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

Kahled “Ben” Bentabet
http://www.thediversassociation.com/index.php/sheets

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.

Translated: The interventions of the Minister

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.

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.

Original:
L'ultime et solennel hommage à l'adjudant Khaled Bentabet
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 cœur, 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.

**The nation has greeted Constable Khaled Bentabet**

September 12, 2011

Yesterday, the Minister of the Interior posthumously promoted the missing military. "Through my mouth, it is the Nation as a whole that expresses its deep
support" concluded Claude Guéant, before going to greet the family of the Maréchal des Logis-
chef Khaled Bentabet, his son, 7 years old, his relatives and his teammates. Sober, dignified, collected and for these three reasons very moving: such was the tone of this ceremony of funeral, organized yesterday morning under a blazing sun at the gendarmerie barracks of the Timone in Marseille.

Welcomed by the gendarmerie fanfare and bikers in ceremonial dress, the Minister of the Interior presided over the ceremony. Come to Marseilles, "to support the relatives and comrades of the deceased", Claude Guéant stressed that beyond sorrow, these funeral recalled the "great sacrifice" that the gendarmes agree to their country. Khaled Bentabet, 44, belonged to the Martigues Coastal and Fluvial Mixed Brigade (BMCF).

This autonomous diver of the gendarmerie disappeared tragically on September 1st during a mission in the channel of the Mées in the Alps. After intense and difficult research, his body was found last Tuesday.

Deeply shocked by this tragedy, the brigade in full force yesterday paid homage to their comrade. Several elected representatives including UMP representatives Renaud Muselier, Valérie Boyer, Jean Roatta and Guy Teissier, and Martigues Mayor (PCF) Gaby Charroux and Regional Councilor Nathalie Lefèvre attended the ceremony.

Born on July 23, 1967 in Algeria, Khaled Bentabet joined the gendarmerie corps in 1988. An autonomous diver since 1998, "Ben", as his friends affectionately called him, had successfully followed the various courses related to his specialty. His qualification as a water investigation technician (TIS) led him to operate to a depth of 60 meters.

Trained in the most difficult missions, he had several thousand dives to his credit. Highly esteemed in the brigade, he leaves his comrades the memory of a great professional, but also a man endearing, generous, full of humor and good humor. If he loved his work, Khaled Bentabet especially devoted an unlimited love to his son Shan.

"Professional rigor, psychological strength, excellent state of mind": as many human and professional qualities that the Minister of the Interior underlined yesterday. After standing in front of the deceased's coffin, Claude Guéant promoted Khaled Bentabet to the rank of adjutant and awarded him the military medal and
his citation to the Order of the Gendarmerie. Interment was scheduled in the afternoon at the Muslim square of Fos-sur-Mer.

**Les Mées: EDF implicated in the death of a policeman in the Provence canal**


14/04/2018 Par Jérémy Michaudet

More than six years after the death in intervention of a diver of the gendarmerie in the channel of Provence, a judge of instruction decides to send back EDF in correctional

The gendarmerie diver, Khaled Bentabet, participated in an operation as part of a judicial investigation

The preliminary investigation was dismissed after the death, in 2011, of a diver of the gendarmerie in the channel of the Durance, Mées. A channel operated by Électricité de France (EDF). But on August 27, 2014, the widow of the soldier, (through his lawyer Me Emmanuel Molina) filed a complaint. The magistrate of Digne-les-Bains, Véronique Guetat, is seized by the Public Prosecutor. The judicial information will last more than two years. On April 5, the judge decided to send the company EDF correctional manslaughter, in accordance with requisitions of the prosecution.

On 1 September 2011, two gendarmes from the Martigues Coastal and Fluvial Combined Brigade (BMCF) dive into the canal 12 meters deep to find a handgun. A
weapon discovered, two days earlier, by a diver from a private company during a maintenance mission, near an underwater tunnel.

The EDF Oraison plant, located downstream of the intervention zone, is at a standstill. The gendarmes observe a slight current on the surface. Underwater, visibility is almost zero. The EDF official who comes on the scene authorizes diving.

The marshal of the head-quarters, Khaled Bentabet, 44 years old, plunges with his partner, around 11 o'clock. Once on the surface, the latter observes bubbles in the middle of the canal. The chief of marshal, Khaled Bentabet, disappears suddenly.

His duo dives to try to rescue him and lacks to be sucked into the underwater tunnel, 2.7 km long and about ten meters wide. The current is then much larger than expected.

The body of the diver is discovered six days later

The rescue operations will last several days. Many gendarmes, firefighters and speleologists are mobilized to find the missing diver. The dead body of the gendarme is discovered on 7 September, on the other side of the tunnel, more than 3 km from the place where the accident occurred.

The autopsy reveals that the chief of marshal, Khaled Bentabet, died drowned.

According to our information, the investigation ruled out improper handling or equipment failure used by the deceased Constable.

Have the security measures been respected?

Has EDF sufficiently assessed the risks associated with the strong current observed on

The military honors had been rendered on September 10, 2011, in Marseille, in the presence of the then Minister of the Interior, Claude Guéan
the day of the tragedy?

"Expertises and careful work of investigation have shown serious and concordant elements, justifying the indictment and remand into the EDF legal person," said a source close to the investigation. "At the end of a process that is all the more painful because the truth was first confiscated from the victims by a summary investigation, the investigations that we had asked the investigating judge and the judicial experts who did a remarkable job, have finally established the truth of multiple negligence and particularly serious, "says Me Emmanuel Molina, Marseille lawyer of the family of the victim.

"It is now up to justice to appreciate the faults attributed to EDF and to draw the consequences of the death thus caused, as I claim from the beginning," says Molina.

The company EDF did not wish to comment, indicating - through the voice of his lawyer Marseille, Christophe Bass - that she reserved her observations for justice.

The military honors were given to Khaled Bentabet on September 10, 2011 at the Timone gendarmerie barracks in Marseille in the presence of his wife and their son, now 13 years old. The then Minister of the Interior, Claude Guéant, praised the memory of a "competent and experienced" soldier who counted several thousand dives under his belt.

Cited to the order of the gendarmerie and decorated with the military medal, the chief sergeant had been raised posthumously to the rank of adjutant.

The prosecutor's office of Digne-les-Bains, confirms the referral to the criminal court of Digne-les-Bains of the company EDF, as a "legal person", stating "that the date of the trial is not yet fixed."

**EDF sent to court for "manslaughter" of a gendarme in Provence**


14.04.2018

**The electrician is sent back to the Digne-les-Bains Criminal Court for manslaughter in 2011 of a gendarmerie diver in a canal that the group was exploiting.**

On September 1, 2011, two gendarmes of the mixed coastal and river brigade (BMCF) of Martigues plunged into the Durance canal at Les Méès (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence), 12 meters deep, to find a handgun discovered two days earlier by another diver in a maintenance mission.

An EDF official present at the scene authorized the dive. The downstream EDF factory in Oraison was at a standstill, but chief marshal Khaled Bentabet had
disappeared, no doubt sucked into the 2.7 km long submarine tunnel and ten meters in the immediate vicinity of the dive site.

Six days later, his body was found on the other side of the tunnel, more than 3 km away.

"Multiple negligence" according to the prosecution

The preliminary investigation into this death was dismissed, but the soldier's widow filed a complaint in August 2014.

On April 5, the examining magistrate Véronique Guetat decided to dismiss the EDF group as a legal entity, following the prosecution's requisitions, according to a judicial source.

"The investigations that we had asked the investigating judge and legal experts, who did a remarkable job, ended up establishing the truth of multiple negligence and particularly serious," says Emmanuel Molina, the Marseille lawyer of the family of the victim. "It is now up to justice to assess the mistakes attributed to EDF," he adds.

EDF did not wish to comment, saying through his lawyer Christophe Bass that she reserved her observations for justice.

Digne-les-Bains: EDF summoned by justice for the death of a policeman


April 17, 2018

Six years after the death of a gendarmerie diver in the Durance canal, an examining magistrate has just sent EDF to the Digne-les-Bains Criminal Court for "manslaughter".

EDF will be summoned by the courts for "manslaughter", after the death of a diver policeman in 2011 in the Durance canal, operated by the electricity group.
Examining magistrate Véronique Guéta decided to send EDF to the Digne-les-Bains Criminal Court as a legal person.
The judge followed the prosecution's submissions.

According to Emmanuel Molina, the lawyer of the victim's family, "the investigations (...) ended up establishing the truth of multiple and particularly serious negligence".

A case closed without further action
The facts go back to September 1st, 2011. Two gendarmes of the mixed coastal and fluvial brigade (BMCF) of Martigues are called to dive in the channel of the Durance, at the level of the Mées in the Alpes de Haute-Provence. A handgun was reported 12 meters deep by a diver during a maintenance mission.

An EDF official who operates the canal, authorizes diving. Downstream, the EDF plant in Oraison is at a standstill.

Master Marshal Khaled Bentabet plunges with his buddy, but disappears. His body will be found six days later more than 3 km away, on the other side of a submarine tunnel that was near the diving site.

The preliminary inquiry opened after this death had been dismissed, but the soldier's widow had filed a complaint in August 2014.
The Criminal Court of Digne-les-Bains, which takes over the case, will have in its file the new elements of the latest investigations.

According to the lawyer of the victim's family, "it is now up to the courts to assess the faults attributed to EDF".

For its part, EDF did not wish to comment. His lawyer Christophe Bass said however that the group reserved his observations for justice.