



## Witness Card for Investigator #2 – Ahmed, Age 40

I'm Ahmed, and I'm so glad you could meet me here at Nizwa's Friday animal market. It will be especially busy today since it is the last Friday before the end of Ramadan, and everyone is preparing for the feasting and the charitable giving that marks the end of the holy month of fasting. I'm helping out my family by coming here.

I met John because his employee Amira is my cousin. She introduced us in Muscat, which is where I live. I'm just here visiting my family for the holiday.

You asked about my family's opinion of John. Well, my uncle, Amira's father – I think you or one of your people met him, didn't you? – didn't really like John. I think Uncle Saif was afraid that Amira would get involved with him, a non-Muslim, which wouldn't have been appropriate for an Omani woman. I know that she liked him a lot – though she was always a very proper, respectable woman. She used to talk to me about John sometimes. Don't misunderstand. She didn't say, "I really like him," or anything like that – she just talked about his ideas. And I didn't talk directly to her all that much, of course, since it wouldn't be appropriate for men and women who are not in the same immediate family (not brother and sister, for example) to spend too much time together without supervision. But we frequently email back and forth. Anyway, Amira introduced us so that I could report back to her father that he was an honorable man.

And John *was* honorable. I liked him. We talked for quite a while – and I think, we would have become friends if that horrible crime hadn't occurred. John was really interested in Oman, and we talked a lot about Oman's government and foreign trade. I work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, you see. He was particularly interested in Oman's government (very stable under the reign of Sultan Qaboos) and its relations with the rest of the world (on good terms with most countries). Did you know that Oman is the only Gulf Arab country on good terms with Iran? And, of course, we have always had good relations with the U.S. – for centuries. We even helped the U.S. and Iran negotiate an agreement over Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program.

John liked hearing about Oman's government, but even more, he was fascinated by international relations, past and present. That's why he was especially excited about going to Zanzibar, which, you might know, was once part of the Omani empire. He wanted to explore the relations between Oman and Zanzibar and how both places participate in the wider Indian Ocean trade zone (with China, India, Persia, the rest of East Africa).

I hope some of this is helpful to you somehow – though I can't imagine how. I don't know who would have wanted to kill him or why.