

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:22,410

2  
00:00:22,410 --> 00:00:25,170  
So why don't you just  
back up just a little bit

3  
00:00:25,170 --> 00:00:28,432  
to seeing the buses and  
knowing what was happening.

4  
00:00:28,432 --> 00:00:34,100

5  
00:00:34,100 --> 00:00:39,100  
It was March the 27th 1944.

6  
00:00:39,100 --> 00:00:42,760  
That was the day  
that what we call

7  
00:00:42,760 --> 00:00:47,060  
was the Kinder Aktion or  
selection of the children.

8  
00:00:47,060 --> 00:00:50,190  
I worked night shift that day.

9  
00:00:50,190 --> 00:00:55,590  
And all of a sudden,  
I heard a commotion

10  
00:00:55,590 --> 00:00:57,840  
and I heard a noise  
outside the window.

11  
00:00:57,840 --> 00:01:00,552  
Our window faced the  
gate of the ghetto.

12  
00:01:00,552 --> 00:01:02,010

When I looked out  
the window, there

13  
00:01:02,010 --> 00:01:05,260  
were buses lined up  
in front of the gate.

14  
00:01:05,260 --> 00:01:08,550  
And I could see that the  
Ukrainians and Germans

15  
00:01:08,550 --> 00:01:11,850  
were taking the  
children into the buses.

16  
00:01:11,850 --> 00:01:17,520  
They were taking babies,  
children aged 10 or 11.

17  
00:01:17,520 --> 00:01:20,040  
And I had a child.

18  
00:01:20,040 --> 00:01:21,510  
I had my little nephew.

19  
00:01:21,510 --> 00:01:24,840  
He was only 2 and  
1/2 years old, and I

20  
00:01:24,840 --> 00:01:27,900  
knew they were going to come.

21  
00:01:27,900 --> 00:01:33,360  
And I could see that, and  
so what I did very quickly

22  
00:01:33,360 --> 00:01:37,170  
I pulled a suitcase  
out from under my bed

23  
00:01:37,170 --> 00:01:38,640  
and I put him in a suitcase.

24

00:01:38,640 --> 00:01:43,920

And I told him that you may  
not cry, you may not speak,

25

00:01:43,920 --> 00:01:47,100

and you may not say  
anything or shout.

26

00:01:47,100 --> 00:01:51,630

Because if you do, the Germans  
will take you and you will die.

27

00:01:51,630 --> 00:01:54,360

He understood that, even  
though he was only 2 and 1/2.

28

00:01:54,360 --> 00:02:00,270

He knew exactly  
what was happening.

29

00:02:00,270 --> 00:02:02,040

He had a feeling.

30

00:02:02,040 --> 00:02:04,470

And I put the suitcase  
back under the bed

31

00:02:04,470 --> 00:02:07,050

and I jumped on top  
of the bed a couple

32

00:02:07,050 --> 00:02:10,800

of times to cause  
the dust to settle

33

00:02:10,800 --> 00:02:13,200

on it so it would look  
like the suitcase had not

34

00:02:13,200 --> 00:02:15,090

been opened recently.

35

00:02:15,090 --> 00:02:18,120  
And I went back to the  
window to see what happened.

36  
00:02:18,120 --> 00:02:21,210

37  
00:02:21,210 --> 00:02:26,040  
Within a minute, a  
Ukrainian soldier

38  
00:02:26,040 --> 00:02:28,140  
came through the  
door of the apartment

39  
00:02:28,140 --> 00:02:32,110  
and he asked were there  
any children here.

40  
00:02:32,110 --> 00:02:33,735  
And I said, no,  
there aren't any.

41  
00:02:33,735 --> 00:02:34,860  
He said, I'm going to look.

42  
00:02:34,860 --> 00:02:38,190  
And if I find any, he said,  
not only will I take the child

43  
00:02:38,190 --> 00:02:40,320  
but you will come of course.

44  
00:02:40,320 --> 00:02:44,490  
Beginning he examined my  
papers to see I was only 14.

45  
00:02:44,490 --> 00:02:48,360  
I was strong enough  
to be able to work,

46  
00:02:48,360 --> 00:02:50,070  
but he looked at

my papers and said

47

00:02:50,070 --> 00:02:51,930  
that since I worked  
he'd let me alone,

48

00:02:51,930 --> 00:02:55,632  
but he said that if he finds  
a child I will go with him.

49

00:02:55,632 --> 00:02:57,090  
And I said, well,  
there aren't any.

50

00:02:57,090 --> 00:02:59,610  
He looked and looked, but he  
didn't find the little boy,

51

00:02:59,610 --> 00:03:01,570  
didn't say anything.

52

00:03:01,570 --> 00:03:05,200  
He was distracted because  
suddenly he heard a baby cry.

53

00:03:05,200 --> 00:03:07,050  
And he walked out into  
the hall and there

54

00:03:07,050 --> 00:03:12,540  
was somebody who had  
stuffed a baby into a linen

55

00:03:12,540 --> 00:03:13,800  
closet in the hall.

56

00:03:13,800 --> 00:03:16,650  
And I never knew  
whose baby that was.

57

00:03:16,650 --> 00:03:18,330  
I had never seen  
that baby before.

58

00:03:18,330 --> 00:03:21,910

The baby was perhaps a year  
and a half old little girl.

59

00:03:21,910 --> 00:03:24,570

And he grabbed that  
child and walked out,

60

00:03:24,570 --> 00:03:27,100

so he left me alone.

61

00:03:27,100 --> 00:03:28,990

I went back to the window.

62

00:03:28,990 --> 00:03:33,600

And as he had taken  
that little child

63

00:03:33,600 --> 00:03:38,130

and put it in the bus and  
then the child was crying.

64

00:03:38,130 --> 00:03:43,290

And of course once he got on  
the bus the voices were muffled.

65

00:03:43,290 --> 00:03:48,870

And then I heard screams and  
crying, and I looked back

66

00:03:48,870 --> 00:03:50,790

and there was another  
Ukrainian soldier

67

00:03:50,790 --> 00:03:54,100

and he was dragging  
a woman, a mother,

68

00:03:54,100 --> 00:03:55,500

and she had two little girls.

69

00:03:55,500 --> 00:04:00,220  
And she wouldn't let  
go of the two children.

70  
00:04:00,220 --> 00:04:02,970  
She just held on to them  
and they held on to her.

71  
00:04:02,970 --> 00:04:07,710  
And he was beating her  
with the butt of his rifle

72  
00:04:07,710 --> 00:04:11,490  
and she was bleeding  
from her mouth

73  
00:04:11,490 --> 00:04:13,680  
and from her nose  
and blood going down.

74  
00:04:13,680 --> 00:04:15,610  
I could see her face.

75  
00:04:15,610 --> 00:04:18,480  
Even today I can still see it.

76  
00:04:18,480 --> 00:04:21,269  
But she wouldn't let  
those two little girls go.

77  
00:04:21,269 --> 00:04:25,620  
One must have been about  
three and one about five.

78  
00:04:25,620 --> 00:04:30,450  
And when they get close to the  
bus he couldn't take them away

79  
00:04:30,450 --> 00:04:32,610  
and so the German came over.

80  
00:04:32,610 --> 00:04:37,470  
He was an SS lieutenant, and

he said, what's this commotion?

81

00:04:37,470 --> 00:04:38,440

What's going on?

82

00:04:38,440 --> 00:04:41,050

And he said, she won't  
let go of the children.

83

00:04:41,050 --> 00:04:44,490

So I could hear him say--

84

00:04:44,490 --> 00:04:51,300

First of all he laughed with  
this cynical and terrible

85

00:04:51,300 --> 00:04:51,960

laughter.

86

00:04:51,960 --> 00:04:57,810

And then he told her that, OK,  
if you love your children so

87

00:04:57,810 --> 00:05:03,330

much I'll let you take one  
and the other one we'll take.

88

00:05:03,330 --> 00:05:05,640

And of course he's  
asking a mother

89

00:05:05,640 --> 00:05:08,370

to select one of her  
two little girls.

90

00:05:08,370 --> 00:05:13,770

She immediately quieted down.

91

00:05:13,770 --> 00:05:16,110

She stopped struggling.

92

00:05:16,110 --> 00:05:18,630



And the two little  
girls understood

93

00:05:18,630 --> 00:05:22,560  
what he said because they knew  
exactly what was happening.

94

00:05:22,560 --> 00:05:26,670  
And both started talking to  
her, saying, Mother, take me,

95

00:05:26,670 --> 00:05:27,420  
take me.

96

00:05:27,420 --> 00:05:33,270  
And she stopped the struggle  
and took the two little girls

97

00:05:33,270 --> 00:05:36,720  
by their hands and walked  
on the bus with them.

98

00:05:36,720 --> 00:05:42,170  
And of course she died  
with them that day.

99

00:05:42,170 --> 00:05:49,420  
When the day was  
over, 1,183 children

100

00:05:49,420 --> 00:05:55,240  
were taken and killed that day.

101

00:05:55,240 --> 00:06:00,370  
Those were the last Jewish  
children in Lithuania

102

00:06:00,370 --> 00:06:06,550  
outside of those  
perhaps a few dozen that

103

00:06:06,550 --> 00:06:12,280  
were hidden previously

and a couple that

104  
00:06:12,280 --> 00:06:16,120  
somehow got hidden  
during this selection

105  
00:06:16,120 --> 00:06:19,060  
like I hid my little nephew.

106  
00:06:19,060 --> 00:06:25,690  
And that was the end of the  
Lithuanian Jewish people.

107  
00:06:25,690 --> 00:06:28,600  
Most had died.

108  
00:06:28,600 --> 00:06:31,630  
At the beginning of the  
war, in the first week

109  
00:06:31,630 --> 00:06:36,640  
there were 180,000  
Jews, perhaps 140,000

110  
00:06:36,640 --> 00:06:40,510  
were killed at the beginning,  
and the rest little by little

111  
00:06:40,510 --> 00:06:46,960  
were killed through selections,  
massacres, and simply

112  
00:06:46,960 --> 00:06:49,570  
shootings and starvation.

113  
00:06:49,570 --> 00:06:54,310  
And of course the children that  
we kept as long as we could

114  
00:06:54,310 --> 00:06:58,890  
died then that day.

115

00:06:58,890 --> 00:07:02,505  
My nephew, of course I--

116  
00:07:02,505 --> 00:07:10,650  
It's difficult to say this, but  
he lived another four months

117  
00:07:10,650 --> 00:07:17,190  
or so and then he and my  
mother both died and in the gas

118  
00:07:17,190 --> 00:07:20,170  
chambers of Auschwitz.

119  
00:07:20,170 --> 00:07:25,500  
Had it not been  
for him, my mother

120  
00:07:25,500 --> 00:07:27,990  
probably would have survived.

121  
00:07:27,990 --> 00:07:29,620  
She was a strong young woman.

122  
00:07:29,620 --> 00:07:32,220  
She was only 42 years  
old when she was killed.

123  
00:07:32,220 --> 00:07:34,930

124  
00:07:34,930 --> 00:07:41,760  
And in part, all the years  
I have sort of blamed myself

125  
00:07:41,760 --> 00:07:45,540  
because if I had not saved  
that little boy my mother

126  
00:07:45,540 --> 00:07:47,970  
would have survived.

127

00:07:47,970 --> 00:07:51,555  
I had a choice also.

128  
00:07:51,555 --> 00:07:59,582

129  
00:07:59,582 --> 00:08:01,030  
That was begin--

130  
00:08:01,030 --> 00:08:06,840

131  
00:08:06,840 --> 00:08:09,180  
That was pretty well  
the end of the ghetto.

132  
00:08:09,180 --> 00:08:10,710  
Because after that they--

133  
00:08:10,710 --> 00:08:25,270

134  
00:08:25,270 --> 00:08:29,304  
Whatever hope we still had  
was gone after that day.

135  
00:08:29,304 --> 00:08:32,419

136  
00:08:32,419 --> 00:08:38,900  
And we were resigned to  
our final destination.

137  
00:08:38,900 --> 00:08:42,335  
We never believed that the  
rest of us would survive.

138  
00:08:42,335 --> 00:08:47,230

139  
00:08:47,230 --> 00:08:51,000  
It wasn't long after when

the Soviet Army started

140  
00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:55,740  
to advance towards  
Lithuania and they decided

141  
00:08:55,740 --> 00:08:57,780  
to liquidate the ghetto.

142  
00:08:57,780 --> 00:09:08,090

143  
00:09:08,090 --> 00:09:15,500  
We walked from the ghetto  
several kilometers to a train

144  
00:09:15,500 --> 00:09:19,790  
where we were loaded and  
taken to a place called

145  
00:09:19,790 --> 00:09:27,080  
Stuthof, where my mother and the  
child were taken off the train.

146  
00:09:27,080 --> 00:09:30,740  
And my father and I  
continued on this train.

147  
00:09:30,740 --> 00:09:32,670  
We were never taken  
off the train.

148  
00:09:32,670 --> 00:09:38,240  
We continued on towards Dachau.

149  
00:09:38,240 --> 00:09:44,900  
Later learned that she and the  
child were taken to Stuthof,

150  
00:09:44,900 --> 00:09:50,900  
where they lived  
several weeks and then

151

00:09:50,900 --> 00:09:56,510

those women who were  
strong and by themselves

152

00:09:56,510 --> 00:10:01,010

were taken to work somewhere  
in Poland or in East Germany

153

00:10:01,010 --> 00:10:03,290

somewhere.

154

00:10:03,290 --> 00:10:06,710

The rest, those children  
were taken to Auschwitz

155

00:10:06,710 --> 00:10:12,800

and the fact is I have  
the date when they died.

156

00:10:12,800 --> 00:10:19,250

They died July the 15th of 1944.

157

00:10:19,250 --> 00:10:24,410

And my father and I continued on  
and finally wound up in Dachau,

158

00:10:24,410 --> 00:10:31,910

near Munich, where we spent  
the rest of the war time.

159

00:10:31,910 --> 00:10:35,050

OK, we're just about to run out.

160

00:10:35,050 --> 00:10:37,120

I want to put one  
more roll on and ask

161

00:10:37,120 --> 00:10:39,472

you a couple of other  
short questions.

162

00:10:39,472 --> 00:11:17,370

163  
00:11:17,370 --> 00:11:19,770  
Tell me a little bit  
about the council.

164  
00:11:19,770 --> 00:11:25,620

165  
00:11:25,620 --> 00:11:30,900  
I don't know a lot about the  
inner workings of the council.

166  
00:11:30,900 --> 00:11:38,610  
I just know that whenever  
the Germans needed

167  
00:11:38,610 --> 00:11:47,880  
to select people to send out,  
like to Riga or to Estonia

168  
00:11:47,880 --> 00:11:51,360  
or to other areas, they  
would come to the council

169  
00:11:51,360 --> 00:12:02,050  
and they would ask them to  
provide the names of people.

170  
00:12:02,050 --> 00:12:09,730  
Now, nobody knew whether  
these people would survive,

171  
00:12:09,730 --> 00:12:13,360  
whether they would  
actually go to work

172  
00:12:13,360 --> 00:12:14,620  
or whether they would die.

173  
00:12:14,620 --> 00:12:17,440  
And that would be a  
burden on the council

174  
00:12:17,440 --> 00:12:26,110  
to actually themselves be  
the judges of who should live

175  
00:12:26,110 --> 00:12:27,370  
and who should die.

176  
00:12:27,370 --> 00:12:30,130  
And that put a great  
burden on them.

177  
00:12:30,130 --> 00:12:32,420  
As far as the council  
itself is concerned,

178  
00:12:32,420 --> 00:12:36,430  
the inner workings  
and how they--

179  
00:12:36,430 --> 00:12:39,890  
isn't something that  
I know very well.

180  
00:12:39,890 --> 00:12:44,230  
I know some of the  
people that served on it,

181  
00:12:44,230 --> 00:12:49,570  
but nobody was really  
angry with them

182  
00:12:49,570 --> 00:12:54,340  
because everybody  
understood that they really

183  
00:12:54,340 --> 00:12:56,470  
don't have much of a choice.

184  
00:12:56,470 --> 00:12:59,560

185



00:12:59,560 --> 00:13:06,070  
What I do know, for  
instance, is that before what

186  
00:13:06,070 --> 00:13:14,920  
they call the Great Aktion the  
question was whether or not

187  
00:13:14,920 --> 00:13:21,840  
the council should  
cooperate with the Germans

188  
00:13:21,840 --> 00:13:24,850  
and ask everyone, all  
the Jews, to come out

189  
00:13:24,850 --> 00:13:26,190  
to the Democratic Platz.

190  
00:13:26,190 --> 00:13:29,650

191  
00:13:29,650 --> 00:13:32,750  
But they didn't know.

192  
00:13:32,750 --> 00:13:34,550  
There were some who  
said yes and some

193  
00:13:34,550 --> 00:13:39,030  
said no, we shouldn't have  
to make that decision.

194  
00:13:39,030 --> 00:13:47,090  
So they went to one  
of the rabbis, who

195  
00:13:47,090 --> 00:13:50,300  
thought about it for days  
because they knew ahead

196  
00:13:50,300 --> 00:13:57,260  
of time, they weren't

just told the day before.

197

00:13:57,260 --> 00:14:04,130

And this rabbi, the way I  
understand it, what I know

198

00:14:04,130 --> 00:14:08,030

was for many days he was  
studying the Talmud to see

199

00:14:08,030 --> 00:14:12,830

whether the council has the  
right, or the moral right,

200

00:14:12,830 --> 00:14:15,800

to ask the Jews to  
make the sacrifice.

201

00:14:15,800 --> 00:14:18,410

Or whether to tell  
nothing, let the Germans

202

00:14:18,410 --> 00:14:19,940

themselves do what they want.

203

00:14:19,940 --> 00:14:22,310

Or should they help the Germans?

204

00:14:22,310 --> 00:14:24,020

Which would be  
better for the Jews?

205

00:14:24,020 --> 00:14:26,450

And finally the  
rabbi's decision,

206

00:14:26,450 --> 00:14:30,950

they all agreed the decision  
would be that of the rabbi--

207

00:14:30,950 --> 00:14:33,660

I can't remember  
his name right now,

208  
00:14:33,660 --> 00:14:36,155  
but perhaps some of the other  
interviewees will remember.

209  
00:14:36,155 --> 00:14:39,080

210  
00:14:39,080 --> 00:14:43,820  
He rendered a decision  
and said that, yes,

211  
00:14:43,820 --> 00:14:45,980  
they should help the Jews.

212  
00:14:45,980 --> 00:14:49,280  
It would be better for the  
entire ghetto population

213  
00:14:49,280 --> 00:14:52,550  
if there is order.

214  
00:14:52,550 --> 00:14:55,130

215  
00:14:55,130 --> 00:14:58,940  
And what about  
the Jewish police?

216  
00:14:58,940 --> 00:15:00,320  
The Jewish police was--

217  
00:15:00,320 --> 00:15:02,930

218  
00:15:02,930 --> 00:15:05,420  
It's the same in  
any police force.

219  
00:15:05,420 --> 00:15:10,370  
Some took their  
jobs too seriously,

220  
00:15:10,370 --> 00:15:17,400  
but most were  
pretty decent people

221  
00:15:17,400 --> 00:15:23,750  
who saw that as as  
an easy work for them

222  
00:15:23,750 --> 00:15:26,420  
as compared to going  
out and working on

223  
00:15:26,420 --> 00:15:29,450  
the airport that the  
Germans were building,

224  
00:15:29,450 --> 00:15:31,550  
or to go to other  
working brigades.

225  
00:15:31,550 --> 00:15:33,470  
So they took that  
job although they

226  
00:15:33,470 --> 00:15:39,020  
knew that this isn't  
going to be very, very

227  
00:15:39,020 --> 00:15:41,280  
popular with some people.

228  
00:15:41,280 --> 00:15:46,940  
But from what I know and the  
policeman that I encountered,

229  
00:15:46,940 --> 00:15:49,350  
they were pretty decent  
people, most of them,

230  
00:15:49,350 --> 00:15:51,200  
with the exception  
of a couple who

231

00:15:51,200 --> 00:15:59,570  
took their job too seriously and  
became very, very and selfish.

232

00:15:59,570 --> 00:16:02,850  
Especially those  
who worked where

233

00:16:02,850 --> 00:16:06,200  
they had the gate  
police that worked

234

00:16:06,200 --> 00:16:08,330  
at the gate of the ghetto.

235

00:16:08,330 --> 00:16:14,120  
And of course some would ask  
whoever brought some stuff in,

236

00:16:14,120 --> 00:16:18,390  
they would ask for a  
piece of the action.

237

00:16:18,390 --> 00:16:22,790  
So if you brought in  
five pounds of flour,

238

00:16:22,790 --> 00:16:25,250  
you would have to give  
them a pound or so just

239

00:16:25,250 --> 00:16:29,450  
for letting you by or getting  
the Germans out of the way

240

00:16:29,450 --> 00:16:31,010  
so you could go in.

241

00:16:31,010 --> 00:16:33,290  
So that is something  
that happens

242

00:16:33,290 --> 00:16:37,280  
in every society where you  
have a little bit of power

243

00:16:37,280 --> 00:16:39,890  
and authority to use it.

244

00:16:39,890 --> 00:16:43,800  
But normally they  
were decent people.

245

00:16:43,800 --> 00:16:47,745  
And tell me what  
happened to the children.

246

00:16:47,745 --> 00:16:53,500

247

00:16:53,500 --> 00:16:56,635  
What happened is  
that at a time I

248

00:16:56,635 --> 00:16:58,510  
knew there was something  
wrong with the buses

249

00:16:58,510 --> 00:17:00,740  
but I didn't put  
my finger on it.

250

00:17:00,740 --> 00:17:08,260  
But I later learned that  
the exhaust of the bus

251

00:17:08,260 --> 00:17:11,079  
was redirected,  
the exhaust gases

252

00:17:11,079 --> 00:17:12,700  
were redirected inside the bus.

253

00:17:12,700 --> 00:17:15,369

The driver was  
separated from the rest

254  
00:17:15,369 --> 00:17:22,300  
of the bus with a partition,  
and as the children

255  
00:17:22,300 --> 00:17:23,800  
went in the bus,  
their voices were

256  
00:17:23,800 --> 00:17:30,510  
muffled because they started  
breathing in the exhaust gases.

257  
00:17:30,510 --> 00:17:33,550  
By the time these children  
were taken to the Ninth Fort

258  
00:17:33,550 --> 00:17:36,910  
where they were buried,  
most of them were dead.

259  
00:17:36,910 --> 00:17:42,640  
And those who were still  
alive or not quite dead

260  
00:17:42,640 --> 00:17:44,050  
were buried alive.

261  
00:17:44,050 --> 00:17:48,490  
Because during that day I did  
not hear any machine gun fire

262  
00:17:48,490 --> 00:17:55,330  
so they had to be disposed  
of or killed in other ways.

263  
00:17:55,330 --> 00:17:58,230  
And that is most likely  
the way they were killed.

264  
00:17:58,230 --> 00:18:02,400

265

00:18:02,400 --> 00:18:07,620

And did you ever talk  
to any Lithuanians who

266

00:18:07,620 --> 00:18:10,620

maybe worked at the Ninth  
Fort or had any contact

267

00:18:10,620 --> 00:18:12,000

with any perpetrators?

268

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:15,450

269

00:18:15,450 --> 00:18:17,730

Lithuanians who--

270

00:18:17,730 --> 00:18:21,090

Who maybe helped with  
any of the killings?

271

00:18:21,090 --> 00:18:25,890

Well, I never talk to any,  
except two years ago I

272

00:18:25,890 --> 00:18:29,740

was invited by the  
Justice Department

273

00:18:29,740 --> 00:18:33,660

to come as a witness  
in Philadelphia

274

00:18:33,660 --> 00:18:38,490

where they had caught  
a Lithuanian who

275

00:18:38,490 --> 00:18:43,270

was a lieutenant in  
what the Germans called



276

00:18:43,270 --> 00:18:47,190  
the schutzmannschaft,  
which translated loosely

277

00:18:47,190 --> 00:18:55,200  
were guard units, but really  
they were killing units.

278

00:18:55,200 --> 00:19:01,260  
And he had come to America  
under false pretenses

279

00:19:01,260 --> 00:19:08,640  
and he had falsified his records  
where he was during the war.

280

00:19:08,640 --> 00:19:13,470  
And when the Soviet  
Union fell and Lithuania

281

00:19:13,470 --> 00:19:17,010  
became independent,  
the Justice Department

282

00:19:17,010 --> 00:19:19,920  
started looking  
for documentation

283

00:19:19,920 --> 00:19:24,090  
on who were the people  
that immigrated to America.

284

00:19:24,090 --> 00:19:28,310  
They caught this  
particular one, and I

285

00:19:28,310 --> 00:19:35,610  
was one of the two ghetto  
witnesses of who he was.

286

00:19:35,610 --> 00:19:38,250  
But I never talked  
directly to him.

287  
00:19:38,250 --> 00:19:42,810  
I was just in court presenting  
my side of the story.

288  
00:19:42,810 --> 00:19:46,230  
And had you ever seen him  
when you were in the ghetto?

289  
00:19:46,230 --> 00:19:47,070  
No.

290  
00:19:47,070 --> 00:19:51,690  
This was not a criteria  
for being a witness.

291  
00:19:51,690 --> 00:19:55,350  
And in the ghetto, since  
you were pretty young,

292  
00:19:55,350 --> 00:19:58,020  
do you ever remember an  
incident that was fun?

293  
00:19:58,020 --> 00:20:01,260  
Do you ever remember a  
great time that you had?

294  
00:20:01,260 --> 00:20:02,280  
Yes.

295  
00:20:02,280 --> 00:20:04,800  
Yes.

296  
00:20:04,800 --> 00:20:09,470  
I formed myself--

297  
00:20:09,470 --> 00:20:12,420  
You can't see it now,  
but I was a good athlete

298  
00:20:12,420 --> 00:20:13,290

when I was young.

299

00:20:13,290 --> 00:20:17,940

And I was a good soccer player  
and I had formed my own team

300

00:20:17,940 --> 00:20:21,600

with a group of boys.

301

00:20:21,600 --> 00:20:25,900

And there were  
other teams formed

302

00:20:25,900 --> 00:20:33,360

and we were playing even games  
for championship of the ghetto.

303

00:20:33,360 --> 00:20:36,270

And my team won  
the championship,

304

00:20:36,270 --> 00:20:37,750

so that was a big deal.

305

00:20:37,750 --> 00:20:41,820

In fact, the team  
was named after me.

306

00:20:41,820 --> 00:20:46,320

So I created a team, I  
named it, so I used my name.

307

00:20:46,320 --> 00:20:50,010

And that was fun.

308

00:20:50,010 --> 00:20:53,790

309

00:20:53,790 --> 00:20:59,910

Beginning to talk to girls  
and hold hands with girls

310

00:20:59,910 --> 00:21:04,500  
my age was something  
that happened

311  
00:21:04,500 --> 00:21:06,390  
under the circumstances.

312  
00:21:06,390 --> 00:21:11,520  
I remember these little girls,  
and one is in New York today,

313  
00:21:11,520 --> 00:21:16,690  
and that we hung out together  
with some of my friends

314  
00:21:16,690 --> 00:21:19,830  
who are alive today.

315  
00:21:19,830 --> 00:21:23,610  
And when we get together we  
reminisce about those times.

316  
00:21:23,610 --> 00:21:26,820  
It's interesting  
that the only time

317  
00:21:26,820 --> 00:21:29,790  
we talk about what I  
talked about here today

318  
00:21:29,790 --> 00:21:32,910  
is when I talk to  
people like you.

319  
00:21:32,910 --> 00:21:39,360  
When we talk to one another,  
we always talk about the times

320  
00:21:39,360 --> 00:21:44,970  
that we could laugh at,  
times that we enjoyed,

321  
00:21:44,970 --> 00:21:50,970

songs that we sang,  
poems that we composed.

322  
00:21:50,970 --> 00:21:57,450  
Looking at the moon and  
thinking perhaps here's

323  
00:21:57,450 --> 00:21:58,410  
the moon up there.

324  
00:21:58,410 --> 00:22:02,310  
Look, the same moon it  
shines over America.

325  
00:22:02,310 --> 00:22:04,860  
Would it be possible  
perhaps to just jump over?

326  
00:22:04,860 --> 00:22:06,750  
These sort of things.

327  
00:22:06,750 --> 00:22:09,690  
And we remember that  
when we get together.

328  
00:22:09,690 --> 00:22:13,500  
But we have to be together  
the same people that

329  
00:22:13,500 --> 00:22:15,590  
were there and--

330  
00:22:15,590 --> 00:22:40,000