

Phone call between Adam Bereki and Sergeant Lopez

Recording Name:
[OCSD REPORT TO SGT LOPEZ REFUSE TO
INVESTIGATE]

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1 Bereki: Hello, sir. I'm doing okay. How are you today?

2 Lopez: Pretty good, Adam. Thank you for asking. How can I

3 help you?

4 Bereki: You're welcome. Sir, I -- I -- I'm -- I just wanna

5 let you know I'm a former Huntington Beach cop.

6 Lopez: Okay.

7 Bereki: And, um, I've got a really, really, really serious

8 problem. And, um --

9 Lopez: Okay.

10 Bereki: -- I don't know if you're gonna be able to help me,

11 but it's gonna test the bounds of your -- your limits.

12 So, um, long story short, I'm, uh, about to be evicted

13 from my home.

14 Lopez: Okay.

15 Bereki: Um, and -- sorry, let me take a deep breath here.

16 Lopez: Go ahead.

17 Bereki: Um, after I got out of law enforcement, um, I got into

18 construction work and, uh, I had a beef with, uh, a

19 client and we ended up in court. No worry, civil

20 case, whatever. As a result of that case, I got fined

21 a million dollars for allegedly not having a

22 construction license.

23 Lopez: Okay.

24 Bereki: Even though I have one. You can look up my name on

25 the contractor state license board.



1 Lopez: Okay.

2 Bereki: Uh, I appealed the judgment and they said that I
3 wasn't being punished. Well, I don't know what the
4 hell a million dollar fine is but that's what it is.
5 So they didn't apply any of the excessive fines clause
6 protections, nothing.

7 Lopez: Okay.

8 Bereki: And if you go and look up the maximum penalty for
9 first offense, unlicensed contracting, it's one
10 million -- it's five -- five -- \$5,000, not one
11 million.

12 Lopez: Okay.

13 Bereki: Okay? So the fine that they imposed on me is 146
14 times the maximum allowable fine.

15 Lopez: Mm-hmm.

16 Bereki: So, um, I pursued my case all the way to the U.S.
17 Supreme Court and all of them refused to vacate the
18 judgment. So then I started going to -- oh, let me
19 back up -- as a result of my inability to pay the fine
20 they suspended the license that I have, so I couldn't
21 work. So now I couldn't work to pay my bills and I
22 needed to be able to have someone to represent me, so
23 I couldn't pay a lawyer. So I had to do that myself.
24 So, uh, long story short, I got forced into
25 bankruptcy. I tried to tell the judge what was going



1 on in bankruptcy and he basically ignored me, like the
2 other judges have been doing.

3 Lopez: Oh.

4 Bereki: So, long and the short of that, uh, my license got
5 suspended, they -- I got into bankruptcy, and then
6 they, uh -- because I was unable to pay, uh, my
7 mortgage, they -- the bank foreclosed on my house.

8 Lopez: Okay.

9 Bereki: Um, and so after going through all the court system I
10 went to -- I started going to law enforcement. I
11 reached out to the sheriff's department, I -- I
12 contacted the, um, uh, California Department of
13 Justice, the attorney general, um, everybody. Uh, and
14 four municipal police departments: Newport, Costa
15 Mesa, Irvine, Santa Ana, yes. And, now when I was a
16 cop, um, one of my things was I did very complex, high
17 end, uh, forensic investigations. That was --

18 Lopez: Yes.

19 Bereki: -- my niche in law enforcement.

20 Lopez: Yes.

21 Bereki: Um, so, uh, basically I had discovered that I'm not
22 the only, so to speak, victim of this, that the
23 judiciary has been doing this to Ca- -- people in
24 California for at least the last 30 years.

25 Lopez: Mm-hmm.



1 Bereki: And there's no remedy in any branch of government, in
2 California or the United States. And so, as a result
3 of them foreclosing on my home because of this
4 situation they then just stole \$1.18 million in equity
5 that I have in the house. So you're the last line of
6 defense, bro. I --

7 Lopez: Mm-hmm.

8 Bereki: -- I -- I hate to put it on you but you can make your
9 decision on what you're gonna do or not do. But, um,
10 I -- at this point I have the right to use deadly
11 force to defend my rights and property. I'm not going
12 to do that because I do not want to hurt anybody over
13 some fucking money and a property, all right?

14 Lopez: Yeah.

15 Bereki: However -- however, I'm not going to leave here until
16 you tell me that basically, "Look, you're going to
17 jail if you don't leave." So, um, that's what --

18 Lopez: (Inaudible - 0:04:21).

19 Bereki: -- what I would ultimately like you to do is to do a -
20 - a fair investigation that nobody has done so far,
21 and to look into this matter and to stop it. But
22 everybody says, "Oh, you need to go to the court, you
23 need to get an emergency stay. You need to do all
24 this." That's the problem. The court is the problem.
25 Literally, I went to get an emergency stay a couple



1 of, uh, like last week on the 14th, and the judge said
2 to me, "You need to get over this, it's final, and get
3 on with it, your life." Denied. Um, so they do not
4 tell me that I'm doing anything in law wrong. I know
5 I'm not. I've been investigating this for six years -
6 -

7 Lopez: Yeah.

8 Bereki: -- and they're covering up for their judicial buddies,
9 basically. You know, like everybody talks about us
10 having, like, some -- some code of silence and
11 bullshit like that, no, I never saw it when I was a
12 cop for ten years. But they've got it, and they're
13 doing it. Um, and so that's where I'm at.

14 Lopez: Mm-hmm.

15 Bereki: So, bottom line is the attorney who's representing the
16 guy who so-called owns the house, he, uh, he gave me
17 until this Sunday to be out, um, and that's what I'm
18 doing, but I'm -- I'm trying to make one last-ditch
19 effort to reach out to you guys to see if you will do
20 the right thing.

21 Lopez: Yeah, as far as -- Adam, as far as -- as far as this
22 goes, like I can't conduct an investigation because --
23 so I'm a sergeant with the Civil Bureau, right?

24 Bereki: Yeah.

25 Lopez: So we basically conduct the -- the evictions. Um,



1 once it gets to -- to where -- where I work, and with
2 the deputies that I -- that I supervise, it's already
3 a done deal, whether, you know, the -- the paperwork's
4 already come across, um, our office desks -- desk, and
5 comes straight to the deputies. So the deputies don't
6 -- don't conduct investigations, um, they don't even,
7 when we get the addresses to do, uh, the -- the
8 evictions or temporary restraining orders, we don't
9 even, um -- we can't even conduct any -- we can't even
10 look at the paperwork, the whole packet, or conduct
11 our own investigations. We can't use any of our
12 resources to conduct any investigations. Like they're
13 -- we're not allowed because of -- because we're doing
14 civil, um, work, handling civil, um, uh, cases. So --
15 Bereki: Yeah, but if somebody reports to you that there's a
16 crime being committed in your process and that you're
17 going to be held liable, and -- a- -- as a -- as a law
18 enforcement officer for, um, you know, somebody's
19 giving you notice that there's a crime being
20 committed, and you say, "Well, I don't have any
21 authority to look at the paper," well, I hear what
22 you're saying but I -- I'm gonna be very blunt with
23 you, that's bullshit.
24 Lopez: Okay.
25 Bereki: Y- -- your -- your duty is you're a check and balance



1 on the judiciary. You -- you have full executive
2 power to look into anything, to examine -- like I'm
3 telling you that my constitutional rights are being
4 violated, and --

5 Lopez: Okay, so then -- then the way I -- I would handle that
6 would be, "Hey Adam, you need to go to --" if you
7 believe that your -- your constitutional rights are
8 being violated, you need to go back to the courthouse
9 and explain to them that your constitutional rights
10 are being (inaudible - 0:07:26) --

11 Bereki: Okay, but that's what I'm telling you is that the
12 courts are the ones perpetrating this --

13 Lopez: Unfort- --

14 Bereki: -- deprivation of rights.

15 Lopez: Yeah, unfortunately we -- I don't have anything -- we
16 -- we, as a civil bureau, uh, don't have, uh, any
17 jurisdiction over that. You would have to go to the
18 attorney general, um, if you'd wanna fight something
19 like that, which you -- which, from what you were
20 telling me, you already did. Um, I would probably go
21 back again and explain to them again what's going on.
22 But as far as, like, us in the civil bureau for the
23 sheriff's department, we wouldn't be able to do
24 anything like that. We'd -- we'd have to recommend
25 that you go back to the courthouse. But you say that



1 the court is -- is -- is the issue, or the problem,
2 then I would say go -- go to, uh, the -- a higher
3 above, which would be, um, the attorney's office,
4 district attorney's office. Um --

5 Female: (Inaudible - 0:08:06).

6 Lopez: -- (inaudible - 0:08:09) --

7 Bereki: I've been to them, and they're part of the problem.
8 They have not done an investigation either, the
9 district attorney.

10 Lopez: Yeah, unfortunately we wouldn't be able to (inaudible
11 - 0:08:16) --

12 Female: 210 -- (inaudible - 0:08:15) 21087 (inaudible -
13 0:08:17) --

14 Lopez: -- to do an investigation, uh, in the civil bureau.

15 Female: One (inaudible - 0:08:19) --

16 Bereki: Okay, so will you basically just tell me, then, that
17 you're going to arrest me if I don't leave if you get
18 eviction papers for me to -- to serve an eviction? Is
19 that basically what you're saying?

20 Lopez: I will not -- I will not be, uh, arresting you for,
21 uh, (inaudible - 0:08:33). I don't -- I don't do
22 convicted evictions.

23 Female: (Inaudible - 0:08:36) --

24 Lopez: I don't know if there's a team that would (inaudible -
25 0:08:39) --



1 Female: -- (inaudible - 0:08:40).

2 Lopez: -- do (ph) the eviction. Uh, did you -- have you
3 received notice? But I would not be doing that -- I
4 would not arrest anybody for, um, failing to, uh --

5 Male: (Inaudible - 0:08:48).

6 Lopez: -- remove, uh, yourself from the property. That's not
7 my job. I just supervise the guys. Um, did you
8 receive a notice already on your property?

9 Bereki: No. I don't think he's -- the attorney has filed it
10 because he told me, "If you're out of there I'm not
11 going to file it." So --

12 Lopez: Oh, so you haven't received a notice or anything like
13 that, right?

14 Bereki: I -- I -- no, I haven't received a five-day notice,
15 no.

16 Lopez: Okay. Yeah, then, um, no, I would -- a) I wouldn't be
17 arresting you because, uh --

18 Female: (Inaudible - 0:09:14) --

19 Lopez: -- that's not my job to arrest people for civil
20 matters.

21 Female: -- (inaudible - 0:09:17) 111 (inaudible - 0:09:18) --

22 Lopez: But I wouldn't be able to answer that, as far as, uh,
23 if a local agency, or the sheriff's department, or
24 (inaudible - 0:09:25) --

25 Bereki: Okay, so what -- what happens if you guys come and s-



1 -- if you guys come, if you get an order to evict
2 someone, and you show up at the door and the person
3 answers the door and the sheriff's department does
4 what at that point?

5 Lopez: Oh, we -- we notify you that there's an eviction
6 that's gonna be coming down the pipe. Um, and, you
7 know, there's a -- a list of things that you can do.
8 Um, but eventually you would have to, you know, be
9 removed from the property.

10 Bereki: Okay, so -- so the deputies will physically remove you
11 if you don't leave, is that correct?

12 Lopez: They won't (inaudible - 0:09:58) --

13 Female: (Inaudible - 0:09:57) warehouse (inaudible - 0:10:02).

14 Lopez: -- it's not -- that's not, um, we go out there, we --
15 we will talk to you, we'll try to help you, we'll try
16 to get all kinds of, uh, resources security (ph) and
17 whatnot. But, uh, (inaudible - 0:10:08) --

18 Female: (Inaudible - 0:10:08).

19 Lopez: -- it -- it -- it could go in different ways, but we
20 try not to -- we try not to use, uh, force to do those
21 civil (inaudible - 0:10:14) --

22 Female: (Inaudible - 0:10:14) 10-4. You say you wanted your
23 follow-up (inaudible - 0:10:15) --

24 Bereki: Okay, so what I'm to get out of you is if you're gonna
25 be the supervisor of these guys, and you're at Harbor



1 Division so you're coming to my house in Costa Mesa,
2 or your guys will. And if they show up here I'm gonna
3 ask for you because I -- I -- I do not want to
4 surrender my property to this lawless process. So
5 what I'm looking for is what are going to be the
6 ramifications? Like I said before, I have -- I --
7 Female: (Inaudible - 0:10:43) --
8 Lopez: If you -- if you choose not to leave a property, um --
9 Female: (Inaudible - 0:10:46). Do you want me to put you back
10 on the call (ph) (inaudible - 0:10:48)?
11 Lopez: -- if there -- if there's enough, uh -- um, is there -
12 - are you asking if, uh, will you be arrested if -- if
13 there's a possibility?
14 Bereki: Yeah.
15 Lopez: There's always a possibility of you getting arrested.
16 But we don't wanna go down that route.
17 Bereki: Okay. So -- so then I've told you what the situation
18 is, and I've told you, wh- -- what, uh, the work I've
19 gone through to do all of this and what my response is
20 going to be. I'm -- I'm not going to harm anybody,
21 I'm not going to hurt you, nobody. I'm not going to
22 use any physical force. But I -- I'm going to -- I do
23 have -- I am considering the option of just not
24 leaving. And so --
25 Lopez: Okay.



1 Berekhi: -- that's what I want to know what my ramifications
2 are with me. I mean if you guys are gonna come in
3 here and say, "Listen, asshole, either you get the
4 fuck out or you're going to jail."

5 Lopez: Adam -- Adam, we're more professional than that. Um,
6 we would not talk to you in that manner. Um, uh,
7 we're all human beings. As long as we're getting
8 respect back we're gonna give the respect. We'll --
9 we'll talk to you. And it's not (inaudible - 0:11:46)
10 a couple of times, trying to find out, you know, a
11 reasonable way for you to -- to leave the property.
12 So, yeah, we're not gonna come in there, um, uh, guns
13 blazing and -- and talking the way you were just
14 talking. Uh, we're much more professional than that.
15 Um, but, um, yeah, all we want is to -- is to -- is to
16 get -- remove the person from the property.

17 Berekhi: Okay.

18 Lopez: That's it.

19 Berekhi: And so what I'm saying is what if I don't want to
20 leave? What if I do not leave? What are you going to
21 do, then? What is your --

22 Lopez: Well, (inaudible - 0:12:13) -- there's different
23 options. There's different things that we can do, but
24 we're not there, yet. So Adam, w- -- there's no
25 documentation on the thing so, you know, there --



1 there's no reason for --

2 Bereki: But -- but -- but here's the deal. I -- look -- look

3 it -- I will leave, but I want a determination from

4 you that that's what you're going to do because, look

5 -- I mean -- look, I can go -- I can stay here and

6 ultimately, at the end of the day, if you're going to

7 arrest me there's no point in that. So just say that,

8 "That's the end of the road and that's what we're

9 going to do if you don't leave," and fine. But --

10 Lopez: Yeah, what (inaudible - 0:12:49) --

11 Bereki: -- but --

12 Lopez: -- once we get there we'll -- we'll -- we'll see what

13 our options are, Adam. But we're not there yet, so

14 let's not even worry about that.

15 Bereki: Well, I have to because I'm not leaving until I get

16 those options.

17 Lopez: Okay. Well you don't have to worry about it because

18 we don't have a -- a -- an eviction, uh, order for

19 your -- your property. So I wouldn't even be worried

20 about that right now.

21 Bereki: Uh -- okay. Well, again, I think it's because the

22 attorney has not filed it and he told me he would not

23 file it until if I left. So --

24 Lopez: Okay.

25 Bereki: -- I'm trying to, um, trying to sort this out so that



1 I can leave and I don't have to waste a whole bunch of
2 people's time and end up in jail. Do you --

3 Lopez: Are you -- uh, hey, uh, we don't wanna take you to
4 jail. We don't like taking people to jail. What
5 we'll -- if we have to contact you once, twice, three
6 times, we'll do that. Um, but, uh, if the order -- if
7 an order were to come through just know that the order
8 is -- uh, if you can't -- we would suggest you go to
9 court and see if you can do anything about it once the
10 order comes through. Um, so you have different
11 options. But, um, um, the last thing we wanna do is
12 take somebody to jail for a civil matter, you know
13 what I mean?

14 Bereki: Right. Well -- but -- but --

15 Lopez: (Inaudible - 0:13:54) --

16 Bereki: -- but these are -- this is the situation that I have.
17 So I'm asking you to kind of evaluate it and, you
18 know, it's --

19 Lopez: I can't say anything right now because I don't have
20 any -- any -- any, uh, order, um --

21 Bereki: But -- but you can -- you can -- you can evaluate the
22 fact that, let's say that there's an order comes to
23 evict me, all right? There's a -- what do you call
24 it, a writ of eviction? Is that what you get?

25 Lopez: Yes.



1 Berekhi: Okay. So you get a writ of eviction. You come to
2 knock on my door, not you but one of your deputies,
3 and I tell them the situation that I just told you and
4 that I'm not leaving. So then what happens?

5 Lopez: Unfortunately there's an -- and -- uh, then I
6 explained to you that unfortunately we don't have any
7 -- any say on this and there's an order from the
8 judge, um, that that eviction is to continue. So, you
9 know, we can come back again, we'll give you a date
10 for you to leave, and then we come back and -- and
11 check up on you to see if you're leaving and whatnot.
12 We'll do a couple of checks before -- before we
13 actually have to, um, uh, conduct an eviction. And
14 un- -- unfortunately, uh, is there an op- -- uh, a
15 possibility that you can get arrested? Yes, there's
16 always a possibility that you can get arrested. But
17 we don't wanna go down that route.

18 Berekhi: Right. So -- but what I'm -- I'm trying to get clear
19 from you is if I stick it out and I don't leave, is
20 that what will likely happen?

21 Lopez: No, that -- that -- I wouldn't be able to te- --
22 answer that question. That -- that's a option, that's
23 a possibility. That's always a possibility that you
24 can get arrested. But I wouldn't be able to get --
25 give you the -- the answer yet because we don't have -



1 - a) I don't have a case for -- for your property, and
2 b) we haven't talked to you and -- and, uh, and we --
3 we haven't gone back to, you know, communicating as
4 far as the -- what your -- your plan is for -- for
5 this to continue.

6 Bereki: Well I'm -- I -- I -- I underst- -- I heard you, but I
7 just told you what my plan is. And I know you don't
8 have any paperwork yet but it's coming. I can s- -- I
9 -- I -- I -- so I -- I -- I -- I am not asking you to,
10 like, um -- yeah, obviously you're not going to arrest
11 me if I haven't done anything wrong right now.
12 However, I'm giving you, like, a genuine situation
13 that's about ready to unfold, and I'm trying to work
14 through that situation with you right now so as not to
15 waste anybody's time, not anybody end up in jail that
16 doesn't belong there, or cause anybody any liability
17 that they don't need to be liable for. So --

18 Lopez: Yes.

19 Female: (Inaudible - 0:16:10) --

20 Bereki: -- uh, that's the whole point. I've -- I'm trying to
21 tell you about this also so that you guys don't end up
22 in the lawsuit that's gonna be part of this. So --

23 Lopez: Yeah, like I said -- yeah, and I already explained to
24 you, we're gonna be doing a couple checks before we
25 have to conduct an eviction. We're gonna explain to



1 you what the process is, and then take it from there.

2 Bereki: Okay, so --

3 Lopez: That (inaudible - 0:16:28) --

4 Bereki: -- when you say conduct an eviction, what does that

5 mean, you're -- like you will open the door forcibly

6 if I don't open it, and then come in and physically

7 take me out? Is that --

8 Lopez: No, they -- the -- when I say conduct an eviction

9 means the property's gonna go back to the -- to the

10 rightful owner, or the bank -- I think this is -- it

11 sounds like it's a bank --

12 Bereki: No, no, someone priv- -- some private person bought

13 it, so to speak.

14 Lopez: Oh okay, so it's gonna go to the private person,

15 whoever paid for it.

16 Bereki: Okay. And so how do you do that, other than by using

17 force if I refuse to leave?

18 Lopez: Oh, there's different -- there's different ways of us,

19 uh, handling that, different ways of doing that.

20 Bereki: Wh- -- like what?

21 Lopez: (Inaudible - 0:17:04) --

22 Bereki: Turning the power off? Turning the water off? What?

23 Lopez: No there's different -- there are different forms.

24 But, like you said, uh, is there an option of, uh, the

25 -- the possibility that somebody can get arrested?



1 Yes, there is a possibility -- possibility that
2 somebody can get arrested. But we try not to use --
3 uh, we try not to do that. There's no need, for a
4 civil -- 'cause it's just a civil matter.

5 Bereki: I -- I understand that. In my case it's a crime being
6 committed on me, though, because someone is taking
7 something from me by force that doesn't belong to
8 them.

9 Lopez: Yeah, and unfortunately without, uh, the documentation
10 that you're talking about, that you're stating that
11 we're gonna be receiving, um, probably won't say that
12 if it's cond- -- uh, if it's an eviction (inaudible -
13 0:17:40).

14 Bereki: Right, and that's the whole point is I'm trying to
15 tell you that -- that the court is involved with this
16 and that the -- the only way for you to know that is
17 if you do an investigation.

18 Lopez: Yeah, and like I told you earlier, Adam, unfortunately
19 we cannot do investigations, uh, upon these civil
20 issues.

21 Bereki: But I'm n- -- I'm -- I'm reporting a crime to you.

22 Lopez: No, this is -- I don't have any paperwork or any
23 documentation. I can't -- I can't do anything about
24 this. You have to --

25 Bereki: Right, but -- but you may not have the docu- -- but



1 I'm telling you right now, and reporting a crime to
2 you.

3 Lopez: I don't -- you would have to report it to Costa Mesa
4 Police Department.

5 Bereki: I've -- I've done that to them and they refuse to
6 investigate it.

7 Lopez: Yeah. Unfortunately I wou- -- I wouldn't have any
8 jurisdiction over this so, um, I wouldn't be able to
9 do anything about this.

10 Bereki: What do you mean, you wouldn't have jurisdiction over
11 it?

12 Lopez: No, this isn't a -- this -- this property is in the
13 City of Costa Mesa. So --

14 Bereki: Right, but do you know about Protocol 101?

15 Lopez: No, I do not know about Protocol 101.

16 Bereki: Okay. Protocol 101 is an agreement that's signed by
17 every police chief and the Orange County Sheriff's
18 Department that gives you jurisdiction anywhere in the
19 County of Orange.

20 Lopez: Okay. I do not -- I cannot take a report for this,
21 um, because this is a Costa Mesa property and this is
22 a civil matter. If there's anything that you need,
23 uh, a report that -- that needs to be taken over this,
24 um, you would have to contact Costa Mesa. You said
25 you have already reports from Costa Mesa and the Beach



1 -- Newport Beach Affairs Department and --
2 Berekhi: Right, and --
3 Lopez: -- and, uh --
4 Berekhi: -- nobody's done anything.
5 Lopez: -- office, district attorney's office. Um,
6 unfortunately we -- I wouldn't be able to take a
7 report for you.
8 Berekhi: Okay. So that's your final answer? You're not going
9 to --
10 Lopez: Yeah.
11 Berekhi: -- investigate it?
12 Lopez: No, I cannot investigate this civil matter, um, for
13 this civil property that's, uh, in the City of Costa
14 Mesa.
15 Berekhi: Again, but I'm reporting a crime to you. So do you
16 not investigate crimes?
17 Lopez: If -- if there's anything else that you need feel free
18 to reach out to me. You have my number. But
19 unfortunately I -- um, I have to go to my next
20 eviction. I have the team waiting for me. Um
21 (inaudible - 0:19:34) --
22 Berekhi: Okay. Thank you.
23 Lopez: -- conversation.
24 Berekhi: Okay.
25 Lopez: Thank you.



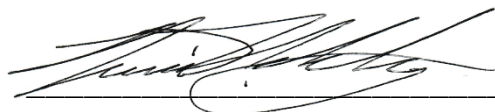
1 Berekı: Bye bye.
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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

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DATED this 23rd day of June, 2025.



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