTE D'ASSISE, HEARING OF 27 MARCH 2009**

*Testimony of Maria Ilaria Dramis, born 13 September 1979 in Corigliano Calabro (CS)*

**Questioning by Prosecutor Mignini (page 89)**

Mignini           Where do you live?  
Dramis            I live at 12 via Del Melo.  
Mignini            Since when?  
Dramis            Since 1999, it's been 10 years by now.  
Mignini            Are you a student?  
Dramis            Yes.  
Mignini            What in?  
Dramis            I'm a student of CTF Chemical and Technical Pharmaceutics  
Mignini            Can you see the house on 7 via della Pergola from your house?  
Dramis            Yes.  
Mignini            What can you see, all of it or a part of it?  
Dramis            No, I can only see the roof and a part of the yard in front of the house.  
Mignini            Which yard? The one that faces the lay-by?  
Dramis            The part towards the door of the house, in other words, I can't see all of it.  
Mignini            So where there's the wooden fence?  
Dramis            Yes.  
Mignini            From your house can you see the car-park below?  
Dramis            Yes, Sant'Antonio yes.  
Mignini            And can also you see the metal stairs of the car park?  
Dramis            Not from the window, unless I lean out.  
Mignini            So can you see these stairs?  
Dramis            Yes, if I lean out the window, but not from inside my house.  
Mignini            In which direction?  
Dramis            If I lean out towards the right.  
Mignini            Can you remember what you did on the evening of 1<sup>st</sup> November?  
Dramis            I went to the cinema.  
Mignini            On your own or with someone?  
Dramis            I went to the cinema with my sister who I live with, we went to the show of eight thirty, or eight twenty.  
Mignini            Where did you go?  
Dramis            To the Pavone cinema.  
Mignini            What time did the film end?

Dramis It was the eight thirty show, so around ten twenty, half past ten.

Mignini 22:00?

Dramis 20:00 – 22:30.

Mignini Did you go straight home or did you stay there a while?

Dramis We went straight home.

Mignini What route did you take?

Dramis Usually we follow the road, in the evening we try to take the shortest route to get home and so it was probably via Ulisse Rocchi or via Del Bartolo.

Mignini At what time did you arrive home, did you notice the time?

Dramis We didn't take much notice of the time because we were a bit tired, we tried to get ready for the evening.

Mignini Do you remember when you went to bed?

Dramis Presumably... exactly I wouldn't be able to say.

Mignini In your statement of 8th November 2008 you said: "when I went to lie down it was after 23:00", do you confirm this?

Dramis Yes, I confirm it.

Mignini How long after though?

Dramis Maybe after half an hour, more or less.

Mignini So it could also have been 23:30?

Dramis Yes.

Mignini Your bedroom, your bedroom, your bedroom... do you share the same bedroom?

Dramis Yes.

Mignini Where is it?

Dramis It faces towards via Del Melo, it overlooks via Del Melo.

Mignini So explain to us, is via Del Melo on the side of the car-park or on the opposite side?

Dramis On the exact opposite side.

Mignini So your bedroom faces towards via Del Melo?

Dramis Yes.

Mignini What did you hear or what did you see that night?

Dramis I didn't see anything, I was half asleep in bed, I had the sense of hearing footsteps running below my window, so this is what I heard.

Mignini Were they quick steps, in other words, running?

Dramis Yes rapid because they disrupted my rest, my half asleep state, I was disturbed by these running footsteps.

Mignini Here you have to try and remember. After how long from..., you say that you were half asleep, so you said earlier that you could have gone to lie down around 23:00 – 23:30, right?

Dramis Yes.

Mignini Roughly, when could you have heard these footsteps, at what time?

Dramis I can't say with certainty because I didn't get out of my bed, so I didn't get up and I didn't see the time neither. Not much time had passed, I mean I have the feeling that I didn't hear them in the middle of the night.

Mignini So not much time had passed after you had gone to sleep or to lie down?

Dramis Yes.

Mignini Do you normally go straight to sleep?

Dramis Well it depends, not much.

Mignini You heard..., I have to ask you some things about these footsteps.

Dramis Ok.

Mignini Quick walking or running, how were they?

Dramis Well fast, but now I can't remember very well.

Mignini You stated on 8th November 2008: "I heard rapid footsteps as if someone were running".

Dramis Yes, yes.

Mignini So you confirm this?

Dramis Yes, I confirm it.

Mignini Where were these footsteps coming from and where were they heading?

Dramis I can't remember this, I wouldn't be able to say.

Mignini However they were footsteps that went along via Del Melo?

Dramis Yes, I perceived them so below my window.

Mignini Are you able to say if they were of only one person or of more than one?

Dramis No, this I wouldn't be able to say either.

Mignini Did you hear anything else afterwards?

Dramis No, however these are footsteps that one often hears and for which I didn't give much thought because one hears them regularly.

Mignini Did you wake up because of these footsteps or... earlier you said they disturbed you.

Dramis Yes because in any case I was in the state of being half asleep, I mean I wasn't exactly... awake, completely awake and so these footsteps... I had this perception.

Mignini Did your sister hear them?

Dramis She also perceived something.

Mignini No more questions.

### **Questioning by Maori, defense lawyer for Raffaele Sollecito (page 93)**

- Maori            You responded to the Prosecutor talking about these footsteps that you perceived that evening, but in other occasions did you hear other quick footsteps of other people?
- Dramis           Yes, in general they can be heard even during the day, basically it happens a lot.
- Maori            So wasn't an unusual fact to hear those footsteps on that evening, you'd also heard them in other circumstances?
- Dramis           Yes, yes.
- Maori            Are you aware of other particulars that occurred on via Del Melo after the murder, in particular about something your sister saw with her own eyes, which she referred to earlier?
- Dramis           No.
- Maori            A youth was taking off a glove with a knife in his hand?
- Dramis           Mm...
- Maori            Didn't your sister tell you anything about it?
- Dramis           Yes, she told me about it.
- Maori            What did she tell you?
- Dramis           Of this guy she saw, she noticed somebody in the lane that had... he took off a glove and then he threw it away.
- Maori            And did he have a knife in his hand?
- Dramis           I think so, I think that's what she said.
- Maori            However your sister who saw this, did she tell you about this circumstance?
- Dramis           Yes, I didn't see it.
- Maori            Did it occur a few days after the murder?
- Dramis           I think it was a bit later on than that.
- Maori            What's your sister's name?
- Dramis           Olga.
- Maori            And do you live with her?
- Dramis           Yes.
- Maori            Thank-you.

### **Questioning by Rocchi, defense lawyer for Raffaele Sollecito (page 94)**

- Rocchi            What were the reasons that convinced you to come forward and make a statement?
- Dramis           The reasons... because after such a long time I was a bit hesitant also because I wasn't certain, if what I remembered could have been useful and then I was, they came to my house after such a long time, after about a year

some journalists came saying they were looking for more information, even insignificant things, that could be useful even if for us they weren't at all important, so they invited us, to go and make our statements so that...

- Rocchi So it was the journalists who directed you?
- Dramis They told us that these things could have been... if we would be willing to report it.
- Rocchi Was it said to you, when you made these statements, that you shouldn't speak about them with anybody?
- Dramis Yes, yes.
- Rocchi But that same night did you speak with your sister about what you had heard?
- Dramis Which night... I haven't understood.
- Rocchi The same night that you heard these noises.
- Dramis After having seen the two [journalists] we thought many times about what had happened, playing it back through our minds, the evening before, all our movements and we agreed together that we had heard these noises.
- Rocchi But did you speak together that same night?
- Dramis No, no, not that evening because anyway we were both in bed.
- Rocchi When you were interviewed, were you interviewed together with your sister?
- Dramis Yes.
- Rocchi So you were actually both together?
- Dramis First one of us and then the other.
- Rocchi So separately?
- Dramis Yes, yes.
- Rocchi Thank-you.

### **Questioning by Dalla Vedova, defense lawyer for Amanda Knox (Page 95)**

- Dalla Vedova Can you be more precise about the journalists that contacted you, do you remember the name?
- Dramis From the "Giornale dell'Umbria".
- Dalla Vedova A certain Mr. Castellini?
- Dramis Yes. The first time it was another journalist that came, he's called Fois.
- Dalla Vedova He actually came to your house?
- Dramis Yes, yes.
- Dalla Vedova And you let him in?
- Dramis Yes, he didn't ring the intercom however, he called directly at the door of my flat and, thinking he was a resident, I opened directly.
- Dalla Vedova How did he justify this? What did he say to you?

Dramis He told me they were carrying out an investigation and asking if anyone in the vicinity might have heard something or at least had a perception of something that for us could have been insignificant, but in reality could be important.

Dalla Vedova After this you decided to go to the Prosecutor?

Dramis They told us that these things could be useful and so we considered this, and we went to the Prosecutor's office.

Dalla Vedova When you say "we went", does this mean you went together with this Mr. Fois?

Dramis Yes, he also accompanied us.

Dalla Vedova Do you know Mrs. Nara Capezzali?

Dramis By sight yes because we live, we are neighbors.

Dalla Vedova Had you ever spoken to Mrs. Nara Capezzali about these things that we are discussing today, before speaking to the journalist?

Dramis No, no, we've never spoken about it also because we are not very familiar with each other, we see each other just like this, but we've never spoken about this.

Dalla Vedova Looking down into the valley, relative to Mrs. Capezzali's house, is your house to the right or the left?

Dramis Our house is more to the left.

Dalla Vedova So looking from your window towards the valley Mrs. Capezzali's apartment is on the right?

Dramis Yes, but we are on the same line, so we are not facing each other, we are on the same side.

Dalla Vedova However if you look out of your window the balcony of Mrs. Capezzali's house is on the right?

Dramis Yes.

Dalla Vedova Can you describe to us the road via Del Melo?

Dramis It's a lane, a small lane.

Dalla Vedova How wide is it?

Dramis I wouldn't be able to tell you the exact dimensions.

Dalla Vedova I'm not from Perugia, so I'm asking...

Dramis Neither am I.

Dalla Vedova Can a car get through there?

Dramis It's very narrow, there are cars that do go by there, however it's very very narrow. I'd call it a lane.

Dalla Vedova Have you followed the events of this trial in the newspapers, and on the television?

Dramis Not much. In the first days, in the beginning, but I try not to follow all news events.

Dalla Vedova Are you aware that there was a preliminary hearing in the period of September – October 2008 that lasted more than one hearing?

Dramis Yes.

Dalla Vedova Which ended on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008?

Dramis No, I don't know the dates very well... I certainly know that it took place, but I don't know the dates very well.

Dalla Vedova Going back to your sister, with whom you discussed these things, your sister also says, in her statement of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008, that she had seen a parked car.

Dramis Yes.

Mignini Is this a challenge of a statement? I haven't understood.

Judge Massei Yes, let's take note of this, Counsel seeing as we haven't acquired the sister's statements yet, we don't have them available and we can't utilize them as something to ask questions about, much less can we use them... let's ask the questions.

Dalla Vedova Did you speak with your sister about the fact of whether there was a car in the parking space of via della Pergola?

Dramis We sort of spoke about it, but...

Dalla Vedova Did your sister say anything about it?

Dramis Not exactly, she also had, it seemed to her, but we didn't stop to talk about it, to discuss this.

Dalla Vedova No more questions.

### **Questioning by Prosecutor Comodi (Page 98)**

Comodi You said that the lane is very narrow and that hearing noise is fairly normal.

Dramis Yes.

Comodi You also said that after being contacted by the journalists, with your sister you thought about it playing it through your memory of the evening in your mind.

Dramis Of course.

Comodi Can you tell the court if that noise you recalled in the end, in other words those quick footsteps, or rather of a person running, was in any way different compared to noises usually heard?

Dramis No, I didn't have... they seemed to be running footsteps to me that I could have also heard other evenings, there wasn't anything particular about these footsteps.

Comodi Was there anything particular about them?

Dramis No, no.

Comodi So how come you had this precise recollection of that evening?

Dramis            Because of course this thing [the murder] shocked us a lot, so the next day we tried to think over many times about what we had done and might have heard that evening because it was rather ... something that affected us deeply, so we tried to remember even the things that could be insignificant for us that could be...

Comodi            But in the days immediately before and after or going even further back in time, when going back in time beyond that evening did you identify other evenings in which you heard people running in the same way that you had heard that night?

Dramis            I don't remember, I haven't...

Comodi            So is it correct to say that you were able to remember that running because it was only that night, at least in the period immediately before and after, just that night that you heard running footsteps?

Dramis            In the period immediately before and after, yes, I mean I don't remember hearing other footsteps either the day before or the day after, no.

Comodi            Thank-you.