

Investigation on the death of Roger ‘Nzoy’ Wilhelm

Preliminary elements of analysis

10 November 2023

Border Forensics is a research and investigation agency based in Geneva. We develop advanced methods of visual, geospatial and open-source investigation to document various forms of violence linked to the existence and the control of borders, whether social or state. In collaboration with various affected people and civil society organisations, we produce reports, maps, video reconstitutions and various 3D visualisations to support demands for truth and justice.

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CONTEXT

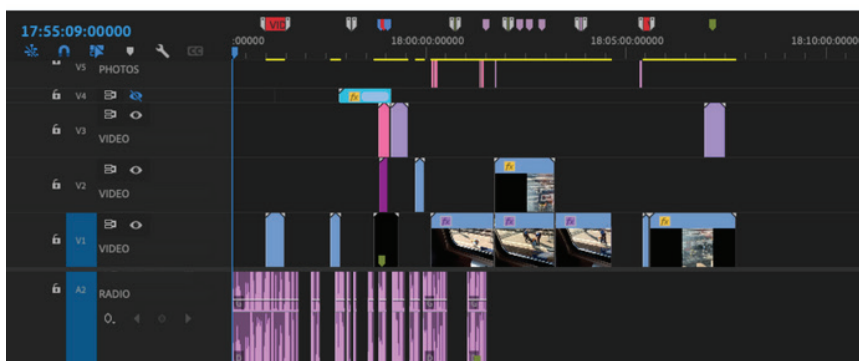
On the 30th of August 2021, Roger ‘Nzoy’ Wilhelm, a 37-year-old Swiss man from the region of Zurich and of South African descent died at the train station in Morges after a police officer shot him three times.

At the behest of the family of Roger ‘Nzoy’ Wilhelm, and in collaboration with the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Death of Roger Nzoy Wilhelm, Border Forensics is leading an investigation to reconstitute the events of the 30th August 2021 and to precisely analyse the acts of all people involved.

INVESTIGATION METHODOLOGY

Based on the file from the Public Prosecutor’s office which Roger ‘Nzoy’ Wilhelm’s family had access to, we organised and analysed videos from witnesses, the recordings of police audio communications which were provided, and the minutes of hearings of the involved police officers and of various witnesses. We then mobilised spatial and visual analysis methods to match these elements of proof and analyse the sequence of events.

Based on the metadata from audio, videos and recordings – when they were available – we were able to precisely place in time all the data – except two videos which were devoid of metadata. Placed together in an editing software, this enabled us to have a coherent and detailed vision of the sequence of events in space and time to start a precise analysis of the acts of each person involved.



Border Forensics, Timeline extract, Adobe Premiere, Screenshot, November 2023.

PRELIMINARY ELEMENTS OF ANALYSIS

While our investigation is still ongoing, and in the context where the Public Prosecutor's office of the Canton of Vaud has announced its intent to issue a dismissal order and a non-proceeding order, we publish a preliminary analysis of some of the facts.

The analysed sequence takes place on August 30th 2021 at Morges train station, between 17:59:02, when Roger 'Nzoy' Wilhelm falls to the ground after the third shot, and 18:07:45, at the end of the audio and video data which figured in the file which Roger 'Nzoy' Wilhelm's family had access to.

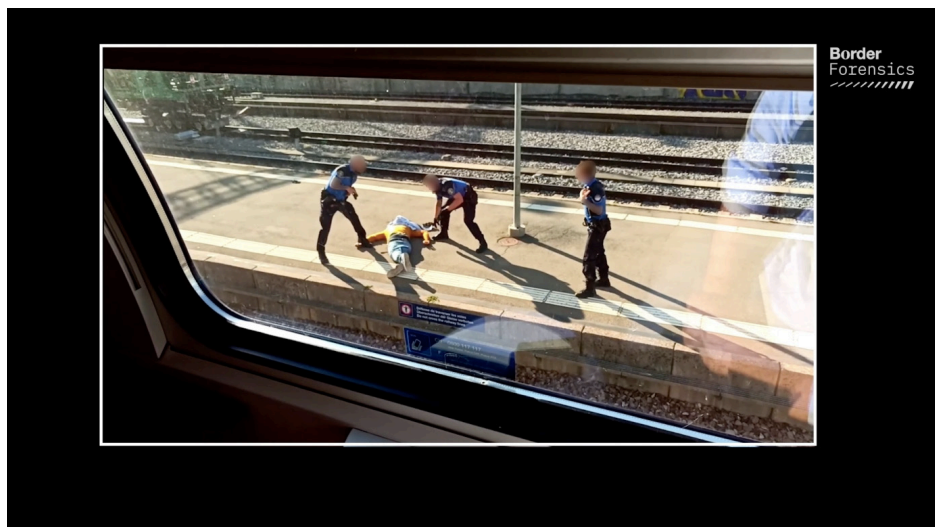
Our preliminary analysis shows three main elements:

1. During the 6:30 minutes elapsed between the 3rd shot and the first medical assistance provided by a nurse who was a witness to the scene, Roger 'Nzoy' Wilhelm, lying on the ground and evidently wounded by gunshot, made various respiratory movements. Police officers noticed some of these movements.



Border Forensics, Video on the element of preliminary analysis, Respiratory Movements, Screen-shot, November 2023.

2. During the analysed sequence, and while Roger 'Nzoy' Wilhelm did not appear to pose a threat, and above all was evidently injured by a gunshot, the officers prioritise security handlings, such as a safety search and handcuffing behind the back.



Border Forensics, Video on the element of preliminary analysis, Security handlings, Screenshot, November 2023.



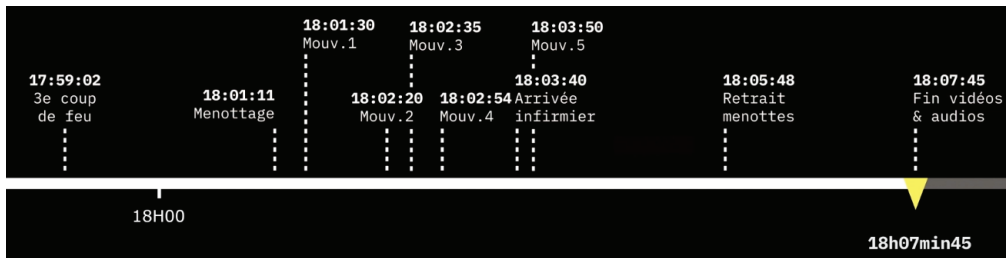
Border Forensics, Video on the element of preliminary analysis, Handcuffing, Screenshot, November 2023.

3. Even though the 4 officers had undergone BLS-AED first aid training, they did not undertake any rescue and resuscitation measures until the arrival of a nurse who witnessed the scene.



Border Forensics, Video on the element of preliminary analysis, CPR from the nurse witness to the scene, Screenshot, November 2023.

All the preliminary elements of analysis are detailed in a video that we produced for this occasion. Below we reproduce the timings of different events that took place during the analysed sequence.



Border Forensics, Video on the element of preliminary analysis, Timeline, Screenshot, November 2023.

