ACCUSED, SUSPECTS AND ACTORS GRAVITATING AROUND THE CARUANA GALIZIA MURDER



LAWRENCE CUTAJAR

Former Police Commissioner

In June 2020 a magistrate ordered an investigation into Lawrence Cutajar over allegations that he had tipped off Theuma of a probe targetting him for money laundering. This investigation was devised as a means to get Theuma to turn and say what he knew about the Caruana Galizia murder. Cutajar, who showed little interest in the investigation before Theuma came into the picture, met with Edgar Brincat il-Gojja, whom he had known for many years, behind the backs of investigators in the case. The investigation was called following court testimony by Theuma indicating that he had been tipped off by Cutajar.



KENNETH CAMILLERI

The Prime Minister's former bodyguard has had multiple meetings with Melvyn Theuma. Camilleri is reported to have told police that he was ordered to meet Theuma by Keith Schembi. In one such meeting, Camilleri said he was sent to 'calm Theuma down' following the arrests of the three executors of the hit.

EDWIN BRINCAT IL-GOJJA



Brincat is a confidant and mentor of Melvyn Theuma, the middeman in Caruana Galizia's murder. Brincat coached and advised Theuma after the hitmen were arrested and the middleman feared he might be killed because of what he knew. Critically, Brincat advised Theuma to start recording Yorgen Fenech and other interlocutors. These recordings became central to the case. Later Brincat also acted as go-between with the former police commissioner Lawrence Cutajar, as the two had a longstanding relationship. In the process, Cutajar is suspected to have passed sensitive information to Theuma through il-Gojja at critical stages in the investigation.



JOHANN CREMONA

A business partner of Yorgen Fenech, Johann Cremona acted as an important go-between, relaying messages between Fenech and murder middleman Melvyn Theuma. A set of recordings that surfaced in January 2021 suggest Cremona may have been a go-between for Keith Schembri and Melvyn Theuma while the latter was still a suspect in the investigation.



JOSEPH MUSCAT

Former prime minister of Malta

In March 2013 Joseph Muscat returned the Labour party to government after almost 25 years in opposition with a historic majority that was sustained throughout his stint in government. His administration was hit by several scandals and allegations of corruption, many of which were levelled at him by Caruana Galizia. Muscat largely sailed through them, riding on the back of an unprecedented level of popularity due to major economic success and social liberalization. However, Caruana Galizia's murder and the eventual arrest of Yorgen Fenech rendered his position untenible. Fenech's proximity to Muscat's Chief of Staff Keith Schembri as well as the administration in general was well known. However, in the wake of this arrest, material evidence in the case exposed the extent of Muscat's proximity to Fenech and raised questions on his own position in respect to the case. Muscat was questioned by the police but so far has not been considered a suspect. Muscat allowed Keith Schembri to maintain access to security briefings on sensitive details of the investigation in spite of the shady connection between Fenech and Schembri through secret offshore accounts exposed in the wake of the Panama Papers in 2016. Muscat maintained his staunch defense of Schembri right up to the day of his resignation, when he thanked him for his service during a press conference. As Muscat spoke these words, Schembri was under arrest, being interrogated by the police in connection with the murder.





Self-confessed middleman in the murder, who turned state witness unmasking the mastermind.



KEITH SCHEMBRI

Former chief of staff of prime minister Joseph Muscat

Keith Schembri is widely regarded to be the power behind Joseph Muscat's throne and architect of the landslide electoral successes that returned the Labour Party to power in 2013 and comfortably kept it there since. Both Muscat and Schembri were forced to resign after Yorgen Fenech was arraigned in November 2019. Fenech had intimate access to both Muscat and Schembri. In spite of this proximity, Schembri was allowed high-level access to security briefings about the murder and was named multiple times as the likely source of leaks to Fenech throughout the murder investigation. Before her death in 2017 Caruana Galizia had identified Schembri and Konrad Mizzi as the planned beneficiaries of kickbacks to be funelled their way through Fenech's company, 17 Black. Schembri was arrested and interrogated several times but never arraigned. He is separately facing multiple inquiries for alleged corruption.



GEORGE DEGIORGIO AKA IC-CINIZ

The alleged leader of the gang that killed Caruana Galizia, George Degiorgio is a well-known criminal who has been associated but never charged with multiple murders over the years. Since being arrested in connection with Caruana Galizia's assasination, he has also been charged with the murder of a lawyer. This hit formed part of a a series of tit-for-tat killings that reordered the landscape of organized crime in Malta between 2008 and 2020.



ALFRED DEGIORGIO AKA IL-FULU

Brother of George Degiorgio and co-accused in the Caruana Galizia murder.



VINCE MUSCAT AKA IL-KOHHU

Third member of the gang who executed the murder. He has now turned state witness after pleading guilty and receiving a 15-year jail term.



ROBERT AGIUS AKA TAL-MAKSAR

Charged with supplying the bomb that



YORGEN FENECH

Alleged commissioner of the murder

One of Malta's most prominent businessmen, the man charged with masterminding Caruana Galizia's murder has been outed as the owner of 17 Black, a Dubai company that Daphne Caruana Galizia claimed was a vehicle to funnel kickbacks to government officals in respect to Malta's largest-ever investment in a privately run gas-fired powerplant. Fenech has suggested that he is not the mastermind but was acting at the behest of others, most notably Keith Schembri, the Prime Minister's former Chief of Staff.



SILVIO VALLETTA

Former Deputy Police Commisioner

Valletta, husband of the now estranged cabinet minister Justine Caruana, is being investigated as a potential source of leaks to Yorgen Fenech after it became known that Valletta had accepted paid trips by Fenech to watch international football matches even after Fenech was identified as the potential mastermind in the murder.





CHRIS CARDONA

Former economy minister and Labour Party deputy leader

Cardona was a frequent target of Caruana Galizia. At the time of her death, Caruana Galizia still had her assets frozen in a libel case that Cardona had initiated against her over a story she wrote in which she claimed the Minister visited a brothel while on an official trip to Germany. Separately, Cardona was named multiple times in connection to the Caruana Galizia murder through unsubstantiated allegations that, he claimed, were nothing but an attempted 'frame up' in his regard. In January 2020, Cardona was asked to respond to claims that he had met one of the alleged hitmen in the lead-up to the October 2017 car bomb. He was also asked to respond to claims made by Muscat that, in 2015, Cardona had discussed and agreed to pay €150 000 to have Caruana Galizia killed in a plot that was eventually abandoned.

killed Caruana Galizia.



ADRIAN AGIUS AKA TAL-MAKSAR

Brother of Robert Agius and co-accused as the alleged supplier of the bomb.



JAMIE VELLA

Third member of the gang that allegedly supplied the bomb.

David Gatt is a former police inspector who became a lawyer after being dismissed by the force. Gatt formed part of the law firm owned by former economy minister Chris Cardona. In testimony given in court, confessed killer Vince Muscat testified that Gatt had gone to the gang's base in Malta's main harbour to enquire why it was taking them so long to kill Caruana Galizia. Gatt even indicated that he knew the plan was to blow up Caruana Galizia after a previous plan to shoot her was discarded. When Muscat asked who had told Gatt about the murder, he said gang leader George Degiorgio told him it had been Keith Schembri, former chief of staff to then prime minister Joseph Muscat.

PEOPLE CHARGED OR BELIEVED TO BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE MURDER



PEOPLE BELIEVED TO HAVE MEDIATED OR BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE PLOTTERS AFTER THE MURDER

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS SUSPECTED TO HAVE HAD INAPPROPRIATE EXCHANGES WITH THE PLOTTERS OR LEAKED INFORMATION TO THEM

ACES OF ASSASSINATION





POLITICIANS NAMED IN RESPECT TO THE MURDER OR ITS COVER-UP