



MOD-83-0000473-A

RESTRICTED

Statement of: **SO74**

Form MG11(T)

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WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: **SO74**

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation:

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:

Date: 12/11/2015

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am the above named person, in relation to the statement that I made on 21 January 2015 I have been asked if I spoke to **SO73** or **SO73** on that day. I do recall speaking to **SO73** but I believe it must have been before I made my statement as I remember talking to him on the phone and he mentioned that he was also being interviewed that same day.

I also recall speaking to **SO73** at a mess function in Bovington. He informed me that he had been approached by IHAT but that he was was not going to help them. I told him that I had already made a statement but did not discuss my statement with him. I never rated **SO73** professionally and my opinion of him was that he always had something to say for himself.

I cannot remember the exact day that we as a Squadron moved into the Naval Base as my military life is divided into blocks and I have been on several other deployments since 2003. It is also difficult to remember when I first met Mr ABDULLAH at the dockside and in what circumstances. I was out on patrol at the time and recall meeting him and asking him what he was doing. As a result of this meeting I discovered that he was guarding a water pumping station that was supplying water to the local area. I therefore opined that it would be in our interest and also to the local community to look after him. I therefore reported these facts either to Captain **SO73** or the OPS OFFICER and it was decided to maintain a relationship with him as he was doing an important job.

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I visited him most days and if out on patrol I would invariably go to see him. He was supplied with picket posts, wire and also some corrugated metal to secure the area. I believe we got the corrugated metal from a nearby warehouse. I may have given him some other bits and pieces which may have included a switch for a generator. I do recall on one visit I did see a control panel with switches on. We also gave sweets and water out to the children to help win over hearts and minds.

When meeting him I would never be on my own as I had a driver and on some occasions I would have other personnel in my vehicle. There was a booking out procedure where a log was kept to book in/out in addition to the radio logs. This log would assist in establishing when I went out and returned to the camp. When out of camp I would also be in radio contact with the OPS room and if I dismounted from the vehicle at any given time I would let them know. As far as I remember we did not have any personal radios.

Mr ABDULLAH could speak reasonably good English and had some understanding of the language and with the aid of sign language I could have a conversation with him. If I needed to tell a local IRAQ person something I could use him to translate and have used this process in the past. I was known to Mr ABDULLAH as **SO74** or **SO74**. I still do not recall visiting Mr ABDULLAH on the 23 May 2003. Whilst I am not disputing that I went to see him I still believe it was not on that same day it may have been the following day or during that same week. I do not believe that anybody would have been allowed out due to the hostile crowd.

In relation to the incident on the 23 May 2003 I remember that I was in camp not doing much at the time and that when we heard about the incident we all wanted to go down to the docks but were not able to do so. I was definitely in the compound that day when I saw **SO70** and **SO77** after I had heard about the incident. In respect of them both being stinky and wet I would say that upon reflection I cannot say for certainty that they both were and would say on percentages I am only 50% sure.

I do recall that later that day a crowd had gathered at the main gate whom I believed were the family of the boys who were involved in the incident. We were not allowed near the gate and I believe SHQ/Capt **SO76** were dealing with the incident. I did not actually see the crowd because the gates were shut.

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In relation to washing the vehicles I do remember this happening but not on a regular basis. We would use a Gilkes pump that would be taken down to the docks and brought back after use. The other pump that we used at that time was a Grindex submersible. However I cannot recall having to use this type of pump. Although it was not a defined wash down area we used it in particular for the tracked vehicles in preparation for repatriation. I recall that the water at the docks was stinking it had a sulphuric smell to it and I would not intentionally go swimming in there due to the state of the water. I cannot recall seeing any locals swimming in that area or locals fishing. I do not recall seeing a boat named the ALKHANSA on fire or smoke coming from it during my frequent visits to the docks.

I was aware that Black watch were in the area of the docks as there were snipers posted around due to the fact that ISO containers which were used to store armaments were being broken into.

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