



MOD-83-0000270-A

Name of witness: Ahmad Ibrahim Shouh

Statement number:

Date:

Investigation in the death of Muhammad Abderridha Salim

Witness Statement

Ahmad Ibrahim Shouh

I, Ahmad Ibrahim Shouh will say as follows:-

1. I give this statement for the purpose of the investigation in the death of Muhammad Abderridha Salim by British forces in Basra, Iraq.
2. I am an Iraqi citizen born in [REDACTED]. I am a freelance worker. I was asked to present a statement stating what I can remember of the incident that resulted in the death of Muhammad Abderridha Salim.
3. On the day of 5/11/2003 in the afternoon, I was contacted by Mahmoud Zabooun (my uncle) who told me that his house had been assaulted by the family of Albeidhani and that he had got a rifle from my other uncle but it was one which had no stock. He asked me if I could get him one, but I did not have what he asked me for.
4. Concerned about my uncle Mahmoud Zaboun, I headed to his house. I cannot remember the time I got there. However, it was after breaking the fast that I got there and found Mahmoud Zabooun, his wife Mrs Intesar Abdallah and Muhammad Abderridha Salim, the victim.

5. Sitting in the small ground-floor hall of the house eating fruit and watching TV at around 11:30 pm we heard a bang like a bomb, which made me think that Albeidhani family returned for another attack.

6. Then, and in order to see what was going on, I ascended the upper flight of stairs, and being light of weight and agile at the time, I was the first to reach the upper flight followed by Muhammad Abderridha Salim. On the flight of stairs I found a rifle which I picked up. Seconds later and upon hearing shouting and screaming from downstairs Muhammad Abderridha Salim ran down crying to me 'Ahmad, they are British soldiers.' At that stage, I dropped the rifle on the flight of stairs in fear and confusion. Then I heard a round fired and saw Muhammad Abderridha Salim lying on the stairs even though Muhammad was not carrying any weapon in his hands. The stairs being located in front of the door through which the killer soldier came in, the latter was surprised by Muhammad Abderridha Salim and he fired at him.

7. At that stage the soldiers started shouting. They asked me to come down, but I froze in confusion lifting my hands up. The a soldier assaulted me. He beat me with his hand while bringing me down. He sat me beside Muhammad on the stairs. I began to ask the soldiers (by signalling as I do not speak English) to aid Muhammad Abderridha Salim. Instead, they were beating me with the stock of their rifles. One of them put his feet on my head and pointed his gun to my head.

8. Dragged and left two metres away from the stairs where Muhammad Abderridha Salim was lying in the same hall (I mean the hall where we were sitting and eating fruit prior to the attack of the British soldiers), they threw me as well as Mahmoud Zaboon on the floor facing down with our hands to our backs. Mahmoud began to talk to me but the soldiers refused that. They started beating me to make me shut up. A while later Mahmoud Zaboon and I were taken outside of the house and made to squat facing the wall (the outside enclosure) cuffed up by plastic bands. After about half an hour we were returned to the sitting room in the house.

9. While in the sitting room after that, the interpreter came and asked who was the husband of Mrs Intesar Abdallah so that he would come and help her as she fell unconscious. As my uncle Mr. Mahmoud Zaboon rose to rescue his wife, the British soldier refused that. They signalled to me to go to her. As I headed to the kitchen (where Intesar Abdallah was) I saw that Muhammad Abderridha Salim was still lying on the floor and that he had had no aid yet. After helping Intesar regain her consciousness I was returned to the sitting room.

10. Muhammad Abderridha Salim had first aid then and was taken to the Czech Hospital. It was 3-4 hours between the time Muhammad was injured and the time he was taken to hospital.

11. Shortly after moving Muhammad Abderridha Salim, the soldiers apologised to us and made us understand that they made a mistake before and then they left the place. I went with the other members of the family to the Czech hospital to check on Muhammad Abderridha Salim, but the soldiers who had been there did not allow us to, so I returned home.

Statement of truth

I believe that the facts mentioned in this statement are true.

Signed: Ahmad Ibrahim Shouh

Date: 20/11/2015