

**In the matter of an investigation into the death of
Mr Muhammad Abdul Ridha Salim**

Inspector: Sir George Newman

Public Statement dated 13 July 2015

I was appointed on 28 May 2015 to carry out an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Muhammad Abdul Ridha Salim. Since that date I have established a team comprising two barristers, namely Sarah Ramsey and Julia Lewis, and Ben Dustin as paralegal is continuing his service to the IFI.

The investigation is into the circumstances in which Mr Salim was shot by a British soldier on 5 November 2003. As is well known, the cases falling for consideration by the IFI are those where the Secretary of State, in company with the Service Prosecuting Authority, has concluded that no criminal prosecution is likely.

There are a number of statements which I must obtain from witnesses. I have commenced the process of interviewing witnesses and my team has made contact with all those likely to be able to give material help to the investigation.

I have had delivered to me all the documents relevant to the investigation carried out by the Iraq Historic Allegations Team (IHAT) which include documents which have come from the Ministry of Defence. Public Interest Lawyers (PIL) have responded to my request for disclosure of any documents that they have.

In the next week or so, I expect to be in a position where I have a detailed picture and narrative of the events from military witnesses. I am about to embark upon the process of making contact with the widow of Mr Salim, Ms Fatima Zaboun Dahesh, and all the other witnesses in Iraq whom I believe it necessary to contact, which step I propose to take with the assistance of the Iraqi law firm QC Law.

At an early date, once contact has been made on my behalf with the widow of Mr Salim and the witnesses in Iraq, I should be able to give a summary and report of the

facts as they have been given to me, and I shall invite witnesses in Iraq to provide me with their account and indicate, with the assistance of a lawyer from QC Law, any lines of inquiry which they wish me to take up.

SIR GEORGE NEWMAN