

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

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United States of America,)	File No. 21-CR-0173
)	(PJS/DTS)
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	Courtroom 15
)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Anton Joseph Lazzaro,)	March 28, 2023
)	
Defendant.)	
)	

BEFORE THE HONORABLE PATRICK J. SCHILTZ
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

(TESTIMONY OF ZEINA SLEIMAN)

Proceedings reported by certified stenographer;
transcript produced with computer.

* * *

1 Q. But is it a -- this facility, I guess we'll call it --

2 A. So of course like the front desk starts here, and they
3 have two entrances, one for the hotel guests and just across
4 of us, excuse my English, is the residence. So it's just
5 like . . .

6 Q. Does the hotel and the residence share a front desk?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that's where you were working; is that right?

9 A. Correct. Yes, yes.

10 Q. How does it work when one of the residents has a guest
11 show up?

12 A. They either let us know, or when they arrive, we just
13 call the resident and take their permission to let the guest
14 up.

15 Q. Does the guest have to come see a person at the front
16 desk?

17 A. They have to, yes.

18 Q. In order to get up?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Is that because they wouldn't be able to get in the
21 elevator by themselves?

22 A. No. We have to open the door for them, but they can go
23 to the elevator by themselves, yeah.

24 Q. But they always have to see someone, is what you're
25 saying?

1 A. Yes, correct.

2 Q. Someone standing at the front desk?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And is it fair to say that often that person would be
5 you?

6 A. Me or my coworkers, yes.

7 Q. All right. Did you, in the course of working there, get
8 to know Tony, Mr. Lazzaro?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. Did you have an opinion of him?

11 A. I always thought he's a -- he was nice to us. He was
12 nice to valet, to front desk, to every employee. I had no
13 bad thoughts about him at that time.

14 Q. Okay. Did he have a lot of guests?

15 A. He did, yes.

16 Q. And this is during that time period that we're talking
17 about, May to December?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you describe the typical guest he would have?

20 A. Yes. Sometimes he have friends, of course.

21 Sometimes -- he used to have lots of like girlfriends,
22 but -- do you want me to describe the girls for you or what?

23 Q. Yeah. Was there a type, I guess?

24 A. I knew he had a type. Everyone knew. Like when I see
25 the girls, I can tell like they are coming to him. They are

1 white, skinny girls. I knew that's his type. But I knew
2 after that, he started dating someone, and I started seeing
3 this less happening after he started dating this girl.

4 Q. So he had less --

5 A. Yes, less guests after his girlfriend who was, I think,
6 officially his girlfriend.

7 Q. Do you know her name?

8 A. Kira.

9 Q. Kira?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Getting back to these guests, you said earlier that
12 people would have to check in with you, right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. These guests were no different; is that right?

15 A. Sorry. Can you repeat the question?

16 Q. Did these people that you were describing, did they have
17 to come check in with you when they would --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. They would?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And you were asked by the FBI about these people?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. Can you explain a little more how they were
24 dressed, what they looked like?

25 A. They looked really good. They dressed up, full makeup

1 and like -- they dressed up really nice, as if they are like
2 going out. I wouldn't say like they're wearing like
3 something open or something, but they just looked good,
4 yeah, the way they're dressing up, yeah. They looked like
5 models to me.

6 Q. Like models?

7 A. Yeah. I can say something like that.

8 Q. Did they seem scared to you?

9 A. To be honest, I've never seen anyone scared. If I've
10 seen someone scared, I have like taken action. But I never
11 seen someone like scared or like nervous or anything.
12 That's why I never thought of this before.

13 Q. And I guess I hadn't heard this before. Has it happened
14 before at the Ivy where you have seen someone scared, not
15 related to this?

16 A. Not really.

17 Q. In any other line of work?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Are you trained to look for signs of sex trafficking?

20 A. Yes, we are.

21 Q. So you said they didn't look nervous or scared. What
22 would you describe them as? Is there any particular word
23 you would use?

24 A. I would say maybe like -- I can't like describe -- like
25 I think like they were so confident, I just don't know.

1 They didn't look like they are -- I don't know, they come,
2 lean on the desk, like, hey, we're going to 1920. It's not
3 like they would be, oh, like -- I don't know how to describe
4 it, to be honest.

5 Q. They didn't seem meek?

6 A. No, they didn't seem weak. They would go up and go
7 down.

8 Q. Confident?

9 A. Yeah. I didn't see anything wrong, during my shift at
10 least.

11 Q. Did you ever see any behaviors of Tony's guests such as
12 difficulty walking or being too drunk?

13 A. I did not.

14 Q. Okay.

15 MR. BEITO: Nothing further.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 Ms. Provinzino.

18 MS. PROVINZINO: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION

20 BY MS. PROVINZINO:

21 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Sleiman.

22 Now, you had a good view of the lobby in the Hotel
23 Ivy; is that right?

24 A. Right.

25 Q. And in 2020, you saw a lot of young, blonde, skinny,

1 good-looking girls going to visit Mr. Lazzaro; is that
2 right?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. You've described them as having perfect bodies --

5 A. Uh-huh, yes.

6 Q. -- is that correct?

7 You've described them as models?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. They would come at all times, day or night?

10 A. During my shift, that's what I saw. It's evening
11 shifts, yes.

12 Q. And they were often there for short visits, a half hour
13 or so; is that right?

14 A. I would say something like that, yes.

15 Q. And they would come to the front desk and ask to see
16 Tony in Unit 1920; is that right?

17 A. Right.

18 Q. And to you, Ms. Sleiman, this didn't look like dates; is
19 that right?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. They did not look like girlfriends of the defendant?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And you've had some sex trafficking training; is that
24 right?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. And you know from that training that not all sex
2 trafficking situations are the same; is that true?

3 A. True.

4 Q. And not all victims are the same; is that right?

5 A. Right.

6 Q. You know that sex trafficking victims can be girls who
7 are dressed nicely with makeup who may be laughing; is that
8 right?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. They may appear to be very confident?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. You know that from your training, right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You know that they don't appear to be scared in all sex
15 trafficking situations; is that true?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. I'm going to show you an image that's already been
18 admitted as Government Exhibit C-10A.

19 Now, Ms. Sleiman, you recognize this photo to have
20 been taken in the Ivy residences; is that right?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. And I know you have a sister who's 19; is that correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And these girls appear to be significantly younger than
25 that; is that right?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. I believe you've identified them as maybe 16 or younger;
3 is that true?

4 A. I think like that, 16, 17. Like, I don't know.

5 Q. And from your sex trafficking training, I know you're
6 experienced to see some red flags, right?

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. Would it have been concerning to you to know that these
9 girls came to the Hotel Ivy and arrived after 1:00 a.m.?

10 A. Sorry. Can you repeat the question?

11 Q. As part of your sex trafficking training and knowing
12 about red flags, would it have been concerning to you to see
13 these three young girls come to the Ivy residences after
14 1:00 a.m.?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Would it have concerned you if you learned that
17 Mr. Lazzaro was providing alcohol to minors, or girls under
18 18?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Would it have been concerning to you if you knew that
21 the alcohol was Everclear or other high-proof liquors?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Would it have been concerning to you if you learned that
24 Mr. Lazzaro let young girls hold rifles in his condo?

25 A. Yes.