

Vincent Nouzille website on June 17, 2025

New revelations about the Lockerbie-UTA-La Belle attacks

On June 17, 2025, I co-signed an article with Karl Laske in Mediapart entitled “Les confessions du repent qui accuse Senoussi” (The confessions of the repentant man who accuses Senoussi), based on new, previously unpublished documents that could be used by the courts in several countries in connection with Libyan attacks in the 1980s. This is one of the unexpected follow-ups to our book published in January, “The Assassin Who Had to Be Saved,” which revealed the archives of Senoussi, the former head of Gaddafi's secret service.

Investigations into the “cold cases” of Libyan terrorism in the 1980s may prove to be full of twists and turns.

The publication last January with Karl Laske of our book “The Assassin Who Had to Be Saved, at the Heart of the Sarkozy-Gaddafi Affair” (R laffont) revealed numerous documents from the archives of Abdallah Senoussi. This key figure in the Gaddafi regime, brother-in-law of the Guide, convicted in absentia in 1999 in the UTA DC10 bombing case (September 19, 1989, 170 dead), was at the center of negotiations with Sarkozy's team for the alleged financing of his 2007 campaign. The book shed additional light on the trial of the former president and three of his former ministers, which took place from January to April.

Some of the previously unpublished documents revealed in the book related to the preparations for the UTA DC-10 bombing, but also to the bombing of the Pan Am flight over Lockerbie (Scotland) on December 21, 1988 (270 dead). Following a request from the families of the victims of the UTA DC-10 and their lawyers, the National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor reopened the investigation into this case, based on new information mentioned in the book, including the possible role of a Libyan bomb maker named Masud. However, this former Libyan secret service agent, extradited to the United States at the end of 2022, had incriminated himself as the bomb maker in the 1988 Pan Am bombing and also in the bombing of the La Belle nightclub on April 5, 1986 (3 dead, more than 100 wounded). His trial in the Pan Am case is currently being prepared in the United States. It was due to start last May, but has been postponed in recent days to April 20, 2026, due to the complexity of the case and new evidence coming to light. US prosecutors are working closely with the Scottish judicial authorities. The latter, keenly interested in the documents revealed in our book, requested some of them and interviewed us at length in the spring. Our Libyan co-author, the original source of the documents in question, was

arrested a few weeks ago in Libya and remains under investigation. We have called, along with our publisher, for the charges against him to be dropped.

The latest twist in the case came in recent weeks, when we received new information and previously unpublished documents relating to the testimony of a former Libyan agent who was convicted in Germany in the La Belle case and who, after his release from prison, revealed to American documentary filmmaker Ken Dornstein, whose brother died in the Pan Am bombing, including information about the identity and background of the bomb maker Masud, who had come to Berlin a few days before the La Belle attack. Ken Dornstein had cross-checked his identity with that of the same man who had come to Malta just before the suitcase bomb was loaded onto the plane from that island and went on to destroy the Pan Am flight. It was this lead to Masud that enabled the Americans to locate him before securing his extradition. To this end, between 2013 and 2015, they conducted lengthy interviews with former terrorist Musbah Eter, who had repented, about everything he knew about the Libyan attacks. And he knew a lot, whether it was about men like Senoussi, Masud, and many others, or about the plans, debriefing meetings, and the attacks on Pan Am, UTA, and La Belle!

Curiously, these hearings, conducted in Berlin before German and American magistrates, were never made public, nor were they even forwarded to all the relevant authorities. We have obtained copies of these testimonies and are revealing some enlightening passages in Médiapart dated June 17. They enrich and complement the documents from the Senoussi archives that form the basis of our book. This just goes to show that an investigation is never completely finished. It continues.