

## 09-01-2011 France – Kahled Bentabet - LEO PSD Evidence Recovery Lost

### Kahled "Ben" Bentabet

Aged 44, experienced police diver with the Coastal and River Section, part of a team searching a 2.7 kilometre tunnel section of the 10 metre diameter EDF canal between the river Durance and Mees for a handgun, 20 minutes into the dive lost buddy line to partner, disappeared. Body finally located a week later. May have been sucked into a side tunnel. Married with a 7 year old son. Reported by ALPES1, Provence, etc.

<http://www.thediversassociation.com/index.php/sheets>

### Original:

#### **L'ultime et solennel hommage à l'adjudant Khaled Bentabet**

<http://www.maritima.info/actualites/faits-divers/martigues/3359/l-ultime-et-solennel-hommage-a-l-adjudant-khaled-bentabet.html>

04/09/2012 R.Chape

**Disparu le 1er septembre dernier en mission dans le canal EDF de la Durance lors d'une enquête judiciaire initiée par la gendarmerie de Digne, le plongeur martégal de la gendarmerie Khaled Bentabet recevait samedi les honneurs du ministère de l'Intérieur.**



La cérémonie réunissait famille, camarades, ainsi que représentants d'autorités civiles et militaires du département et de la région sur les lieux du drame. Tous ont pu écouter le discours de Claude Guéant (Ministre de l'Intérieur lors de l'accident), rappelant les qualités tant humaines que professionnelles de Khaled Bentabet. *"Ses chefs soulignent sa rigueur, sa grande solidité psychologique et son excellent état d'esprit. Ses camarades se souviennent d'un marin au grand coeur, impressionnant par sa forme physique et ses tatouages, mais surtout caractérisé par son humour et sa grande générosité"*. S'associant à la peine de ses proches, et saluant l'engagement des équipes de secours lors de l'intervention, le Ministre a ensuite promu Khaled Bentabet au grade d'adjudant, l'a cité à l'ordre du mérite et lui a remis la médaille militaire en "reconnaissance de son sacrifice pour la nation." Les représentants de la mairie des Mées, de la brigade nautique de Martigues, de la

Région de gendarmerie de Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur et de la Préfecture ont ensuite déposé une gerbe, avant que ne soit respectée une minute de silence.

**Translated:**

## **The ultimate and solemn tribute to Warrant Officer Khaled Bentabet**

**Disappeared on September 1st mission in the EDF canal of the Durance in a criminal investigation initiated by the gendarmerie of Digne, the native of Martigues diver gendarmerie Khaled Bentabet Saturday received the honors of the Interior Ministry.**

The ceremony attended by family, friends and representatives of civil and military authorities of the department and the region on the scene. All were listening to the speech of Claude Guéant (Interior Minister during the accident), recalling the human and professional qualities of Khaled Bentabet.

*"Its leaders emphasize rigor, high strength and excellent psychological state of mind. His classmates remember a sailor big heart, impressive by its physical form and his tattoos, but mostly characterized by humor and generosity".*

Echoing the pain of his relatives, and welcoming the commitment of the rescue teams during the intervention, the Minister Khaled Bentabet then promoted to warrant officer, was quoted in the order of merit and handed him the military medal in "recognition of his sacrifice for the nation."

The representatives of the municipality of Mees, Boating brigade Martigues, gendarmerie Region Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur and the Prefecture have then laid a wreath before being respected a minute of silence.

## **Translated: The interventions of the Minister**

<https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Archives/Archives-ministre-de-l-interieur/Archives-Claude-Gueant-2011-2012/Les-interventions-du-Ministre/10.09.2011-Ceremonie-d-obseques-du-marechal-des-logis-chef-Khaled-BENTABET&prev=search>

### **10.09.2011 - Funeral Ceremony sergeant chief Khaled Bentabet**

September 10, 2011

**Mr Claude GUEANT**, Minister of the Interior, Overseas, Local Authorities and Immigration - Marseille

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are here today to make a last and solemn tribute to the sergeant chief Khaled Bentabet [pronounce Ralèd Bèntabais], disappeared on September 1st.

The leader Khaled Bentabet died in mission.

He died doing his duty.

He died in the service of this e Franc that, as policeman, he chose to devote his life.

His death, of course, upsets us and I wanted to come this morning to support you in this painful time, you see your relatives and friends and, as such, feel stronger than any other the void left by his death.

But beyond this legitimate grief, the death of the chief Khaled Bentabet sergeant takes on another dimension.

It reminds us, in fact, the greatness and dignity of Constable commitment sometimes demands of these soldiers they sacrifice their lives to their duty.

*The leader Khaled Bentabet sergeant died while conducting a diving operation to search for a nearby weapon of the underwater channel feeding an electricity plant.*

I would like to have here a special thought for Benedict GALLARDO gendarme who accompanied the Bentabet leader in this dive. I can only imagine the trauma that had to be for him these days: anxiety, first, to find broken the lifeline of his comrade, hope that diminish as runs out of air reserves, the painful uncertainty of long research to find the body and finally the grief of loss. In this test, I mean my support.

I would like also to salute the remarkable work of the rescue teams. They have, throughout this trying week sought the chief Khaled Bentabet in extremely difficult conditions:

- technically challenging course in this channel where the total lack of visibility and precipitation occurred last weekend on the region have imposed draconian security measures to prevent further accidents;
- morally difficult, too, so it's not just a man but a comrade who was the subject of research.

These difficulties, divers of the National Gendarmerie and civil security, supported by EDF and a specialized private company pitted their solidarity. Of course, their efforts have been made to the family of the head Bentabet reassurance of a return, but they put an end to the uncertainty and made possible the work of mourning.

*Before these rescue teams, before military Boating brigade Martigues and to all his family, I would like to pay tribute to the career and the person of the chief Khaled Bentabet sergeant.*

This is very young, at 21, Khaled Bentabet made the choice to serve his fellow citizens.

Student Constable in Chatellerault, he chose at the end of his schooling, serve the intervention platoon of the squadron of Bordeaux where he stayed eight years.

Named on the Mediterranean coast in Sainte-Maxime and Fos-sur-Mer, he obtained in 2000 his degree and scuba diver share in 2003 to four years for his skills to our compatriots in ultramarine French Polynesia. It is there that he will meet you, Shane. In the grief that is yours today, while the fate deprives you of this adoptive father who loved you so much, I want to tell you that this is the entire nation which now sees you as his son and committed to watch over you.

Back in France, Martigues, he was regarded by all his comrades as his superiors, as a particularly skilled and experienced diver investigator.

In addition to his professional qualities, the sergeant chief Khaled Bentabet was known by his peers for his human qualities.

Its leaders and emphasize its professional rigor, high strength and excellent psychological state of mind.

His comrades, themselves, remember a sailor with a big heart, the first impressive first because of his fitness and his tattoos but ultimately especially characterized by humor and generosity.

All recall the passion with which he plied his trade.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

France mourns with you today one of his servants. For my mouth, it is the whole nation that expresses its deep support in the event that you cross.

Marshal Chief Khaled Bentabet home, we respectfully bow before you.

In recognition of your sacrifice, you are promoted to warrant officer and cited in the order of the gendarmerie.

The military medal that I now remind you received your membership in the military community and the value of your merits. The esteem and recognition of the national gendarmerie are you ever acquired.

Warrant Officer Khaled Bentabet, rest in peace.