

**STATEMENT OF A WITNESS**

In the matter of: Strike Force Zama
Place: City Central Police Station
Date: 13 August 2014

Name: Svetlana DUNAND

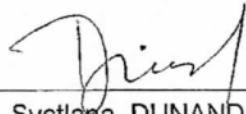
STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 54 years of age.
3. I was born in Russia and on 29th July 1999 I moved my family from Russia to New Zealand for permanent residency. Both my daughters came with me being Yana and Ioulia PODROUBAEVA. We lived in Auckland until 2007 when we moved to Sydney, Australia. While we lived in Auckland I was involved in the sisterhood of the Russian Orthodox Church. I was involved in the church community; I would assist with church activities such as repairing church clothing. Both my daughter weren't involved in the sisterhood in Auckland but they would come to Church about four or five times a year.
4. In 2007 we moved to Sydney. We moved to unit 103/1 Larkin Street, Camperdown. My daughter Ioulia still lives there today. When we moved over to Sydney I set my daughters up in the unit in Larkin Street and a short time later I moved to Canberra where I moved in with my partner, Patrick DUNAND. I lived in Canberra for about one year before my partner had to move to Fiji for work. I moved back to Sydney and moved in with my daughters at Larkin Street.
5. Not long after I came back to Sydney I started going to the Russian Orthodox Church at Strathfield. I don't have a car so I had to catch public transport to Church. I would normally go

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about two Sundays a month. Not long after I started going to Church I found that there were different 'classes' of people at Church. What I mean by that is in Australia there are two different waves of Russian immigrants. One wave coming from China and the other from Russia when the Soviet Union collapsed. The Russian Orthodox Church in Australia was founded by the immigrants from China. In Church you can feel as a Russian immigrant from the Soviet Union collapse, that you are not welcomed in Church, they don't include you as part of the community. Because of this I didn't get involved in the community as much as I did before. I continued going to Church about twice a month for the first two or so years. In 2011 I moved out of the unit in Larkin Street and I moved to my current address in Cremorne. Because of the distance to Strathfield I stopped going twice a week and started going only about four or five times per year.

6. In February 2014, I heard about theological classes which were being held at the Russian Orthodox Church at Croydon. I heard this from another person who does sermons at the Cabramatta Church. I decided to check to see what the classes were like. The classes were held every week on a Tuesday. One Tuesday night in February this year I decided to go to the class. The class was held at 6:30pm for about one hour. The class was taught by Father Christopher. I had never met Father Christopher and I didn't know him by any other name. I enjoyed the class run by Father Christopher. I enjoyed it so much that I started going almost every Tuesday. I even encouraged my daughter Ioulia to come with me on Tuesdays.
7. Father Christopher would normally speak for more than one hour. During the classes he would discuss the new and old bibles and literature of the Church. I found him very knowledgeable and I enjoyed his classes. Father Christopher would speak only in Russian, I don't know whether he spoke English. The classes would vary. Sometimes there would be ten people and other times there could be thirty people. The ages of people that came also varied, some were as young as twenty and others were up to ninety years old. Father Christopher spoke very well and appeared to be educated due to his vocabulary. In Australia I have not seen a Priest like Father Christopher who has such a high level of knowledge and language skills. Father Christopher was also a monk. In his title you can recognise that he has the title of monk. He is very well respected and when you attend his class I would kiss his hand out of respect. This is normal practice in the Orthodox Church.

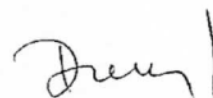
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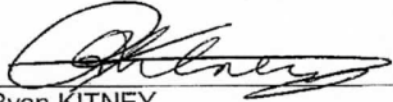


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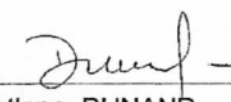
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8. I didn't have any other involvement in the Church at Croydon besides attending Father Christopher's classes. One day after class I approached Father Christopher and asked him whether he would like to travel to Auckland to provide them the same lectures. I asked him this as I thought the audience would be larger in Auckland and it would be welcomed. Father Christopher liked the idea and said he would like to.
9. I contacted Lena one of the members of the Auckland Church in April to ask for permission for Father Christopher to go. I continued communicating with Lena who said that she had spoken to the Priest Father Vladimir who wanted Father Christopher to come and gave his permission. I spoke with Father Christopher and told him that it was being organised. Father Christopher told me that he would organise a visa to go to New Zealand. However, a few weeks later sometime in May I spoke with Father Christopher and he told me that another Father from Auckland had rang and spoken to him and said that Father Vladimir had gone to Russia and that he wouldn't be returning until later August or September. Father Christopher told me that he couldn't go as his visa would have expired and that he had a visited that was going back home in the beginning of September.
10. When I spoke with Father Christopher about this he told me that his visited would be coming sometime around end of June and would be staying until early September. Father Christopher didn't tell me anymore about his visitor and I didn't ask. I wouldn't ask him about his visitor as it is his personal life, and I wouldn't ask a Father about his personal life.
11. The first time I saw Father Christopher's visitor was on the 18th July, 2014. I know it was that date as that is when I took them over to Ioulia's unit at 103/1 Larkin Street, Camperdown. The 18th was a Friday I think and about one or two days before that Father Christopher rang me on my mobile phone ([REDACTED]) and said, "We have been pushed out from here, I have been asked to leave this place." I said, "What happened. Who request that you leave?" He said, "They don't want us on the Church property, no one can stay except the Priest. Even my mum if she would come, nobody can stay." When he said this I assumed he was talking about the visitor he had. When he said this I wasn't surprised because it was the Church property and because of my experience with the Orthodox Church here in Australia. From my understanding Father Christopher would have been responsible for the visitor. I say this as I know when I had my sister visit me in Australia I had to be responsible for my sister when she was here in

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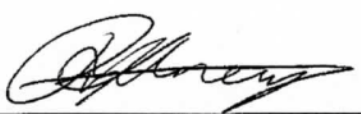

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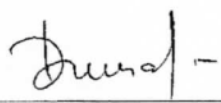
Australia. I didn't know anything about Father Christopher's visitor but because I was familiar with the process I thought this. Father Christopher said, "I pay for this room." I said, "I can't see why you have no rights to stay there. Is there someone above you to talk to?" He said, "Yeah ok, I'll call him."

12. The same day about thirty minutes later I spoke with Father Christopher again. I can't remember if I rang him or if he rang me. He said, "It's fine, Father Michael from Melbourne said it was fine that my visitor could stay on the property."
13. The next day I got a phone call from Father Christopher. He said, "The Warden Mr Nedachin said that he was very upset as the Russian Community was unhappy to see a visitor stay at this place. It's not good if the members see someone stay here" He said, "I spoke with the mother of my visitor. He said that she was sorry for the problems being caused and that if it was too much problems she can take him back." I decided to help because the tickets to come to Australia are expensive. I said, "Ok, we can help for one week you can stay at Ioulia's place for one week until the problem is solved." He said, "Thank you very much." This entire conversation was spoken in Russian. At the time I had this conversation with Father Christopher I knew that his visitor was a fifteen year old boy. But I didn't know what their relationship was, whether a relative or close friend. I didn't have any concern as he was speaking with his visitor's mother and he was responsible for his visitor.
14. About 8:00pm on 18th July 2014, Ioulia and I went and picked Father Christopher and his visitor up from the Church at Croydon. When I met Father Christopher's visitor he introduced himself [REDACTED] We took them to the shops to get some food for the unit. I spoke with [REDACTED] and he seemed nice. We spoke about sport and just normal conversation [REDACTED] told me that he wanted to see more of Australia. Ioulia and I took them to the unit at Larkin Street and Ioulia explained how everything worked. The unit is a one bedroom unit. I prepared the beds for both Father Christopher and [REDACTED] I made the double bed in the bedroom and I made up the couch in the lounge room as the second bed. I didn't discuss with them who was going to sleep where. I had this week off work and was going away on Holidays so Ioulia was going to stay at my place so that Father Christopher and [REDACTED] could stay at her place. Not long after we left.

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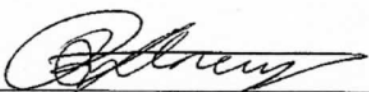
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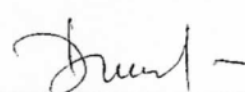
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15. On the 19th July 2014, I left for my Holiday to Noumea. While I was away for one week I contact Ioulia a few times on Skype but the connection was always bad. When I returned home on the 28th July, Ioulia picked me up from the airport and told me that Father Christopher was at the Immigration Protection Centre.
16. When I got home I tried to call his mobile [REDACTED] but there was no answer. I wanted to know what happened. I spoke with someone from the Church to try and find out what happened. They told me that he had a different phone number. They gave me the phone number which is [REDACTED] I was told by members of the Church that he was arrested by Police as he didn't have a visa as he was redundant a few weeks ago. I rang and spoke with Father Christopher on that mobile number. Father Christopher didn't say anything, he was very upset. I arranged to go see him at Villawood Detention Centre the Saturday after I returned from my Holiday.
17. I visited him and when I saw him there were three other lady's from the Church with him. Two of them have the same name Irina and the third lady was Tatiana. I was only there for about one hour. While I was there everyone was talking about why Father Christopher's visa was cancelled. I asked him where [REDACTED] was. Father Christopher told me that [REDACTED] was sent back to Russia. I asked him why he was in the detention centre. Father Christopher told me, "I was redundant." When I asked questions about the visa and why he was there Father Christopher didn't know the answer to the questions. I didn't understand why he didn't have a lawyer and no official interpreter.
18. I have only heard gossip about [REDACTED] and Father Christopher. I don't know what is alleged to have happened. When I picked Father Christopher and [REDACTED] up to take them to the unit [REDACTED] seemed fine and happy when I was talking to him. Father Christopher seemed upset. I think this because he told me he didn't want to leave his place.

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