

Hanuš Bohman

UČO: 392 964

People of the State of California
vs.
Orenthal James Simpson

Orenthal James "O. J." Simpson is a retired successful player of NFL and occasional actor. In 1994 he was charged with the brutal murder of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her lover Ron Goldman. His case ran from December 1994 to October 1995 and was the most hyped case in U.S. history. Media called this case as a "Trial of the Century." Society was also divided into two parties when most of white community believed OJ's guilt and the most of black community was assumed it was a racist plot.

Nicole Simpson and her lover Ron Goldman were murdered at night on the 12th June 1994 front of Nicole's house in Los Angeles. Their bodies were found by neighbours. On the scene were found plenty of evidence, including the OJ' fingerprints, DNA evidence and footprints. He was arrested after a wild chase with police in a car with his friend Al Crowling, which was forced to drive by using a gun. This was never been solved.

The case of murder officially called the People of the State of California vs. Orenthal James Simpson began on 2nd November 1994 at Superior Court of California in Los Angeles. The process was the longest in U.S. history, which was probably caused by the influence of the media.

Apart from presenting other evidence were dozens of witness statements and phone records, among them the ones where Nicole calls to the emergency line she fears attack by her ex-husband. With his money Simpson could hire a high-profile defense team. They managed to convince the jury about doubts of DNA evidence (at that time a relatively new method) and bring down the proof in their eyes to the level of blood groups, which can be replaceable. They also accused the investigating police officer of racism, when records with several times used the word „nigger“ were presented. Prosecutor assumed the jury composed of the highest rates of black women will be critical to the murder of ex-wife. But OJ's advocates could make racist plot of the whole case and did not hesitate to justify obvious murder by pointing to hundreds of years of oppression the black community. At 10 am on 3rd October 1995 the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Later, Families of Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman Sued Simpson for damages in a civil trial. On 6th February 1997 in civil proceeding was O.J.Simpson found guilty of the death of Nicole and Ronald. Based on this verdict he was ordered to pay compensation to the families of "only" \$ 33.5 million.

In my opinion this case is a typical example that law and justice not always stay on the same side.