

15 MAY 2005

INCIDENT REPORT 06-03052005-02

Drafted by CAPTAIN JOHNATHAN MARINOS, RO SIXTH UNIT

Pertaining to the incident of 03 MAY 2005 in VIOLETTA SUBURBS, KEY ISLE, SYMPHONY ARCHIPELAGO

- I. BACKGROUND. Royal Order Sixth Unit has been stationed in Violetta and its surrounding municipal area for approximately 7 months as of this writing, with a search & rescue directive aimed at uncovering and then dismantling established routes of body trafficking as it passes through the South Archipelago. Violetta has been identified as a key point in anti-trafficking operations; Aetherian and Archipelagan intelligence has confirmed that it has become a central locus through which the trade passes on its way to other worlds. This is due in part to its lack of local government, its crippled infrastructure, the hostility of its local human populace towards non-humans, the sprawl of the metropolitan area, and the high number of abandoned or otherwise shuttered structures.

Sixth Unit has had frequent contact with different facets of the local populace over its period of deployment in Violetta. Only approximately 5% of Violetta's full population at last census remains in the city; most of the population evacuated in preparation for Hurricane Luis in August of 2000, and due to infrastructural failure, the fall of local government, and the outbreak of violence towards non-humans, could not or would not return in the aftermath of the storm. The result is that civilians (human and otherwise) are isolated in small pockets across the metropolitan area, and subsist with no electricity or magical assistance, little food, little fresh water, and no guarantee of safety.

Nonhuman civilians in Violetta are in a particularly precarious position. A small, nebulous guerrilla force of armed humans (established in 1992 as the Neighborhood Watch Association, though now any semblance of a named, organized group appears to have fallen out of use) has patrolled the metropolitan area since Hurricane Luis made landfall in 2000; their original intent, it seems, was to establish order just after the storm, perceiving a threat from the nonhuman populace that would seek to take advantage of the confusion and somehow harm the human populace. Instead the Neighborhood Watch Association (NWA) has spent its time since then looting, hunting, and killing nonhumans known to it, and occasionally attacking Sixth Unit directly.

Nonhuman civilians with which Sixth Unit has had contact have expressed deep concerns that—aside from its more purely destructive activities—the NWA may be involved with and facilitating the trafficking industry as it passes through the metropolitan area. These civilians have expressed frustration that Sixth Unit has been unable to validate their concerns and take direct action against the NWA, as acting without proof would violate its non-aggression directive. Sixth Unit has documented these frustrations, and its own belief that investigating the NWA as a slaver group is necessary, in previous reports.

II. INCIDENT AS IT PROCEEDED. At approximately 2045 hours CIT, near the 3900 block of West Sawgrass Trail, Sixth Unit (with all members present) stopped in its progress north via 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue, becoming aware of a group of seven human NWA members and two unidentified individuals on the other side of the residences between 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue and West Sawgrass Trail. The NWA members were so identified by Captain John Marinos; some of the humans present were known to Sixth Unit from previous hostile encounters. The NWA members had not given any indication that they knew Sixth Unit was present; they were loading munitions, weapons (including a hand-held rocket launcher and several semiautomatic guns), and crates of what several Sixth Unit members witnessed firsthand to be slaver bonds and subduction weapons from the back of one pickup truck to two others belonging to the NWA. NWA members could be heard discussing locations in the nearby metropolitan area with the two unidentified individuals, who retained human shapes throughout the conversation.

After the transfer of weapons etc had been completed, the two unidentified individuals departed in the now empty truck, headed eastbound via West Sawgrass Trail. The remaining NWA members conversed for a time before agreeing to split into two groups of three and four, one utilizing each remaining truck. The group of four was to depart northbound via 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue to retire for the evening; the group of three, according to what Sixth Unit could overhear, was bound for some other nonhuman-related activity in the city.

Captain Marinos made the quick decision to pursue the group of three NWA members based on the following: their truck most definitely contained slaver contraband, manufactured for the express purpose of subduing nonhumans for the trafficking industry, and from their conversation it was made clear that they were on their way to the location of known nonhumans. Captain Marinos acknowledges preemptively in this report that it was not immediately clear if the NWA members meant to actually partake in trafficking activities that night, or if they were merely on their way to hunt down nonhumans that they saw as undesirable. However, Captain Marinos decided that this was a risk worth investigating.

The three NWA members traveled westbound on West Sawgrass Trail for approximately 2.5 miles, reaching their apparent destination in the Avery district (a suburb consisting of mostly residential homes on large undeveloped lots with unpaved roads, and one of the now least occupied areas of the city) at approximately 2130 hours. The NWA came to a halt at 3790 218<sup>th</sup> Court, parking their truck on the lawn with the lights off; the house at this address appeared to have fallen in over time. Most of Sixth Unit positioned themselves southwest of the activity to observe; Captain Marinos instructed Privates Seneca James and Moriko Kobayashi to maneuver around the activities to the east and southeast to observe and report back.

The NWA members were observed to be removing several weapons, including the hand-held rocket launcher, from the rear of the truck. They appeared to be focusing their attention to the property north of their location, at 3794 218<sup>th</sup> Court.

Privates James and Kobayashi reported from their position at this location via speaking spells. Three civilians were observed by the Privates to be seated in the bed of a truck parked in front of 3794 218<sup>th</sup> Court, talking amongst themselves, seeming to be unaware of the NWA members on the next property over. These civilians were later identified as Emry Abhinav Press (32, human; see Appendix A), Alexei Hawk Press (19, unknown species; see Appendix B), and Liliya Kiski (14, human mage; see Appendix C.)

The three NWA members were then observed by Sixth Unit to arm themselves with semiautomatic rifles and the hand-held rocket launcher before proceeding towards the property adjacent. They had not made conversation since their arrival and did not at this point; the NWA member carrying the rocket launcher (referred to hereafter in this report as NWA1) directed his colleagues (NWA2 and NWA3 respectively) nonverbally to spread out in the grassy area at the edge of the property. They appeared to take advantage of the darkness and high grass to prevent the civilians from detecting their presence.

At this point, an air raid siren began to sound from a short distance away. It is unclear whether this siren was timed to go off intentionally on the NWA's part—as they have a history of setting them off to intimidate or otherwise flush out targets—but the civilians Emry, Alexei, and Liliya immediately took notice and began to evacuate from the bed of the truck.

Please refer to Appendix D, which consists of a map of the properties at 3790 and 3794 218<sup>th</sup> Court, in order to cross-reference this description of the incident proper with the area as it was laid out at the time.

Crouched approximately 2000 feet from the civilians and the truck, NWA1 then opened fire using the hand-held rocket launcher. The first shot appeared to malfunction and impact a short distance away from the civilian truck, igniting the grass. NWA1 was observed to reload as Emry, Alexei, and Liliya evacuated the truck and began to run towards the house on the property, approximately 3000 feet away.

NWA1 fired again, this time hitting the truck. The impact overturned the vehicle and set it ablaze, and caused several large pieces of shrapnel to fly from the body of the vehicle; the shock caused all three civilians to fall. NWA2 and NWA3 were observed to then rise from their places in the grass and advance towards the impact site, weapons raised, watching for movement from any of the civilians.

It is at this point that Captain Marinós ordered members of Sixth Unit to detain the NWA members present. Sixth Unit proceeded without hesitation to intercept the NWA members as they advanced on the impact site, taking them off guard.

A short firefight ensued, resulting in casualties on the part of both the NWA members and Sixth Unit. NWA3 critically injured Privates Leuka and Tomas with semiautomatic gunfire and used the confusion to escape; he is still missing in action as of this writing. NWA2 was detained by Private Sonorè after he attempted to run through the fire that had been set by the first misaimed rocket in order to escape; he sustained minor injuries. NWA1 attempted to fire a third rocket in the direction of Sixth Unit as it approached him; the missile was cancelled by a shield cast by First Lieutenant Fuma and backfired, killing NWA1 instantly.

During the approximately five to ten minutes of fighting, the fire engulfing the impacted truck had begun to spread. As Sixth Unit worked to detain the NWA members, Captain Marinós withdrew slightly in order to ascertain the threat of the spreading fire, as well as the fate of the three civilians who had come under attack.

Liliya Kiski had fallen closest to the fire, where part of the burning truck bed had split away and collapsed, pinning her legs to the ground. Emry Press lay several feet away from the site of impact on his back. Alexei Press had been thrown approximately 150 feet from the impact site, possibly due in part to the hot air from the impact catching his large wings.

Movement at the impact site caused Captain Marinós to pause in assessing the fire. Liliya Kiski had pulled herself out from underneath the part of the truck pinning her legs, and using only her arms—she seemed to have no motor functionality in her legs—pulled herself to the spot where Emry Press lay. Captain Marinós witnessed briefly as Liliya attempted to perform magic necessary to revitalize Emry. She was not successful.

Liliya was then observed to perform a flash-healing on her own legs, at least one of which seemed to have been shattered by the truck debris. She completed the healing without any apparent difficulty and rose to her feet in order to run to the place where Alexei Press lay.

This observation was interrupted by NWA2 making a fresh attempt to escape. Captain Marinós disengaged from observing the impact site to assist the rest of Sixth Unit in securing NWA2's detainment. This is the point at which NWA2 ran through the fire: Captain Marinós utilized a stream of fire breath in an attempt to corner NWA2 against the grass fire, but

NWA2 instead opted to charge through the latter rather than surrender. He sustained only minor burns and was subdued without incident.

After ensuring that NWA2 was secured and that Privates Leuka and Tomas were getting medical attention from Healer January, Captain Marinos and several other members of Sixth Unit directed their attention to the impact site again.

Liliya Kiski was observed trying to revive Alexei Press. He could not be revived, despite Liliya trying to execute what Healer January has termed a 'punch,' wherein the entire body is given a shock intended to jumpstart cardiac muscles and breathing functions. Regardless of this attempt, Liliya was unsuccessful.

Captain Marinos began by advising Liliya to stop in her attempts. As Sixth Unit advanced it became clear that, in addition to the broken bones she had earlier flash-healed, Liliya was suffering from massive burns over nearly the entirety of both legs. Swift medical attention to these wounds would be necessary.

Liliya quickly became panicked and angry. It was made clear immediately that she did not realize that the NWA members had been present; she was under the impression that Sixth Unit was responsible for the incident at hand.

Under Captain Marinos' direction, members of Sixth Unit advanced slowly at first, intending to subdue Liliya until she could be given proper medical attention. She responded by becoming violent; she did not attempt to flee the scene, instead seeming unwilling to leave it. In the course of her struggles, she broke Private Sonorè's nose and First Lieutenant Fuma's jaw. She was only subdued when Private James, having the advantage of being a large bear, held her down until the proper ties could be secured.

A summary of the aftermath of this incident is as follows. Please see Appendix E, which consists of photos documenting the scene of impact, including photos of the deceased.

Emry Press was killed within moments of the blast. A large piece of shrapnel from the body of the truck had cut open his throat, and Liliya was unable to quell the bleeding before it resulted in death. Liliya describes him as her older half-brother.

Alexei Press was killed instantly by debris that had struck him in the head. He is also described by Liliya as her older half-brother. She does not know what species he was, but he appeared to be mixed human and some manner of winged six-limbed monster.

NWA2 has been identified as an Antony Bernardino (37), a resident of Violetta and citizen of the Symphony Archipelago. He has been treated for his minor injuries and transported to Enodia for questioning.

NWA1 has yet to be identified as of this writing. He can be described as a white male in his late teens or early twenties, dark-haired, medium height, stocky build, with a large noticeable scar on his lip and nose.

NWA3 has yet to be identified as of this writing, and there has been no sign of him since escaping the incident. Private Leuka describes him as a human with dark skin, short hair, average build, wearing a cloth to conceal most of his facial features.

The fire was put out by First Lieutenant Fuma to prevent escalation due to the dry conditions in the area of late, but the scene was otherwise left untouched after photos were taken. NWA3's escape initially raised concerns that other NWA members would be alerted to Sixth Unit's presence, and it was deemed unwise to stay in the area any longer than necessary.

Liliya Kiski has been extremely uncooperative and considerably distressed. Due to her status as a minor, the decision was made to transport her to Royal Order-affiliated encampments in the north of the Archipelago—namely that in Genovese. Her continuous violent outbursts

have forced Sixth Unit to keep a dampening collar on her, preventing any healing magic from being used on her injuries.

A copy of this report should be attached to any and all medical or otherwise evaluations for Liliya Kiski.

Signed

CAPTAIN JOHNATHAN MARINOS

RO SIXTH UNIT

15 MAY 2005

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**APPENDIX A**  
RECORD OF INVOLVED PERSONS

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**NAME:** PRESS, EMRY ABHINAV  
**AGE:** 32 yo (DECEASED)  
**DOB:** xx/xx/1973  
**SPECIES:** HUMAN (nonmagical)  
**PLACE OF ORIGIN:** VIOLETTA, KEY ISLE, SYMPHONY ARCHIPELAGO  
**RELATIONS:** Alexei Hawk Press (brother, deceased); Liliya Kiski (half-sister); Svetlana Press (mother); Nitesh Press (father)  
**ALERT?** NO

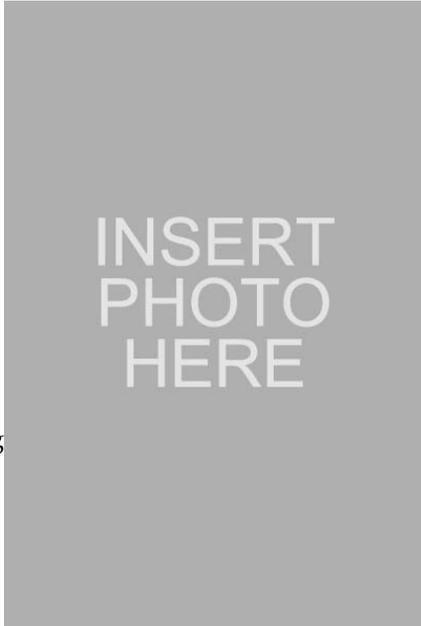
**SUMMARY:** Emry Abhinav Press is a human male, nonmagical, age 32. Average height, heavy build, reportedly of mixed Earth Russian and Indian ethnicity. Cause of death is fatal blood loss due to injuries sustained by shrapnel. As per IR 06-03052005-02, Press was victim of a targeted attack by anti-non-human forces.

Symphony Archipelago human records obtained by Enodia list E.A. Press as the property owner of 3794 218<sup>th</sup> Court, Violetta, Key Isle, Symphony Archipelago 129 ECD. He graduated from Violetta High School, class of 1990. There is a record of his arrest for underage drinking in 1989. There is a record of his hospitalization following a suicide attempt in 1990, and the county's decision not to press charges. He is listed as the legal guardian of Alexei Hawk Press (younger brother) beginning in 1991 and Liliya Kiski (younger half-sister) beginning in 1994. There is record of his enrollment in Avery County Community College in 1999, but no record of degrees earned.

He has no record of involvement with the Neighborhood Watch Association. His siblings are magical and/or nonhuman, so it is likely he was targeted by the NWA for his relation to them.

He is survived by his younger half-sister, Liliya Kiski, and (presumably) his parents, Nitesh and Svetlana Press.

Attached photo is taken approximately one-half hour after death. Also attached is a much less recent photo, as it appears on his Key Isle driver's license.



INSERT  
PHOTO  
HERE

**APPENDIX B**  
RECORD OF INVOLVED PERSONS

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**NAME:** PRESS, ALEXEI HAWK  
**AGE:** 19 yo (DECEASED)  
**DOB:** 04/04/1986  
**SPECIES:** HUMAN/UNKNOWN  
**PLACE OF ORIGIN:** VIOLETTA, KEY ISLE, SYMPHONY ARCHIPELAGO  
**RELATIONS:** Emry Abhinav Press (brother, deceased); Liliya Kiski (half-sister); Svetlana Press (mother); Nitesh Press (father?)  
**ALERT?** NO

**SUMMARY:** Alexei Hawk Press is a male of unknown mixed species, age 19. He is tall, of lean build, reportedly of mixed Earth Russian and Indian ethnicity. He appears entirely human except for a pair of large grey bird-like wings and smaller secondary tail-feather-like appendages affixed to his back. It can be assumed by his relation to the above listed people that he is at least half human, though what the other half consists of is not clear. Cause of death is traumatic head injury brought about by flying shrapnel. As per IR 06-03052005-02, Press was a victim of a targeted attack by anti-non-human forces.

Symphony Archipelago records often fail to track known non-humans in any meaningful way, as in this case. There are birth records from April 1986 from the Violetta Municipal Hospital, amended in May to indicate that the infant of record has been identified as a non-human. There is paperwork following that barring Alexei Press from obtaining a driver's license, alcohol purchasing license, and voter's card. There is record of Svetlana Press voluntarily relinquishing custody of him to his older brother, Emry Press. There is record of him enrolling and then being expelled from Avery Elementary School, records of tests performed for dyslexia, records of complaints filed by other parents objecting to his presence in the school, and records of the school citing his learning deficiency as grounds for expulsion. Past that time (approximately February 1995) there are no records for Alexei Press at all.

Alexei Press exhibited no shapeshifting tendencies upon death. Given his (apparently unable to be hidden) visible wings, it's most likely he was targeted by the Neighborhood Watch Association due to his apparent species.

He is survived by his younger half-sister, Liliya Kiski, and (presumably) his parents, Nitesh and Svetlana Press.

Attached photo is taken approximately one-half hour after death. No recent photos during life could be obtained.



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HERE

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**APPENDIX C**  
RECORD OF INVOLVED PERSONS

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**NAME:** KISKI, LILIYA

**AGE:** 14 yo

**DOB:** 09/27/1990

**SPECIES:** HUMAN (magical)

**PLACE OF ORIGIN:** KITHANNA, CARMINE ISLE, SYMPHONY ARCHIPELAGO

**RELATIONS:** Emry Abhinav Press (half-brother, deceased); Alexei Hawk Press (half-brother, deceased); Svetlana Press (mother); Ferran Kiski (father)

**ALERT?** NO

**SUMMARY:** Liliya Kiski is a human female with healing magic of the 'nervous' variety, age 14. She is of average height and build, of mixed Earth Russian and Symphony Archipelagan East Islander ethnicity. Identifying features include burn scars covering the entirety of both legs from foot to upper thigh. As per IR 06-03052005-02, she is the victim of a targeted attack by anti-non-human forces. She is currently en route to a Royal Order outpost in Genovese for medical treatment, psychological evaluation, and eventual foster placement in Enodia.

Warning: Liliya Kiski is currently prone to outbursts of violence. She uses her magic to empower her muscular system and nervous system to react, and cannot be allowed to be without a dampening collar for the time being. Traditional medical care must be used in the absence of more appropriate magical techniques that would be hampered by the dampening collar.

Files obtained from Archipelagan human records show a birth certificate for a Liliya Kiski for a Kithanna Memorial Hospital in Kithanna, Carmine Isle; later additions to the records note Kiski's proclivity for healing magic, first observed at the age of three (1993) in the form of her healing her own scrapes. (Proclivity for magic in humans is not used to disbar them of their legal rights as is the condition of being non-human; however, any future pieces of government-issued identification will mark the bearer as being magical, opening them up to discrimination.) In 1994, there is record of her biological mother, Svetlana Press, voluntarily relinquishing all legal custody of Kiski to her older son, Emry Press. (Ferran Kiski appears on the birth certificate as the named father but, not being married to Svetlana Press, had no custody nor is there any indication it was applied for.) There are records of Liliya Kiski's enrollment in Avery Elementary School, which are uninterrupted until school terminated with the landfall of Hurricane Luis in 2000. No further records exist.

**ADDENDUM:** Psychological evaluation and recommendations

DATE: 05/23/2005

SEEN BY: January Marrakesch, MD, MMH

LOCATION: Royal Order Outpost, Genovese, Symphony Archipelago

This is a fairly straightforward evaluation: Liliya Kiski is still very much grieving over the loss of her two half-brothers, and is attempting to cope with the shock of being taken from her home during the traumatic events outlined in the attached incident report.



INSERT  
PHOTO  
HERE

Her symptoms include insomnia, restlessness, intrusive recollection of traumatic events, recurrent distressing dreams related to the events, persistent fear and feelings of horror, difficulty focusing, detachment from her surroundings, dissociative tendencies, and a marked increase in aggression and anger. Also noted are a lack of appetite, an extreme wariness of others, and a fixation on the idea of death. Based on these symptoms, I have no hesitation in suggesting a diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Liliya did not speak much in our sessions, but between what she did say and her provided history it is clear that she valued her half-brothers greatly. She seems to harbor many very intensely negative feelings of abandonment surrounding her mother and father's relinquishment of her to her brother's care. When presented with the idea of returning to her mother's custody after the events resulting in her brothers' death, she became extremely violent and the session came to a halt.

Liliya is apparently quite intelligent, and surprisingly well-read considering her formal schooling ended so early; she seems eager to express this intelligence, and—when I mentioned that she was so surprisingly well-read—reacted somewhat defensively. She speaks with a fairly strong South Archipelegan affect and, in her calmer moments, comes across as a plain-spoken, down-to-earth young woman. Despite her clear fearfulness with regards to her situation she has consistently put up a brave, if somewhat aggressive, front.

Her mastery over her nervous magic, and her understanding of the human body, is also surprisingly well-advanced for someone of her age and (lack of) training. A suitable teacher, or at least an environment in which she can safely use and develop her magic, will be of utmost importance going forward.

I do not recommend her for immediate placement in foster care. Based on her remarks regarding her older half-brothers I feel that she considers them the only family worth having, and that much of her grief is pinned on preserving their memory. I feel that placement with a foster family would only exacerbate this and suggest to Liliya that her brothers will be replaced.

I do recommend that she continue regular contact with a therapist, or at the very least a dedicated social worker. While certainly very independent, she is still a fourteen-year-old girl. Adequate time without forced contact with 'familial' figures such as a foster parent is necessary for her to come to terms with the loss of her brothers, but at the same time she needs socialization and a kind authority figure who will both respect her precarious emotional and mental state while also offering guidance.

I put forth the recommendation that she be kept here in Genovese, at least for the time being, until a suitable situation can be worked out. Sending her to Enodia will, in my professional opinion, only cause more strife.

SIGNED by January Marrakesch, MD, MMH

**ADDENDUM:** Movement to place

DATE: 05/26/2005

WRITTEN BY: Captain Johnathan Marinos, RO Sixth Unit

LOCATION: Royal Order Outpost, Genovese, Symphony Archipelago

After reading Healer January's evaluation as above I suggest contacting Helygen at the Royal Palace at Escalus, in Aetheri. Helygen is a healer nemsself and is currently partially retired, giving nem plenty of time to monitor Liliya. I can testify from personal experience that ne is also extremely patient, so perhaps this is exactly the opportunity Liliya needs.

I have taken the liberty of submitting a letter to Helygen asking for nir cooperation in sponsoring Liliya's citizenship in Aetheri. It is my hope that Helygen's place and privilege within the Palace will be enough to prevent Liliya being subjected to the same hoopla as anyone else to attempts to immigrate to Aetheri.

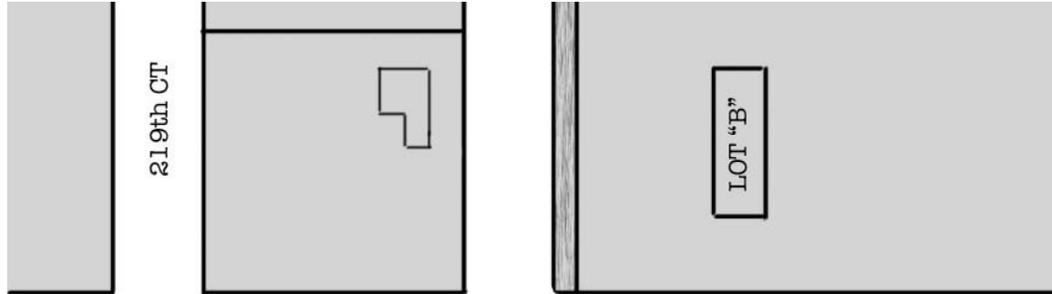
UPDATE 05/28/2005

Rec'd back a letter of acknowledgement from Helygen—Liliya will have a place at the Palace. Making arrangements to have Liliya transported straight from Genovese to Aetheri tomorrow morning, before Sixth Unit goes back on active duty. I was very non-specific in my letter to Helly, only mentioned that a girl my daughter's age needed a place to go and someone to learn healing from. I will send a more thorough explanation with Liliya.

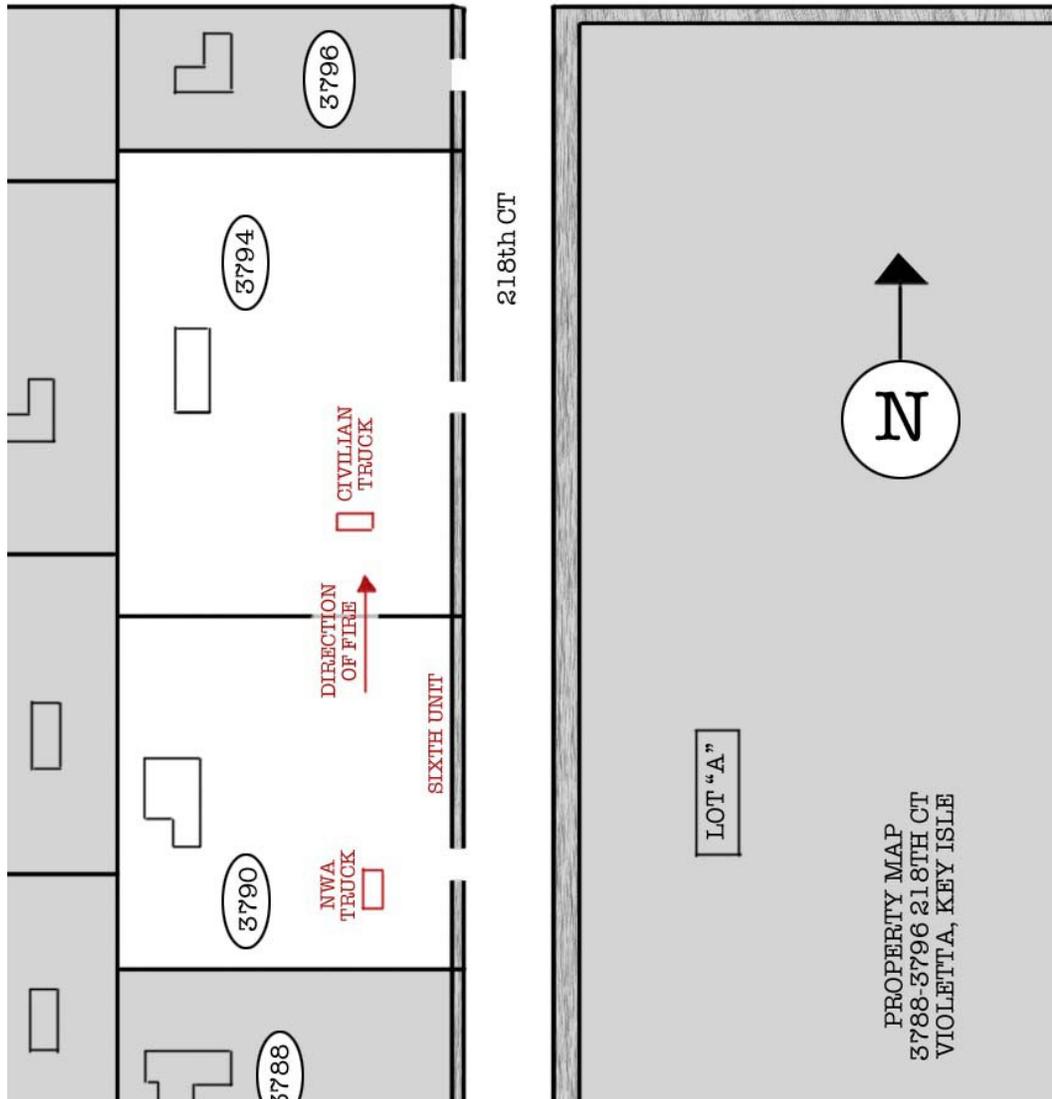
Privates Seneca James and Moriko Kobayashi will escort Liliya as far as the Aetherian palace and then return for the beginning of active duty on 05/30/2005.

SIGNED by Captain Johnathan Marinos, RO Sixth Unit

**APPENDIX D**  
MAP OF AREA OF INCIDENCE



WEST SAWGRASS TRAIL



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**APPENDIX E**  
PHOTOGRAPHS OF INCIDENT SITE

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SEE ATTACHED

- 1) PORTRAIT, ALEXEI PRESS (DECEASED)
- 2) BODY IN STATE, ALEXEI PRESS (DECEASED)
- 3) WING MARKINGS, ALEXEI PRESS (DECEASED)
- 4) PORTRAIT, EMRY PRESS (DECEASED)
- 5) BODY IN STATE, EMRY PRESS (DECEASED)
- 6) IDENTIFYING MARKS – ARM SCARS, EMRY PRESS (DECEASED)
- 7) PORTRAIT, NWA1 (DECEASED)
- 8) BODY IN STATE, NWA1 (DECEASED)
- 9) CIVILIAN TRUCK REMAINS
- 10) NWA TRUCK
- 11) SEIZED SLAVER CONTRABAND, NWA TRUCK BED
- 12-20) SURVEY OF FIRE DAMAGE, 3794 218<sup>th</sup> CT
- 21) PORTRAIT, NWA2 (DETAINEE, ANTONY BERNANDINO)
- 22) PORTRAIT, LILIYA PRESS (DETAINEE)
- 23) INJURIES SUSTAINED – LILIYA PRESS (DETAINEE)
- 24) PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH – 3794 218<sup>th</sup> CT

## RECORD OF REVIEW

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REVIEWED BY: Cynn Numair d'Escala of Aetheri  
DATE: 30 September 2005  
METHOD: Interview, Royal Order base at Enodia  
WITH: Captain Johnathan Marinos, Royal Order Sixth Unit  
REASON: Verification of truth

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS.

CYNN NUMAIR: Good afternoon, Captain. Please, don't assume human form on my account. Come as you are.

JOHNATHAN MARINOS: Afternoon, Your Highness. Thank you.

CN: Do you know why we're here?

JM: This is about Liliya, I'm guessing.

CN: Mm. Your incident report seems rather incomplete, now that I've reviewed it.

JM: –

CN: So, the basics. Your unit follows a few humans to a Violetta residence. They arm themselves to kill. Clearly, to kill—one does not aim a rocket at something one wishes to capture alive. And then you direct your unit to intervene anyway.

JM: Yes.

CN: This was clearly not an act of body trafficking. These humans were clearly not aiming to capture Liliya or her family members for the trade. This was clearly an act of murder.

JM: Yes.

CN: Your incident report leaves that acknowledgement out.

JM: Yes.

CN: Why?

JM: Is this...is it not obvious?

CN: Watch your tone, Captain. I want you to state it for the record.

JM: ...It's precisely because it was an act of murder. This was a murder. They went after a little girl and her brothers. I saw their house. They had nothing worth taking. They were clearly not even worth taking, even to slavers. It was just a murder.

CN: Answer my question, please. You leave this acknowledgement out of the incident report.

JM: Yes, it does. I'm not supposed to help them.

CN: Clarify, please. For the record.

JM: I'm not supposed to help Archipelagans unless they're explicitly being targeted by the slave trade. Unless I have reasonable suspicion that they're falling prey to traffickers.

CN: Do you understand why this is?

JM: Diplomatic reasons, yes.

CN: It's in your contract, actually. It's critical that you understand why, Captain, because your behavior as a representative of Aetheri reflects on--

JM: I couldn't stand by while--

CN: Do not interrupt me.

JM: Yes, Your Highness.

CN: I am not here to antagonize you, Captain, do not get so defensive. I need you to understand what precarious balance we're trying to maintain here.

JM: Yes. Yes. I understand.

CN: It angers you.

JM: It angers me that we must pick and choose which people to save when we have the capacity to do more, yes.

CN: Of course. Of course.

JM: As I mentioned in the report, we have listened to the natives for months—months!--tell us that the NWA was involved in body trafficking. We couldn't do anything to help them, though, because of these rules. They begged us, Your Highness.

CN: I understand.

JM: I stood by too long then if you ask me. I stood by too long while Liliya's brothers were killed. I could have done something, but I didn't. And then when she was the only one left--

CN: Yes.

JM: --Your Highness, I have a daughter her age. I can't imagine.

CN: Yes.

JM: ...I disobeyed the directive, I admit. I did do that. But I think I did what was right, and I think you must think that too. When I signed up you were saying that you didn't want soldiers—you wanted humanitarians who could fight. That's what I was doing.

CN: I did say that, yes. I do not recant it.

JM: Then.

CN: I suppose it is getting back at me a bit. I think you did the right thing, Captain, yes. But this does make my job harder. As much as what you did to save Liliya was right, the more we get involved in Archipelagan affairs, the testier Aetheri becomes. I can only push that so far.

JM: Yes, Your Highness.

CN: So, for due diligence, then. Are there any lies in this incident report?

JM: No.

CN: That is not quite true.

JM: ...All right. We didn't leave the incident scene completely untouched afterward. I took a flower from the side of the house for Liliya. Put it in a jar with a freshness spell. You know, a memorial object. We thought about going into the house to get something better for her, but...that felt wrong.

CN: You provided her with a memorial object.

JM: It seemed the least we could do.

CN: Is that the only untruth?

JM: Yes.

CN: Did you intentionally leave anything else out?

JM: No.

CN: I see. I'm planning on giving her a copy of the report, you know. If you are going to add anything, now would be a good time.

JM: It is what it is, Your Highness.

CN: If you say as much. All right. Do you have anything for me, before we call this done?

JM: How is she?

CN: ...I do not know. Helly is looking after her, however, so she's in as good hands as she can be.

JM: Yes. Yes. Okay.

CN: Thank you for your time, Captain. I will let you know if I have any further inquiries. Please do not make me pull you off of active duty again, we need everyone at work who can be.

JM: Yes, Your Highness. Good afternoon.

END TRANSCRIPT