

Document 8

- 1. How many people are related to the crime? What are their different situations? What are their nationalities?**

Three people.

2 students, 1 immigrant

1 Italian, 1 American, 1 Ivorian (Ivory Coast)

- 2. Give as many details as possible on the victim.**

Meredith Kersher was a 21-year old British student on an exchange programme in Perugia, Italy. She was found dead, semi-naked, with her throat cut, in 2007.

- 3. What did the defendant decide to do after the verdict?**

Rudy Guede, the Ivorian immigrant, decided to appeal against it.

- 4. Which charges did A. Knox and R. Sollecito face at trial?**

Sexual assault and murder.

- 5. What did A. Knox allegedly confess a few days after the crime?**

She said she had been present while Meredith was stabbed to death after resisting sexual advances.

- 6. What did she say later about what she was doing at the moment of the crime?**

Later on, she said she had been at R Sollecito's apartment, smoking marijuana, watching movies.

- 7. Which accusations did she hold against the police?**

She said they had bullied her into making false statements and placing her at the crime scene. She also added they had called her stupid liar, and said she was protecting someone. She said she had been hit and slapped during interrogation.

- 8. What did the police answer back?**

They denied misconduct.

- 9. Explain Knox's father's criticism against the Italian police.**

He believes « there had been a mistake made very very early on », the police considering they had a case closed ; A Knox's father adds that when they found out that Rudy Guede was guilty, the police had gone too far, and kept on pressing charges against Amanda and Raffaele.

- 10. How did the police counteract?**

The police said they had DNA evidence placing both Knox and Sollecito at the crime scene.

11. As to the DNA evidence, which decision did the judge take?

They rejected an independent review of the evidence.

12. When will the trial resume? What will then be pending?

The trial will resume on november 20th, the prosecutor will make his closing arguments.

Document 9

A) General understanding:

1) Which point of view prevails in this article?

A Knox's.

2) Which differences are there between "damages", "costs" and "expenses" line 5?

Damages are money you obtain for compensation of a loss or injury that was inflicted to you by someone's wrongdoing; costs are the fees you pay for the use of the court and expenses, the extra money you pay towards your court case (e.g.: lawyer's fees).

3) How did the criminal charges against Amanda Knox finally result in?

Her conviction for murder was totally exonerated first, as well as her conviction for slander.

B) Detailed understanding:

1) On which legal grounds did the European Court of Human Rights make a statement in 2019? What did it claim?

The ECHR's role is to verify people's human rights are respected; in Ms Kercher's 2007 case, they checked whether the restriction of A Knox's access to a lawyer during her police interrogation in 2007 had been an aggravating factor in the initial trial thus led to her conviction for murder (which she was exonerated of later on, on appeal); they concluded the Italian authorities had not manage to prove that that very restriction had not had an impact on the trial, in other words, her lack of access to a lawyer in these crucial moments of investigation did undermine the fairness of her trial. The court also says that her statements during interrogation had been taken under strong psychological pressure.

2) Which paradox does follow in the ruling of the Court of Human Rights?

Although they mention the level of pressure, the court says that there is no evidence of inhuman or degrading treatment however.

3) Which elements were found to be in favor of A. Knox?

The fact that she was a young foreigner (20 at the time), who spoke little Italian and had not been in Italy for very long.

4) What did Amanda Knox do at the time to raise suspicion?

She accused her boss of killing Meredith Kersher. Since her boss was proven innocent, she was also charged with slander.

5) Why is the claim of the Court of Human Rights for damages in favor of A. Knox tricky here?

Granting damages to A Knox means she is acknowledged as a victim; this decision is based on the fact that she did not have access to her lawyer at times when she badly needed it, which she should have had – had her basic human rights been respected. But A Knox alleged she had undergone inhuman or degrading treatment, which the court did not acknowledge; so the court has to be crystal clear as to what they grant her damages for.

6) How does A. Knox feel about the accusations she held against her boss today?

She says she has felt extremely guilty for years, since she accused him that night.

7) What was the last unexpected development in the verdict in the Kercher murder case?

In 2015, the appeal court reviewed the case, overturning A Know and R Sollecito's convictions, acquitting them totally.

8) Which ruling did the Court of Human Rights take about her allegations of extreme psychological pressure? And what about the slander conviction?

They concluded that her allegations of extreme psychological pressure were unfounded. The ECHR did not overturn her conviction of slander either, as their role was to review the process leading to the conviction, not the conviction (i.e.: the decision) itself. If A Know wants her conviction of slander to be challenged, she has to appeal against it. (*which she did in 2019, and her slander conviction was finally overturned in Oct 2023*).

9) According to one of Knox's defense lawyers, what is she looking for through this complaint?

Vendetta. She wants apologies for what she went through.

More:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/amanda-knox-slander-conviction-exonerated-b2429442.html>

<https://youtu.be/43mKaIHBfHY>