

3/9/65

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Betty SHABAZZ

3050 110 St

Hushing

Arrived shortly before  
3. Nov with husband.

with 4 Children. Sat in booth on  
right, in front, next to Stage.

Head set out of my  
jacket.

Looked and saw a man  
standing in front of Colored jacket. Didn't  
see his face. Security men in front of  
Stage began moving towards him.  
Heard shots.

Pushed children down to  
ground.

Then looked into audience.  
2 yrs ago Johnson in Mosque #7

Thomas Wallace

3450 110 St

Hushing Queens

3-7-65 1:55 PM - Gr Jun pt 3, witness room

Betty Shabazz (wife of deceased Malcolm X Little Shabazz)

3050 110 St Flushing, Queens

I arrived a little before 3 PM. I was brought to Audubon with my children, someone brought us, 4 children. Seated in front on right as you face stage in a booth in front. I can't recall who was in booth with me. Ray was speaking, there was security guards. I didn't pay attention to them I don't know who they were. Shortly after my husband (Mal X) got on stage. Somebody yelled "Get out of my pockets" I looked in that direction we men stood up in a brown coat. Security began to move in his direction (guards in front of podium). I heard shots from the same side in succession. I pushed my children under the seat + shielded them with my body, then I turned around. (Shown photos) - pointed to them 157 Johnson + stated "I know he was a black muslim" + 2 yrs ago he was I think in secretarial capacity. I can't recognize anyone from the photos shown as being there that day.

Canallan

**District Attorney's Office**

**COUNTY OF NEW YORK**

March 9, 1965-

Betty "Shebazz"  
Little -

Grand Jury  
Appearance

In Booth - 4

Shabazz - 5

B E T T Y            S H A B A Z Z ,            called as a witness,  
having been first duly affirmed, testified  
as follows:

THE FOREMAN:    Please sit down.

BY MR. STERN:

Q    What is your name, please?

A    Betty Shabazz.

THE FOREMAN:    Louder please, Mrs.

Shabazz.

Q    Now, Mrs. Shabazz, you were married to  
Malcolm X, is that correct?

A    Yes.

Q    And Mrs. Shabazz, on Sunday, February  
21, 1965, did there come a time that you went to the  
Audubon Ballroom located here in New York County?

A    Yes.

Q    And do you recall approximately what  
time it was that you got there?

A    Not exactly, but it was before three.

Q    And did you arrive with your husband or  
alone, or with somebody else?

A    With somebody else.

Q And who were you with?

A I'd rather not say.

Q Well, in any case were you with your children?

A Yes, the four of them.

Q And did there come a time that you seated yourself in the ballroom?

A Yes.

Q Where did you seat yourself?

A It was in the front, in a booth.

Q And as you faced the stage, which side would that be on?

A The right.

Q That was the first booth next to the stage, is that correct, ma'am?

A Second.

Q The second booth next to the stage?

A Yes.

Q Now did this other person sit in that booth with you too?

A Just my children and I.

Q Now, as you sat in the booth, who was

speaking on the stage?

A Benjamin Lubin. (phonetic)

Q And did there come a time that you heard him finish speaking?

A Yes.

Q And what happened after he finished speaking?

A My husband came out.

Q Did your husband walk up to the rostrum?

A Yes.

Q And did he say anything that you recall?

A Yes, I don't recall the exact words, but it was the usual greeting.

Q And after that what if anything happened?

A Well, a few minutes later someone on the left hand side, not too far back stood up in a very loud and demanding voice said, "Take your hands out of my pocket," or "don't go in my pocket," or something like that.

Q When you heard that shout, did you turn your head?

A It -- you say a shout?

Q When you heard that sound, or those words, did you turn around and look?

A Yes, I turned around and looked.

Q And what did you see?

A I saw a man standing. I could see his back, sandy jacket on, more rust color.

Q You are indicating a rust or brown color?

A Yes, in that family. And I saw the back of his head, and he was looking to the left of him.

Q And then what happened?

A I heard my husband say, "Everythings right, everythings all right."

The guards that were in front went to see what the commotion was.

Q You are referring to the men who were assigned to protect your husband, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And they were standing in front of the stage, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And you say they moved towards the



outside, the audience, towards the disturbance, is that right?

A Yes.

Q After they moved in that direction, what if anything happened next?

A I heard several shots in succession.

Q And what did you do then?

A Well, I thought it was the men that were, organizing you know, in the middle, so everybody was on the floor. So I got on the floor and I pushed by children under the seat and protected them with my body.

Q In other words, you stopped looking at what was happening around and you got your children under cover, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Now, when you finally did raise up and begin to look again, was there anymore shooting going on?

A No.

Q While you were taking cover with your children, and providing your children with cover, was there shooting going on during this period of time?



A Yes.

Q Now, did you actually see the face of the man in this brown or rust colored jacket who you saw standing?

A No, I only saw the back profile.

Q I ask you to look at the three photographs on the table before you, which have been marked Grand Jury Exhibits #1, #2 and #3, and I ask you whether or not you can say whether any of those men were or were not the man who stood?

A I can't say if it was.

Q In other words you can't say if they were or they were not; is that correct?

A No, I only saw the back -- the back part of him.

But -- I don't think it was this large man, because he didn't look -- that large.

Q But as far as the other two -- now you are indicating you do not believe it was the man portrayed in Grand Jury Exhibit #1, is that correct?

A Well, no. The man didn't look as large.

Q As the man in Grand Jury Exhibit #2 -- #1, though, is that it?

A I am not saying it wasn't, I am just saying that he

didn't look this large, but I only saw the back part of him.

Q Well, the only thing I am trying to establish is that you cannot say that it was one of the men, and you cannot say that it was not one of the men portrayed in one of these photographs; is that right?

A No.

Q Now, Mrs. Shabazz, do you know who was in charge of the security arrangements for your husband?

A I am not sure, but I think it was James Shabazz.

Q Do you know any of the men portrayed in Grand Jury Exhibits #1, #2 and #3 before you?

A Not by name, but I have seen them. I have seen this one.

Q You are indicating Grand Jury Exhibit #1?

A I have seen him at the -- when I was a Black Muslim, but I haven't been a Black Muslim since the last two years.

Q And where did you see him, was that in Mosque #7?

A Yeah.

Q Now, Mrs. Shabazz, did there come a time that you went down to the Medical Examiner's Office and there at identified the body of your husband to the Medical Examiner?

A Yes.

Q Mrs. Shabazz, whom did you go to the Audubon Ballroom with that day?

A I said earlier that I'd rather not say.

Q Well, I can understand that, but on the other hand I believe you are required to answer that question. I understand that your attorney is outside, would you like to speak with him before you -- before the question is put to you again?

A No.

Q You do not wish to?

A No.

Q Well, do I understand that you refuse to answer that question?

A I said I'd rather not say. You can put it in whatever language you'd like.

Q Mrs. Shabazz, I am asking you directly, would you go to the -- who did you go to the Audubon

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Ballroom with on February 21, 1965? And I have to inform you that legally you are required to answer the question, and if you doubt what I say on the law, your attorney Mr. Oliver Sutton is right outside in the waiting room, and you can speak to him about it.

THE FOREMAN: Mrs. Shabazz, the purpose of the grand jury is to see that justice is done in this case or any other case. Please think very carefully about it before you decide not to answer it.

Every question that the District Attorney is asking is for that same purpose.

BY MR. STERN:

Q Now, if you'd like to, your attorney is outside, and you can consult with him about it.

Mrs. Shabazz, I think the record should reflect that there has been a silence on your part for at least a minute or a minute and a half. Do you wish to consult with your attorney?

A Yes, I'll consult with him, but I still say I'd rather not answer the question.

Q You understand that it becomes important

and material to this investigation to determine the names of every person that we can who was in the ballroom that day, as a possible witness of the murder involving your husband. You understand that is the purpose of the question?

Do you understand what I am saying, Mrs.

Shabazz?

A I heard you, yes.

Q Suppose you consult with Mr. Sutton now, would you do that?

(Whereupon the witness left the Grand Jury Room, and then returned and continued testifying as follows:)

BY MR. STERN:

Q Now, Mrs. Shabazz, now that you have had an opportunity to consult with your attorney, I ask you once again; who was it that you -- that took you down to the Audubon Ballroom on Sunday, February 21, 1965?

A Thomas Wallace.

Q I can't hear you.

A Thomas Wallace.

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Q Is that W-a-l-l-a-c-e ?

A Yes.

Q And where does Mr. Wallace live, ma'am?

A In Queens.

Q Are you staying at that address right now?

A Yes.

Q And what address is that, ma'am?

A 34-50 110th Street.

Q 305 or 34-50?

A 34-50.

Q Is that in Flushing?

A Yes.

Q Is there a telephone there, ma'am?

A I don't know.

Q And was there anybody else in the car with you when you were brought down to the Audubon Ballroom that day?

A My four children.

Q And other than that?

A No.

Q Do you, of your own knowledge, know



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whether or not Thomas Wallace entered the ballroom?

A I don't know if he did or not. My children and I got out and someone helped us out and we went in.

Q Now, Mrs. Shabazz, does the name

Shabazz have any religious or other significance?

A It has meaning, yes.

Q What does it mean?

A Well, it goes back to -- supposedly to a tribe of Shabazz that was a group of black people, supposedly the oldest and the first.

Q As it is used today, does it have any religious significance or any special meaning?

A I don't understand what you are saying.

Q Well, for instance, when did you first take the name of Shabazz?

A Well, my husband has used it, he has used it since he was a Muslim, and since he made the Hage it became his legal name.

Q Now, do all Muslims take the name of Shabazz for instance?

A No.

Q Is there any special significance to



taking the name Shabazz?

A No.

Q Is it a common name that Muslims often take?

A Well, I don't know.

Q Are you familiar, for instance, with a Shabazz Industry?

A I have heard of it.

Q And do you know of it -- did you know of it when you were a member of the Muslim Mosque #7, some two years ago?

A I heard of it, but I don't know that much about it.

MR. STERN: Thank you very much,  
ma'am.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

THE FOREMAN: Thank you, Mrs.

Shabazz, very much.

(Witness excused.)