

# United States Department of Justice



Washington, D.C., August 15, 1991

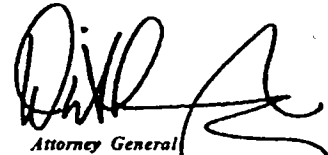
To all whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

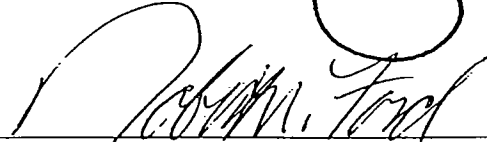
I certify that Deborah A. Robinson whose name is signed  
to the accompanying paper, is now, and was at the time of signing the same,  
Judge, United States District Court for the District of Columbia

duly commissioned and qualified.

In witness whereof, I, Dick Thornburgh

Attorney General of the United States, have hereunto caused the Seal of the Department of Justice to be affixed and my name to be attested by the Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Administration, of the said Department on the day and year first above written.

  
Attorney General

By   
Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Administration

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN RE LETTERS ROGATORY )  
FROM THE FOURTH CRIMINAL )  
COURT JUDGE OF SAN SALVADOR, )  
EL SALVADOR )

Washington ) SS  
District of Columbia )

AFFIDAVIT

I, Carol Buckland, being duly sworn, do depose and say that:

1. I am a citizen of the United States of America.

2. On August 14, 1991, I testified under oath in response to a request dated June 6, 1991, from the Fourth Criminal Court Judge of San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador. A complete and accurate transcript of my testimony is attached to this affidavit.

3. I attest that the attached testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Carol Buckland

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
this 14th day of August, 1991

[Signature]  
Judge, United States District Court  
for the District of Columbia

**ORIGINAL**

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN RE LETTERS ROGATORY )  
FROM THE FOURTH CRIMINAL )  
COURT JUDGE OF SAN SALVADOR, ) SS  
EL SALVADOR )  
WASHINGTON )  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA )

Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, August 14, 1991

Deposition of:

CAROL ELIZABETH BUCKLAND

a witness of lawful age, taken on behalf of the Department of Justice in the above-entitled action, before Shannon S. Griffin, a Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia, at the Office of International Affairs, 1400 New York Avenue, N.W., Fifth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, commencing at 1:40 p.m.

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## APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of the Department of Justice:

JOHN E. HARRIS, ESQ.  
Deputy Director  
Office of International Affairs  
Criminal Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
1400 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 5400  
Washington, D.C. 20530

On Behalf of the Department of the Army and the  
Department of Defense:

BETH A. WILKINSON, ESQ.  
Assistant to the General Counsel  
Office of the General Counsel  
Department of the Army  
The Pentagon, Room 2E725  
Washington, D.C. 20310-0104

\* \* \* \* \*

## C O N T E N T S

EXAMINATION BY:	Page
Counsel for the Department of Justice	4

\* \* \* \* \*

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon. It is 1:40 p.m. on  
3 August 14, 1991. We're in the conference room of the Office  
4 of International Affairs in Washington, D.C.

5 I'm John Harris, the Deputy Director of the Office of  
6 International Affairs in the Criminal Division of the  
7 Department of Justice.

8 Present with me today is the witness, Ms. Carol  
9 Buckland. - Also present is Ms. Beth Wilkinson, Assistant  
10 General Counsel, Department of the Army, who is here at the  
11 invitation of the witness.

12 We're here to record testimony requested in a  
13 Comision Rogatoria issued by the Judge of the Fourth Criminal  
14 Court in San Salvador in the Republic of El Salvador for use  
15 in the criminal prosecution pending in that court of a  
16 Guillermo Alfredo Benavides Moreno and others for the crime of  
17 murder.

18 I will now ask the court reporter to swear in the  
19 witness.  
20  
21  
22

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1 Whereupon,

2 CAROL ELIZABETH BUCKLAND

3 was called as a witness and, having been first duly sworn, was  
4 examined and testified as follows:

5 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

6 BY MR. HARRIS:

7 Q Ms. Buckland, would you please state your occupation?

8 A I'm a journalist with Cable News Network.

9 Q Ms. Buckland, you're here today to voluntarily  
10 provide truthful answers, under oath, to the questions posed  
11 by the Fourth Criminal Court in San Salvador, is that correct?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q I hand you now a copy of the Comision Rogatoria from  
14 El Salvador and I ask you to read it carefully.

15 A All right.

16 (Witness examined the document.)

17 BY MR. HARRIS:

18 Q Have you now read the questions contained in the  
19 request from Judge Ricardo Alberto Zamora Perez in San  
20 Salvador?

21 A Yes, I have.

22 Q Are you prepared to voluntarily answer these

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1 questions?

2 A Yes, I am.

3 Q Very well. Ms. Buckland, did you receive a telephone  
4 call from your brother around the 21st or 22nd of December,  
5 1989?

6 A Yes, I did.

7 Q What did he tell you during the conversation?

8 A My brother told me that he had been given some  
9 information about the murders of the Jesuit priests in San  
10 Salvador. He did not say from whom this information came, and  
11 essentially what he told me was that he had been told that the  
12 killings had been ordered by a colonel whose last name was  
13 Benavides. He did not provide me with the first name of this  
14 officer, nor the spelling of his last name, but he did say the  
15 man was the commandant of the Escuela Militar and associated  
16 with the Atlacatl Battalion.

17 He said he had been told that the killings were  
18 carried out by members of this battalion, apparently under the  
19 supervision of <sup>a</sup> ~~████~~ lieutenant. CP

20 He said he had been told this information in  
21 confidence, along with the information that at least some of  
22 the participants in the killings had already confessed, and he

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1 said he had been told the killings were being investigated by  
2 the El Salvadoran government and its military.

3 He asked me to keep this information to myself. He  
4 told me he would be sending me a letter detailing what he told  
5 me at a later time.

6 Q What did you do in response?

7 A I said nothing and waited for the letter.

8 Q Did you receive a letter from your brother after the  
9 telephone call?

10 A Yes, I did. It was dated the 25th of December, 1989,  
11 postmarked the 27th of December, 1989, and it arrived at my  
12 home in Atlanta on or around the 2nd of ~~December~~ <sup>January</sup>, 1990. CB

13 Q Do you have the letter or a copy of it?

14 A I have a copy of it, and the original of the copy, at  
15 my brother's request, was given to the FBI on or about the  
16 12th of January, 1990.

17 Q What did the letter say?

18 A It was a one-page, handwritten letter, and  
19 essentially it detailed the information he had given me on the CB  
20 telephone. It said that the man who had ordered -- he had  
21 been told that the man who had ordered the Jesuit killings was  
22 a Colonel Guillermo Benavides Moreno, head of the Escuela

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1 Militar. It said that the killings were carried out by troops  
2 from the GOE, which he said was the Grupo de Operaciones  
3 Especiales of the BIRI, which is the Battalion de Infanteria  
4 de Reaccion Inmediata Atlacatl. He said the mission was led  
5 by a lieutenant.

6 The letter said no one had been arrested for the  
7 killings thus far, because, according to El Salvadoran law, he  
8 had been told the investigation had to be completed before  
9 anyone could be taken into custody.

10 My brother went on in the letter to ask me to sit on  
11 this information. He said if it did not come out, say, in two  
12 months or if something happened to him, I might consider, in  
13 his words, letting the cat out of the bag.

14 He wrote to me, then, that I shouldn't <sup>be</sup>worried or CB  
15 scared, and he closed with a personal message saying, "Thank  
16 you for your support."

17 Q Did you take any action in response to the letter?

18 A I made a copy of the letter. I put that copy and the  
19 original in safe, separate places and, as I said, at my  
20 brother's request, in mid January I turned the original of the  
21 letter over to the FBI.

22 Q Ms. Buckland, do you have anything to add?

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1           A     No, I don't.

2           Q     Then I think we are concluded.

3           MR. HARRIS: Thank you very much for your assistance.

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(Whereupon, at 1:47 p.m., the deposition of CAROL ELIZABETH BUCKLAND was concluded.)

\* \* \* \* \*

I have read the foregoing, which reflects a correct transcript of the answers given by me to the questions herein recorded.

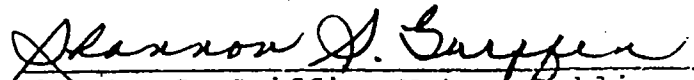
Deponent \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

C E R T I F I C A T E

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

I, Shannon S. Griffin, Notary Public, before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was taken by me, using stenomask dictation, and thereafter reduced to typewritten form under my direction; that said deposition is a true record of the testimony given by said witness; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

  
Shannon S. Griffin, Notary Public  
for the Commonwealth of Virginia

My commission expires:

February 11, 1992

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