

Uzbekistan Rescue

In 2018 Danny May with Nick Tsiakais were sent by the S.G.L. to Uzbekistan. Their mission was to find Jack Levinson, an S.G.L. researcher. Jack had been covering a story for the library when he was arrested in Samarkand by local police. The police thought he was asking too many questions. They feared he may have been from the C.I.A.. In Uzbekistan there happened to be a lot of intrigue by agencies from around the world.

Jack had been interviewing several men in the city of Samarkand about their possible Stavrosian connections. Interviews took two days to process then sent off to the library. By now he was drawing attention from locals. The next day as Jack was having breakfast in his hotel Turon, the police approached him asking him his name. When they heard "Levinson" the police took him into custody.

Jack was taken to a police station where they asked him many questions for several hours. Later, another man came into the interrogation room. The man was well dressed in western type clothing. Jack noticed the man was wearing tennis shoes which was strange footwear for this region of the world.

The police put Jack in the back of a van taking him to another location. He was taken into an office building. He was told this was the city of Navoiy. By now they figured out he was not C.I.A., so now they wanted to know just who he was and what he was doing in Uzbekistan. Jack knew he was in for a rough time with the last name of Levinson. He knew he could not reveal his mission or who he was.

For ten days they asked. Jack couldn't say anything. He was roughed up as well as beaten several times. Each time, Jack kept his secret. He knew he wouldn't tell, he couldn't tell, it could be disastrous. Jack didn't know who these people were; they had no markings on their clothing to show who or what they were. The man in the tennis shoes would leave the room before each beating took place. Then he would return to ask more questions. Jack later said he thought he was going to die there. He was ready to do just that before he told them anything at all.

Jack was now overdue returning home to Berlin. It was now obvious that he was in some kind of trouble. The S.G.L. put a plan in place to recover Jack Levinson. It took two weeks for the S.G.L. to find the location Jack was being held in. Agent Danny May and Nick Tsakais were the two S.G.L. men sent to find Jack. Dressed in local clothing to stay out of sight, the two men searched until they found a lead in Jack's disappearance. They learned that Jack had been taken from Samarkand to the city of Navoiy.

Once in Navoiy, they surveilled the police station to find that Jack was being held in an office next to the station. After looking everything over, they came up with a plan to get Jack out of Uzbekistan. The plan was simple: just start a fire behind the jail and office. When the police came running out with prisoners, they would start a fight to distract the guards. Nick had a car waiting down the street about half a block. Danny would grab Jack then take him down the street to the car. Jack made his way through the crowd of people fighting in the street. Once in the car they drove off to Turkmenistan crossing into the city of Ashgabat. Here, the men were able to get a train to Turkey. From there, they hopped a plane to Hamburg, Germany. They were picked up by the S.G.L. for a short trip to Berlin.

Jack recovered from his injuries by the Uzbekistan police and the man in the tennis shoes. Six months later, Jack is back on the job. Jack's report to the S.G.L. was entered into the list of Stavrosian stories recorded by the library of research materials for future use in Cross Match / Cross reference in recovering other lost Stavrosians.

Report sent in by Jack Levinson
June 12 – 2021
Nick Tsakais, S.G.L. 2021