

Adam Bereki - Conversation with Sergeant Manson

Recording Name:

[E29 CMPD- COMPLAINT TO SGT. MANSON 061822]

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CAGE Code: 6C7D5
Tax ID #: 27-2983097

1 Manson: Commander Sergeant Manson.

2 Bereki: Hi, Sergeant Manson. My name's Adam Bereki, how are
3 you?

4 Manson: Good, how's it goin' today?

5 Bereki: I'm doing well, thank you. I have a, uh, pretty
6 complex situation, and, uh, wanted to know if you had
7 some time to talk about it.

8 Manson: Uh, well, it depends. Uh, what can I help you with?

9 Bereki: So, um, the -- the --

10 Manson: What's it -- well, what it's regarding, and, uh, give
11 me the Reader's Digest version here real quick so we
12 can figure out --

13 Bereki: Right.

14 Manson: -- what direction we need to go.

15 Bereki: The Reader's Digest version is that, um, I need to
16 make a complaint against a judge for, uh, taking
17 nearly a million dollars without lawful authority.

18 Manson: Okay.

19 Bereki: And as a result of that judgment, um, there has been a
20 fraudulent lien placed on my house in Costa Mesa to
21 essentially take the property. And, um, I have been
22 unlawfully suspended f- -- as a result of the
23 judgment, from, um, working in my profession, which is
24 a general contractor, unless I pay the illegal
25 judgment or declare bankruptcy. And so the gist of



1 what has happened is that the judge acted unlawfully
2 and is taking my property. Which now I understand
3 that maybe there no -- there may not be any criminal
4 intent on the part of the judge, but the unlawful
5 taking of my property has occurred, and my health and
6 wellbeing is being threatened because of the not being
7 able to work, and now my property is being threatened
8 from being taken without lawful authority, so there's
9 some -- there -- basically, in other words, the state
10 has created a harm and danger, and so I'm coming to
11 the police department because I've exhausted all my
12 apparent remedies in the courts, and they're not doing
13 anything to remedy the situation. So I need the
14 police department to investigate my claims, and if
15 they are determined to be valid and -- and verified,
16 that some executive action come in to -- to intervene
17 to stop this unlawful taking. Um, because if that
18 doesn't happen, then the police could, and likely
19 would become principals in the aiding and abetting of
20 these crimes. So, um, I have already reached out to,
21 uh, Santa Ana and the Orange County Sheriff's
22 Department, and Santa Ana refused to, uh, even take a
23 crime report, let alone do an investigation. And the
24 Sheriff's Department, after I made a complaint, took a
25 report, but then their investigator, uh, didn't do a



1 full investigation, and they closed the case. So
2 whatever the case may be, uh, the -- my rights and
3 property are still being violated and taken. And I am
4 unable to find any public official in the State of
5 California to do anything about it.

6 Manson: So if I'm understanding you correctly, you were
7 involved in some manner of court case in which, uh --
8 uh, who sued you initially? I didn't catch that part.

9 Bereki: Okay, so initially, it was -- see th- -- there was a
10 fraud that was perpetrated on me in the case, and that
11 fraud was, very simply --

12 Manson: Okay, let's -- let's not get there yet. So, my
13 understanding is is that whoever brought suit against
14 you -- somebody brought suit against you or some
15 entity, correct?

16 Bereki: Correct.

17 Manson: Okay. And so that -- that entity or that person
18 prevailed, uh, with -- in court, and you said that
19 you've exhausted, uh, all, uh, appeals? Is that -- am
20 I understanding that right?

21 Bereki: Yes, you are. Yes, you are.

22 Manson: Okay, so you -- so, you, uh, received a judgment. Uh,
23 you appealed that judgment, and it was affirmed in --
24 in -- in appeal court?

25 Bereki: Correct. And -- and both -- but there's a nuance to



1 this, is that both the trial and the appellate court
2 affirmed the judgment without authority. So meaning
3 like, you know, the -- the police can make a judgment,
4 but that judgment has to be within the realm of their
5 authority. Like they -- the -- the police can't do
6 something illegal and then call that a valid judgment.

7 Manson: Mm-hmm.

8 Bereki: You see what I'm saying? So that's the issue, is that
9 both courts made the same -- even if you wanna call it
10 an error in law, they didn't have authority to do what
11 they did. And as a result of that, they -- literally
12 I was fined almost a million dollars for not having a
13 construction license.

14 Manson: Okay.

15 Bereki: Anyone who hears that is just -- it's outrageous,
16 right off the bat. Um, it doesn't make sense,
17 especially when the criminal, uh, penalty for the same
18 offense is -- is a maximum of \$5,000. This, I think
19 is 146 times that amount. So, um, the basis was that
20 the cop -- the -- the -- uh -- uh, the judges were
21 required to minimally apply all the protections of the
22 Excessive Fines Clause. And number one, they have to
23 take into account your ability to pay it. Number two,
24 it has to be proportional to the offense. These types
25 of things. They did none of that. Um, and so as a



1 result of that, what happened is as -- as -- there's a
2 law that says that if you have a judgment against you
3 as a contractor, um, that immediately your license
4 becomes suspended or revoked until you, um, pay the
5 fine.

6 Manson: Mm.

7 Bereki: Well, obviously I don't have the money to pay that,
8 and number two, it's illegal. And so, um, I can't pay
9 it because I don't have the money, and it's illegal,
10 and so I -- I -- I haven't been able to work, or I've
11 been r- -- restrained from earning a living in my
12 profession as a general contractor for a -- since the
13 judgment, or right after that happened. And my
14 attempts have this far been, you know, of course to go
15 through the court process that's in place to, um, get
16 an effective remedy, and none of that has worked. And
17 here I am in this situation. So then I started going
18 to the legislature, and I made complaints to, um, both
19 my senator and assemblywoman, and they said they would
20 do an investigation, and they've stopped responding to
21 me, so I have no -- nothing's become of that. Um,
22 actually, the senator closed the investigation without
23 doing anything. And so then I started going to the
24 Executive Branch, meaning, um, police departments, um,
25 to get help. They've refused to do anything that



1 would remedy the situation in that regard so far. I
2 also made a complaint to the Commission on Judicial
3 Performance. They don't have criminal law enforcement
4 authority, from what I understand, and they refused to
5 investigate. I also called the DOJ, or I made a
6 complaint to the DOJ. They said, uh, they refused to
7 investigate and told me to contact the Judicial
8 Council. And I've also made a complaint to the OC
9 DA's Office Special Investigations Unit, and they've
10 not done anything. So here I am, essentially with no
11 effective remedy, and again, whether the judge
12 committed a crime or not, is -- is -- may be an issue,
13 but whatever the case, my property is being taken
14 without lawful authority, and I'm -- I'm being, you
15 know, this is my livelihood that's, you know, involved
16 here.

17 Manson: What, uh --

18 Bereki: And --

19 Manson: -- what property are we talkin' about that's, uh,
20 that's got a lien on it? This is from the judgment?

21 Bereki: Yes. This is, uh, my house in Costa Mesa. I live
22 right by South Coast Plaza.

23 Manson: What's the address?

24 Bereki: 818 Spirit.

25 Manson: 818 Spirit?



1 Berekhi: Yes.

2 Manson: Okay.

3 Berekhi: Um, and --

4 Manson: That -- was that -- that was attached as -- as part of

5 the judgment?

6 Berekhi: Yes.

7 Manson: Okay.

8 Berekhi: Yes.

9 Manson: Okay.

10 Berekhi: Yes. So --

11 Manson: So, it seems to me, the, uh, the reason that, uh,

12 they're out -- well let me ask you this. Have you,

13 uh, have you, uh, filed a complaint -- I mean, you're

14 -- I -- if I'm understanding you right, you don't

15 agree with, and you think the -- the judges in all

16 cases acted unlawfully, um, within the scope of their

17 authority for these cases.

18 Berekhi: Well, let -- let me stop you right there. Um --

19 Manson: (Inaudible - 00:08:35).

20 Berekhi: -- not within the scope of their authority.

21 Manson: (Inaudible - 00:08:36), is that right?

22 Berekhi: I -- I'm sorry. Um, not within the scope of their

23 authority.

24 Manson: You -- you're saying they -- they acted outside of the

25 scope of their authority?



1 Bereki: Correct, without authority, is what I'm saying.

2 Manson: Okay. Okay. That's -- that's not a, uh, a police or
3 an individual police department issue. That's
4 probably why you're not getting anywhere with -- with,
5 uh, even all the way up to the DOJ and, uh, your --
6 your state senator's office, as you've mentioned. Um,
7 so we're not gonna, you know, be able to do anything
8 with you there, um, 'cause that's out of the scope of
9 authority. So --

10 Bereki: Well, I -- I disagree with that, because --

11 Manson: Well, you can disagree with it, sir, and I'm sorry
12 that you're in the situation that you're in, but this
13 is a -- this is a -- a -- a civil court issue that
14 doesn't have, you know, any -- any remedy through law
15 enforcement. I mean, if we had a, you know, police
16 investigation started for every, uh, you know, um, uh,
17 decision that judge made that -- that somebody didn't
18 like, that's -- that's not even within the (inaudible
19 - 00:09:48).

20 Bereki: Well -- well, let -- let me -- let me differentiate
21 what you're saying here. There's a difference between
22 someone being unhappy with a judgment, even though
23 it's the law, and the judgment being made without
24 lawful authority and in violation of constitutionally
25 protected rights.



1 Manson: Well --

2 Bereki: That are easily verifiable.

3 Manson: Well, (inaudible - 00:10:06), I said it's outside of

4 the purview of the local police department to even

5 look at. So, the avenue that you've already told me

6 that you've , uh -- uh -- uh, addressed, um, all the

7 way up through, you know, DOJ and, uh -- uh, judi- --

8 judicial ethics, uh, office, and all the way up have -

9 - have, uh, presumably, um -- because this is in their

10 purview, presumably they've looked at the facts of the

11 case and determined that, uh, there's -- there's no --

12 no further remedy where they're concerned, that you're

13 not gonna get any further with, uh --

14 Bereki: Well, I -- I -- I --

15 Manson: -- police departments.

16 Bereki: I wouldn't go so far as to make that determination,

17 because in many of the cases --

18 Manson: Well I --

19 Bereki: -- they didn't -- they didn't investigate the claim.

20 Manson: Sir, I wouldn't go so far as to make that

21 determination. I can tell you very clearly, this is

22 not within the purview of a local police department,

23 okay? So I'm -- I'm sorry, and I'm sorry for the

24 situation you're in, um, but there's -- there's

25 nothin' that we can -- can do to -- to assist you with



1 that. You're gonna have to go through the court
2 process, to whatever end, and ultimately, that court
3 process ends somewhere. And the -- the final judgment
4 is gonna be the final judgment. So you could continue
5 to, uh, you know, I -- my assumption is, is you
6 haven't exhausted all appeals, um, within the state,
7 maybe locally in the county. But, um, that's --
8 that's the, uh, theater where this is gonna be, um,
9 remedied, ultimately. But it's (inaudible - 00:11:45)
10 police department.

11 Bereki: Okay, so -- so if -- if -- I do hear what you're
12 saying. But the -- just to give you an example, the -
13 - the 14th Amendment to the Constitution says that no
14 state can deprive anyone of due process. So if I'm
15 making a complaint to you, that due process has been
16 violated, and that I need police intervention because
17 my -- my --

18 Manson: That's -- that's an issue for your attorney to
19 address.

20 Bereki: How is that not a police department matter?

21 Manson: That's an issue for your attorney to address within
22 the court system, within the civil court system, okay?
23 And then that -- and furthermore, that would be a
24 federal violation, if you're gonna assert that. It
25 doesn't start at the local police department. There's



1 no local violation here.

2 Bereki: Well, it is if the state creates a danger.

3 Manson: Sir, I'm -- sir, I'm not gonna argue with you on --

4 Bereki: I -- I'm not asking you to. What I'm saying though,

5 is that the state has created a harm and a danger.

6 Manson: Sir -- sir, let me ask -- sir.

7 Bereki: Right? So if -- if the police department --

8 Manson: This is a local police department. This -- we have

9 nothing to do with the state, per se. You can take

10 this to -- to a state authority, or a federal

11 authority, or use your attorney to -- to help with, uh

12 --

13 Bereki: But don't you enforce state law and the State

14 Constitution?

15 Manson: Well, if you're asserting -- if a civil rights

16 violation, that's a federal violation, per se, under

17 the 14th Amendment. That's where you go. You don't -

18 - you can't just go to any local police department,

19 uh, and file, uh, a grievance of some kind or, uh, an

20 allegation and expect it to be investigated. So --

21 Bereki: Oh, oh, oh, it -- I absolutely can, because --

22 Manson: -- the answer's a no, sir. Is there anything else I

23 can to do for you today? Anything else?

24 Bereki: Um, no.

25 Manson: Okay.



1 Bereki: I -- I mean, yeah, you -- you can -- you investigate
2 my claim, and you can do something to stop this from
3 happening.

4 Manson: (Inaudible - 00:13:35). That's -- that's -- that's an
5 unreasonable request, uh, you know, given, the, uh,
6 the scope of our authority, so the answer's no.

7 Bereki: Okay, so --

8 Manson: And --

9 Bereki: -- is this like the official -- going to be the
10 official policy or decision of the City of Costa Mesa
11 --

12 Manson: Uh, well --

13 Bereki: -- on this matter?

14 Manson: I'm gonna tell you we're not gonna take this, okay?

15 Bereki: You're not -- you're not going to take a report, or --

16 Manson: No.

17 Bereki: -- do an investigation, or -- or --

18 Manson: We will not.

19 Bereki: -- protect my property?

20 Manson: No, we will not. It's -- it's not -- again, it's not
21 within the scope of our authority. So your remedy is,
22 I would go -- I would, you know, retain an attorney or
23 presumably you already have one, and this'll be, um,
24 handled through the proper channels. This is not the
25 proper channel, okay? It's like if you went into a



1 bank and you asked 'em for a scoop of chocolate ice
2 cream and the banker told you no, doesn't mean he's a
3 bad banker, it just means he doesn't do ice cream.
4 It's the same thing here, sir.

5 Bereki: Well, I -- I -- I hear you, but my understanding --

6 Manson: I don't think you do hear me, sir. The answer is no,
7 so is there anything else I can do for you today?
8 Okay, I've given --

9 Bereki: Um --

10 Manson: I've given you quite a bit of time, and -- and I have
11 other things that I need to be doin' right now since
12 I'm runnin' a police station right now.

13 Bereki: Okay.

14 Manson: (Inaudible - 00:14:51).

15 Bereki: I understand. Well then, uh, I guess if you're going
16 to refuse to do all of the things that I requested
17 that you do, then I don't have any other requests for
18 you.

19 Manson: All right. Best of luck, sir. Take care.

20 Bereki: Thank you.

21 Manson: Bye.

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DATED this 23rd day of June, 2025.



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