



10 September 2013

Further investigation into death of Baha Mousa

Ten years since the death of Baha Mousa, the decision to further investigate the circumstances surrounding his arrest and detention by British soldiers deployed in the Iraq conflict is announced today. The hotel receptionist was arrested, detained and interrogated along with nine others in September 2003.

The Iraq Historic Allegations Team (IHAT), which is responsible for reviewing and investigating allegations of serious historic abuse, has completed a pre-investigative assessment of the available evidence and will, with the specialist guidance of the Service Prosecuting Authority (SPA), work to establish and pursue new lines of enquiry.

The SPA is a key partner of IHAT and its specialist lawyers advise investigators working on all the allegations of serious historic abuse within the team's remit.

Mark Warwick, Head of IHAT, said: "The death of Baha Mousa and the serious abuse against his fellow detainees shocked people across the world and the subsequent investigations and inquiries sought to establish what happened and who was responsible.

"Building on the work of these earlier inquiries, IHAT's initial assessment has identified a number of lines of enquiry which we believe warrant further attention and to which a dedicated team of investigators will be assigned."

The Director of Service Prosecutions, Bruce Houlder QC, said: "A specialist SPA prosecutor has been involved from the start of the pre-investigative assessment of the Baha Mousa case. This has allowed us to build the best possible understanding of what is a very complex case and to give guidance proactively to IHAT on investigative strategy."

Mr Warwick recognised the announcement is likely to cause concern amongst those involved, saying: "We realise that the news of another investigation so long after the event will be difficult for the victims, their families and the soldiers concerned. I would like to offer reassurance that both IHAT and the SPA will do all we can to ensure the investigation proceeds quickly and efficiently."

Should anyone wish to contact the team with information that could assist with their enquiries they are encouraged to telephone 07717 484811.