



MOD-83-0000423-A

Part 1

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Enter type:

(SDN / ROTI / Contemporaneous Notes / Index of Interview with VIW / Visually Recorded Interview)

Person Interviewed: AUDA, MUNEM

Place of Interview:

Date of interview: 29/05/2003

Time Commenced: 10:23 Time Concluded: 13:18

Duration of Interview:

Audio tape reference nos: 1 of 3 transcripts

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Interviewer(s):

Other Persons Present:

Police Exhibit No:	PGT/1A	Number of Pages:
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Person Speaking	Text
SGT BISKABONE	Okay this is an interview being conducted at sixty one section lines in Iraq ... it's the interview of Munem Auda who is a witness to the alleged manslaughter that occurred on the eight of Ma.. wrong the thirteenth of May zero three ... the time is ten twenty three local time the date is the twenty ninth of May ... persons present are myself Sergeant Biskabone and Sgt Turner of the SIB [REDACTED] if you could introduce yourself please?
INTERPRETER	My name is [REDACTED] I am the interpreter for the army.
SGT BISKABONE	Can you ask him to introduce himself?
INTERPRETER	Can you say you name?
MA	Munem Auda .. Munem Auda.
SGT BISKABONE	Munem Auda ... okay can you explain to Munem what the process what we are going to today we are going to speak to him about the incident concerned and going do that by using the video recorder and the tape recorder that's in the corner?
INTERPRETER	We are going to talk to you now .. and we are going to request from you to tell us in detail about the incident that happened .. and it will be recorded on a video and a

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- tape recorder.
- SGT BISKABONE The little black thing on the window behind you if you can explain to him that's the microphone for the audio there.
- INTERPRETER This here which is the microphone which will take the sound and record it.
- SGT BISKABONE The video camera has a microphone built into it. .. it should pick up anything that we say.
- INTERPRETER The camera has a small microphone and it will record everything you are going to say.
- SGT BISKABONE But I would ask him if he could speak as clearly as possible.
- INTERPRETER So try when you are going to speak is to speak clearly so that it will be recorded properly.
- MA God willing.
- SGT BISKABONE Have you got anything else to add to what I said.
- SGT TURNER No...
- SGT BISKABONE Okay if you can explain to Munem that we are investigating the incident that resulted in the death of Sa'eed Shabram.
- INTERPRETER Now we are investigating in the case which resulted in the death of Sa'eed Shabram.
- SGT BISKABONE On the twenty third of May zero three.
- INTERPRETER The day of twenty third .. of the fifth month [May].
- SGT BISKABONE That was a correction initially on the interview I said the thirteenth of May it was actually the twenty third of May the incident occurred ... okay just a point of law that we need to cover with Munem before we actually get into the interview itself ... when he is giving his account of what actually happened what he saw he needs to avoid talking about things that he has heard from other people ... that is something that we call hearsay ... it has to only be something that he actually witnessed himself that's all we are interested in for this.
- INTERPRETER There is something I mean which will decide our position .. when you talk about the details of the incidence .. talk about the .. talk about the things that you saw only .. don't speak about things for example someone said .. someone said .. clearly and only the details you saw .. only.
- SGT BISKABONE Is he happy with that and does he understand that?
- INTERPRETER Did you understand I mean that thing I told you about ... ?
- MA Yes.
- INTERPRETER And everything will be alright.
- MA Fine.
- SGT BISKABONE Okay what I would like to do ... what I would like Munem to do now before we actually start the interview is give an oath that he is going to tell the truth throughout this interview whatever we ask him we need the truth ... so I want him to take an oath.

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INTERPRETER Now we would like you to say I swear to God the greatest to say the truth and nothing but the truth?

MA I swear to God the greatest to say the truth and nothing but the truth.

SGT BISKABONE Can you just explain to me what he said then.

INTERPRETER Now you swore to say the truth and you must tell us with all honesty ... ?

MA God willing.

INTERPRETER Without anything more or less.

MA God willing.

SGT BISKABONE Can you explain to me in English what he actually said?

INTERPRETER He swears by God that he will tell the truth and nothing but the truth.

SGT BISKABONE Right what I would like to do now is just get a little bit of background information ... you know before we actually get into the interview you know just a few questions about where he lives and stuff like that.

INTERPRETER Now he is going to ask you some .. I mean basic questions .. I mean .. where do live .. your name .. and things like that .. basic information.

SGT BISKABONE So can you just confirm for us where he actually lives?

INTERPRETER Can you clarify to us .. where you live .. your place of living?

MA We live in the Hussein district.. AI-Hayyania .. but we are big family .. and I brought over some items/things and put them with the family of the deceased.

INTERPRETER Basically he lives in the Hussein base in AI-Hayyania but because he has a family he decided to go to the base and took all his things there.

MA We are staying in the houses .. it was empty .. we stayed in the houses .. it is a quite area .. places to live in .. we stayed in one of the houses .. the American [everyone from the allied forces is an American for a person like the subject .. they call everyone an American] armour used to come over every day

INTERPRETER No .. no .. Don't say anything now only where you live.

MA Fine.

INTERPRETER He took all his things and ... because the base was empty and there were a lot of empty houses and he occupied one of the houses at the base.

SGT BISKABONE How long ago was that?

INTERPRETER When did you go and move your things to the base?

MA The first day when it ended .. the business of the army pulling out.. and they said there is a place there .. we moved and we stayed there.

INTERPRETER The first day when all the base was empty they took all their things and went there to the base first day ... And do you remember I mean the date?

MA No .. by God I don't remember.

INTERPRETER He does not remember the exact date.

SGT BISKABONE How long ago though?

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INTERPRETER How long have you been there I mean?
MA About two months .. one month .. two months.
INTERPRETER Almost two months.
SGT TURNER Where is the base . . . I know we obviously know where the base is but for the purposes of the tape?
INTERPRETER Where I mean .. for the purpose of the recording ... ?
MA Yes.
INTERPRETER We want to tell you .. ask you about the place of this base .. you are staying in .. where exactly .. which place .. it's address?
MA The address is .. the Navy Regiment. . . .
INTERPRETER Where .. which area? .
MA The same area where the car picked us from.
INTERPRETER What do they call the area?
MA The Navy.
INTERPRETER No .. the area surrounding it .. what is it called?
MA AI-Jubaila.
INTERPRETER The base is situated in AI-Jubaila area .
SGT BISKABONE Which is in Basra is that correct?
INTERPRETER Which is in Basra yeah.
SGT TURNER What sort of base is it?
INTERPRETER What was in there .. the base?
MA The Navy .. they belong to Army .. the Navy.
INTERPRETER It was a maritime base ... marine base for the navy.
SGT BISKABONE Obviously it is not now it is now deserted and that is why they moved in is that correct?
INTERPRETER Before it was .. of course .. the Navy .. now it is empty?
MA Empty .. they left it.
INTERPRETER It used to be a naval base and now it is empty.
SGT BISKABONE How many other people live on the base similar to what he is doing?
INTERPRETER How many from your group .. from your people .. now they are in the base .. do you think?
MA The ones who are related to us .. five houses .. six .. I mean relatives .. and the rest are families we don't know them.
INTERPRETER Other relatives there are five families who went there to the base the others I don't know about them ... I mean do you know their total .. how many persons .. can you be exact for example how many persons are there .. in your mind?
MA In the same area .. or ... ?
INTERPRETER Yes .. in the same area .. in the base .. how many are there?

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Person Interviewed: ALDA, MUNEM

Form MG15(T)

Page 5 of 18

MA I know many . . .

INTERPRETER I mean one hundred .. two hundred .. three hundred .. how many?

MA No .. less than fifty .. fifty families .. not more than fifty families.

INTERPRETER He thinks that there are about fifty families living at that base now at that base.

SGT BISKABONE Has he got any employment at all?

INTERPRETER Do you work anywhere now .. do you have an employment?

MA No .. by God .. I am [he used a word in Arabic which could mean (odd jobs) .. when there any].

INTERPRETER He have no work ... he have no work.

SGT BISKABONE How does he make a living where does he get money from?

INTERPRETER Fine .. how do you make a living?

MA Before .. before the events I was working as a labourer .. a labourer I mean .. but now there is no work.

INTERPRETER Before the war he was working as a worker and now he has got no job.

SGT BISKABONE So he has no income?

INTERPRETER Yeah.

SGT BISKABONE Okay ... Sa'eed Shabram does he know this person ... or did he know this person?

INTERPRETER Do you know the deceased?

MA We are from the same tribe .. we are relatives .. and he is a relative .. he is my cousin but not my father's brother [he probably means a distant cousin] .. a relative .. from the same tribe .. the same family name.

INTERPRETER He belongs to the same tribe he is a relative but not a near relative.

SGT BISKABONE Right ... so he knows him but not very well?

INTERPRETER You know him but you don't know him very well?

MA No...

INTERPRETER He is not a close relative?

MA No.

INTERPRETER Do you know him very well?

MA My father and his father are cousins .. I mean my father and the boy's father are cousins.

INTERPRETER The dead father and his father are actually cousins.

SGT BISKABONE Right so Sa'eed's father and his father are cousins?

INTERPRETER Yeah.

SGT BISKABONE That is how they are related so does he know Sa'eed ... did he know Sa'eed well or not so well?

INTERPRETER Fine .. your relation with Sa'eed was it well .. or I mean not well?

MA He is my cousin .. daily I mean they come over to us and we go to them .. we are staying together and they sent for us .. they told me why are you living there and

2006/07(1)

RESTRICTED

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you don't have a place .. come over you and your family and stay with us.. we have a place here .. it is a good place to live.

INTERPRETER He said he used to see him every day and sometimes they used to visit each other and in fact Sa'eed Shabram's family told him ... told him and his family to come to the base and live there.

SGT BISKABONE So he does know him quite well?

INTERPRETER You mean you know him very well?

MA Yes .. he is my cousin .. my father and his father are cousins.

INTERPRETER Yes.

SGT BISKABONE Okay for we go into the actual account Phil have you got anything?

SGT TURNER How long is Munem planning to live at the base ... in case we need to get in touch with him in a few months time ... is he likely to stay at the base?

INTERPRETER Fine .. you stay at the base is it going to last.. or later you are going to find a house and move?

MA No .. we will move but the rent is expensive .. we will see what will happen

INTERPRETER I mean for how long I mean how long do you think you are going to stay at the base?

MA It depends .. whenever they are going to tell us to move .. we will move .. at any time.

INTERPRETER He does he not know how long he is going to stay at the base ... he said as long whenever the British army ... forces tell them to move he will move.

SGT BISKABONE Okay what we would like him to do now is just go through the course of events that happened on the day of the incident.

INTERPRETER Now we want to tell us in detail .. slowly .. about the day of the incident and the incident itself . what happened?

MA At the start of the day .. it was on Friday.. we went out me and Sa'eed we have some animals .. we took our animals out.

INTERPRETER It was Friday and we have some sheep and we went myself and Sa'eed Shabram with their sheep.

MA Then the armour [he used the word armour in Arabic .. he means the armoured vehicles] came .. the British .. they said the armour came over .. the armour comes over every day and we have nothing to do with it.. the armour went to the dock/riverbank .. they wash there .. when the armour arrived there .. one soldier came over to us.

INTERPRETER The ... the people told him that the British soldiers have come with their Warriors ... and they used to come and go to the river bank ... and on this day the same happened when a British soldier approached them.

MA When the British soldier came over .. he came over .. there was only me and Sa'eed standing there .. no one else .. and no one .. he told us come with me to the group .. to their base .. to our armour.

INTERPRETER It was himself and Sa'eed Shabram the British soldier approached them and said to

RESTRICTED

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them come with us to where the Warrior is and the other soldiers.

MA Then he searched us .. a full search .. he didn't find anything with us .. he took us to his group .. he left us with them .. near the armour.

INTERPRETER He first started to search us complete search and then he took us to where the other soldiers are.

MA When he took us to the armour .. he went and brought an Iraqi interpreter .. the Iraqi interpreter spoke in English normal.. so he spoke to him .. and he told him who are they and why did you bring them over .. he told him who are they .. he told him these people they live here and they have animals and that.

INTERPRETER Who told him that?

MA Someone .. an interpreter .. he brought over an interpreter .. after a short while the interpreter went away

INTERPRETER When they were at the river bank the British soldier brought an interpreter and the interpreter asked the British soldier what are those two ... he said those two are herdsmen and I brought them here ... so the interpreter told the British soldier that they are just honest herdsmen and did nothing ... Yes .. and then?

MA Then when the interpreter went away

INTERPRETER The interpreter went away?

MA He went away .. they made us stand up .. his group came down .. the four of them .. there were four persons .. the made us go down and put us on the riverbank/dock .. this is the riverbank .. the dock .. they made us stand on the dock.. with the butt of the rifle .. he told us we are going to push you .. we told them we don't know how to swim .. we don't know how to swim

INTERPRETER So when the interpreter went away ... the British soldier together you know they were ... How many of them were there?

MA There were four of them?

INTERPRETER There were four British soldiers ... they land at the river bank and tried to push them but they say you know... this man and Sa'eed Shabram say to British soldier that they cannot swim .. Yes?

MA When they made us stand up .. immediately .. I told them we don't know how to swim .. immediately they pushed us in .. they threw us in.

INTERPRETER They told the British soldier that they cannot swim but nevertheless the British soldier pushed them into the water.

MA When they pushed us in .. my friend stayed [in the water] .. he didn't come up [to the surface of the water] .. I came up after a short while .. I saw some people .. the people threw down ropes .. I am not good in swimming .. they threw down the ropes .. and I climbed up .. and my friend didn't.

INTERPRETER And they were both pushed his friend drowned but himself there was some ropes thrown to ... thrown to him and he managed to grab one of those ... Yes?

MA Afterwards when I came out.. the man is there now .. he operates in the station .. he got me out with the rope .. he got me out .. I was unconscious because I drank some water .. the water had some [contained some oil] oil in it.. I couldn't understand

RESTRICTED

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anything after that.. how the incident happened .. I don't know.

INTERPRETER When the witness ... the other witness who was ... What was his job that one?

MA He works at the station .. he operates it.. the water station's guard.

INTERPRETER The witness who was actually a guard there grabbed him out of the water and then he was unconscious and he could not tell anything else.

MA I was unconscious after I came out of the water .. and Sa'eed was still in the water .. they brought an Iraqi diver .. I don't know if they got him out or not .. I don't know anything that happened after this point.

INTERPRETER After this point when he was unconscious he could not tell anymore.

SGT BISKABONE Okay ... thank him for that.

INTERPRETER Thank you for that.

SGT BISKABONE What we are going to do now is going to break that down a bit into various areas and we are going to ask him a lot more detail.

INTERPRETER Now we are going I mean how .. we will take the details in depth .. we will go through the details .. this story we will take the details and go through the details and ask you specific questions.

SGT BISKABONE He said initially it was Friday can you just confirm it was last Friday?

INTERPRETER You said that the incident took place on a Friday .. was it last Friday .. last Friday?

MA Yes .. last Friday .. the last Friday.

INTERPRETER Yes it was the Friday the last... last Friday.

SGT BISKABONE He also said that he and Sa'eed had some sheep and they were herding is he a herdsman?

INTERPRETER You said that you and Sa'eed have some animals .. are you a herdsman?

MA Yes .. we have some goats.

INTERPRETER You tend them I mean?

MA Yes .. we goats and we tend them.

INTERPRETER Yes ... yes they have some goats who you know go out.

SGT BISKABONE Is that a form of income they've got is it?

INTERPRETER The animals .. is it a form of income I mean?

MA Yes .. there is no work .. it is an income until things improve.

INTERPRETER Because there is no job that we can have we have these goats and sheep.

SGT BISKABONE The goats and sheep who are they owned by?

INTERPRETER The animals who is owned by .. who owns the animal?

MA Sa'eed' father owns some .. each one of us owns some .. each one has some .. we tend them in the farming area .. because in the Al-Hayyania there isn't a farming area.

INTERPRETER They belong to all of us in the camp and there is some grass at the camp so you know in the Al-Hayyania there is no grass but in the base there is some grass so we ... we have ... we take our sheep there.

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SGT BISKABONE Can you just confirm where they were actually herding the sheep within the marine base?

INTERPRETER Where exactly do you herd the animals .. inside the base?

MA In the base itself.. in the same area where they took us from . . there is an area which has some vegetation.

INTERPRETER Near the place where you took us ... you know there is an area with some grass growing.

SGT BISKABONE Near the place where the British soldiers took them?

INTERPRETER Where the British soldier took you from?

MA Yes .. the same place .. were walking and tending our animals .. he said come with me the two of you .. and he took us with him.

INTERPRETER Yes the same area where we were working ... walking going to our herd of sheep ... the British soldier came and he took us both.

SGT BISKABONE Okay was it just him and Sa'eed who were there at the time?

INTERPRETER Was it just you and Sa'eed who were there ... ?

MA Yes .. just us.

INTERPRETER In the area?

MA No .. many young people .. and many people .. working .. many of them.

INTERPRETER There was a lot of people around them but he took them both only.

SGT BISKABONE Right so there were a lot of people around at the time?

INTERPRETER There were some people who saw you .. in the area ... ?

MA Yes ...

INTERPRETER Many people?

MA Some people saw us .. they saw us with the American [refer to our earlier comment] .. people were walking by .. cars driving by .. it was normal.

INTERPRETER Yes everybody saw them taken by the British soldiers.

SGT BISKABONE Okay when he says everybody that is the community that live at the base?

INTERPRETER I mean those who lives in the base?

MA Yes .. in the base.

INTERPRETER Yes.

SGT TURNER Does he know how many people were there?

INTERPRETER How many people do you think were there ... the ones who saw you?

MA Many of them.

INTERPRETER A lot.

MA About fifty .. yes .. some of them were close to the river .. they told them poor souls .. they don't know how to swim.

INTERPRETER A lot of people I think maybe there are fifty or so and they all said that... please do not take them they cannot swim ... don't push then they can't swim.

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- SGT BISKABONE When he says please do not push them they cannot swim were they at the river bank or were they with the herd?
- INTERPRETER When the people said .. when the people said poor souls don't push them .. when the people I mean told them don't push them because they don't know how to swim .. was it when they wanted to push you I mean on the riverbank ... ?
- MA Yes.
- INTERPRETER Or on the dock or where ... ?
- MA On the edge of the water .. they told them Mister don't push them .. they don't know .. no swimming .. poor souls take them in the armour and punish them [he means the people told the soldiers take them away with you and punish them .. don't push them into the water because they don't know how to swim .. the subject didn't mention which language the people spoke whether it was in English or Arabic] .. he said no into the water.
- INTERPRETER When they were trying to push them into the water people around them asked the British soldier said mister don't push them they cannot swim.
- SGT BISKABONE Right when we went down today this morning ... who was witness to what happened four people came forward.
- INTERPRETER Fine .. when we went there we asked who was a witness to the incident .. I mean there were four people only who came forward .. I mean .. these three [he points at the window behind him] ... ?
- MA Yes.
- INTERPRETER And you .. how come the other people who saw the incident. ... You said there were many people who saw the incident?
- MA Many of them .. but they all went away when the incident happened .. you know they were afraid that the armour [armoured vehicle] might fire at them .. or they might take us as witnesses .. you know people are afraid of being witnesses .. they all kept away .. they are afraid of being witnesses .. all of them kept away .. families they mind their own business .. they didn't want to have anything to do with it.
- INTERPRETER When they all these people saw what happened they were afraid and afraid to be taken as witnesses so they all went away.
- SGT BISKABONE So he is now saying that there were more than four people there and that there were nearly fifty people there who actually saw what happened and remind him he has taken an oath to tell the truth?
- INTERPRETER I mean now what you just said .. and you have taken an oath ... ?
- MA Yes.
- INTERPRETER We can understand from what you have just said .. that it was not only four .. or three .. who saw the incident.. but many people saw the incident?
- MA But these people [he is pointing at the room] were the close ones to us .. I mean they defended us .. and the man at the station and these boys [they could be young men] .. they said poor souls and we ... these people saw more than the others
- INTERPRETER I mean the other people what was their position ... ?

RESTRICTED

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MA They were

INTERPRETER And how were they .. and how did they see you?

MA They were like spectators .. they said we don't want to take the responsibility .. possibly they will kill them .. they didn't want to take a part .. they didn't want to have anything with it.. they were afraid.

INTERPRETER He said the other people were watching from very far away distance while those three were with the soldiers and they were speaking to the soldiers and asking the soldiers not to throw them into the water.

SGT BISKABONE When he says far away distance what kind of distance are we talking about?

INTERPRETER What was the distance between you I mean between you and the rest of the people .. you said that there were many people watching .. what was the distance?

MA The distance was possibly ten meters . . and they were I think even the rope they didn't want him to throw down . . they were afraid from the soldier I mean start shooting .. the soldier . . the rope was in his hand and they didn't let him [let him throw it down to the subject] .. they thought he was carrying a weapon . . they told him don't throw it . . he was went to bring a rope .. they thought he went to bring a weapon .. he went to bring a rope

INTERPRETER Who went to bring a weapon?

MA That man at the station .. he went to bring a rope . . I think they thought it was a weapon .. they thought he went to bring a weapon .. he told them he was going to bring a rope because he is going to die

INTERPRETER Slow down.

INTERPRETER He said those people were ten meters away from the site and they were very afraid ... even when the guard he went to take the big rope they thought... Who thought that he went to bring a weapon?

MA The British thought that. And he told them I am going to bring a rope to rescue them because they will die

INTERPRETER When this guard went to bring a rope the British soldiers thought that he was going to grab a gun so they put their guns up against him but he said I will bring a rope to throw to this man.

SGT BISKABONE Okay these people the other people that were stood around about ten metres away were they part of the community members of his family etc.?

INTERPRETER Fine .. those who were watching you from a distance of ten meters ... ?

MA Yes.

INTERPRETER Were they from your group.. were they I mean from your family?

MA No .. no .. no people go to work there .. and some were swimming in the river .. young children . . people who were swimmers . . they swim and go away.

INTERPRETER They were all strangers.

MA Fishing.

INTERPRETER Some of them work some of them come to the riverbank to go fishing and they were all strangers.

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SGT BISKABONE All fifty people were strangers?

INTERPRETER All of those fifty people .. all of them .. none .. none of them is from your group?

MA No .. no .. no.

INTERPRETER All of them were strangers ...

MA Swimming and fishing.

INTERPRETER Some of them were swimming and some of them fishermen.

SGT BISKABONE Explain to him that he has taken an oath and for this case to succeed and to go anywhere he has to tell us the truth ... and I don't think at the moment he is telling us the truth.

INTERPRETER He said that you have taken an oath. . and you must tell us the truth

MA God willing.

INTERPRETER And for the case to progress .. we must know the facts I mean in an honest and a clear way ...

MA God willing.

INTERPRETER And now he thinks you are not giving us the facts accurately .. you are not saying the truth?

MA No .. it's the opposite .. there is nothing to prevent me .. why shouldn't I say the truth.

INTERPRETER He said what...

MA There is no reason for it.

INTERPRETER Makes me tell a lie?

SGT BISKABONE What makes me worry about what he is saying ... is this morning when we asked them at the marine base where we picked them up how many witnesses there were ... four of them came forward ... and they said us four that is it ... he is now saying as well as this four there were fifty people at the scene who saw what happened and as well as that he doesn't know who any of these people were ... this is the place where he lives and spends every single day and he is saying to me that he doesn't know who any of these people were.

INTERPRETER He said that . . what made him suspect you .. is that today in the morning when we asked who saw the incident .. these three came forward only or you with them .. four .. and now you are saying there were fifty people there ... ?

MA They are there.

INTERPRETER Also you have been living there for all that time at the base .. I mean does it make any sense that you don't know anyone from those fifty people .. you only know these witnesses?

MA Those people they go there for fishing .. fishing .. I mean they don't live in the area .. I only know those who live in the area .. those people they come over for fishing and then they leave .. I have nothing to do with them .. I mean he comes over in the morning for fishing and he leaves at twelve you don't meet them .. I don't talk to them.

INTERPRETER He said these people come to the river just for fishing and they all go at twelve

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o'clock ... so he never spoke to them or contact them ... they are just strangers coming to the river coming to the river for fishing again ... they just came ... there is no need for him to speak to them or anything.

SGT BISKABONE And they are just there in the mornings?

INTERPRETER I mean they are just there in the mornings?

MA Yes.. in the morning the come for fishing and some people swim there and then they leave .. so there is no need for me to get to know.

INTERPRETER He said yes they come in the morning some of them fishermen and some of them come for swimming and then they all go.

SGT BISKABONE So if I went down to the marine base any morning I would expect to find around about fifty people fishing ... swimming in that area?

INTERPRETER I mean if we go to the base .. to the river .. I mean we will find around fifty persons .. swimming and fishing?

MA They usually come but after the incident the people became afraid to come .. afraid that the British might come . . otherwise they are there .. they come every day.

INTERPRETER He said usually they do come but maybe now there is ... because this incident took place they are afraid and they are afraid of the British soldiers ... and something similar might happen to them.

MA They are always there.

INTERPRETER But they are always there.

SGT BISKABONE Okay can you ask him that from now on when he is at the marine base if he sees any of these people that he thinks may have been there can you ask him to get their names or some kind of contact details so we can speak to them.

INTERPRETER Now when we finish and you go back there .. normal .. you live there.. when go out in the morning and see anybody from those people which you think they were there on the same day that the incident happened. .. ?

MA Yes.

INTERPRETER We want you to try and take his name and take his address .. I mean try to find out if he saw anything .. but in a way that will not make him feel afraid .. try to take from him his name for example and where he lives .. but don't write it down in front of him ... ?

MA No .. I will not write it down.

INTERPRETER And then tell us about it?

MA That's fine. There was an interpreter .. he was interpreting .. I wanted to ask him why did they throw us in .. must.. the reason why they threw us in .. I couldn't get hold of him .. he went away .. because he didn't want any problems.

INTERPRETER He said okay and then he said there was an interpreter and he wanted to ask the interpreter why are these soldiers treating us like this and why are why do they want to throw us into the river but the interpreter went away because he did not want any trouble for himself.

SGT BISKABONE Okay we will get onto the interpreter a bit later on if we just talk about the initial

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part.

INTERPRETER We are going to through that later .. but now we will begin slowly with the details .. we are still at the beginning of what happened.

SGT BISKABONE Okay so during the period where the British soldiers came up to him initially before he was taken to the Warriors and the river bank where there any other people around who could corroborate what he is saying or what he knows?

INTERPRETER When .. at the beginning .. you were tending your animals .. they took you .. one British soldier came to you.. . ?

MA Yes .. one soldier.

INTERPRETER Before he took you there to the tank .. I mean the people around you saw you?

MA Yes .. they saw us .. but they didn't come near us.

INTERPRETER They didn't come near you?

MA Yes.

INTERPRETER Fine .. are they able I mean confirm this thing? Confirm that they saw you .. saw the soldier taking you?

MA All the people saw us .. many people saw us .. including these people .. but they didn't want to come near us because they were afraid that they might arrest them or shoot them .. they didn't want to have anything to do with it .. the people didn't come near us.

INTERPRETER He said all those who were around us saw ... saw us being taken by the British soldiers but nobody approached us because they were afraid of the British soldiers so nobody approached and nobody said anything.

SGT BISKABONE Any of those people does he know any of those people?

INTERPRETER Fine .. those people who were around you and saw you .. do you know them .. do you know them I mean?

MA Among those are these boys [could be young men] [he points at the window].

INTERPRETER He said among those who saw us were these three witnesses.

SGT BISKABONE Okay we'll get into that...

INTERPRETER Yeah.

MA They were there

SGT BISKABONE About that anybody else that he knows?

INTERPRETER Anybody else who was with them?

MA There were many of them .. I told you I don't know them .. they come in the morning for fishing .. many people come for fishing .. but these ones .. they were there most of the time .. that one who work at the station and the other one .

INTERPRETER He said there was many people but as I said they come they are not usually there but they come to the mornings but basically these three are the basic witnesses and they saw what everything happened.

SGT TURNER Can you explain to Munem that we have been to the base we were there today and when we turned up children and families came out of the woodwork ... they were

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thirty or forty people that were not scared of British soldiers they were quite happy to approach us so if there were any other people who were there today when we were there at the incident when the British soldiers first arrived ... they must tell us because we need to speak to them as witnesses.

INTERPRETER

He said that when we went to the base .. children and all the people gathered around them .. although they were British .. they were not afraid of them .. so how come on that day they were afraid .. this thing is very important.. if they were .. the same thing on that day came out they saw the British and came out so it is very important for us to speak to them as witnesses?

MA

They were afraid because when they caught us and the soldier was ready and that.. they thought that if they interfere they will be in trouble .. it is normal

INTERPRETER

Fine . . what they were afraid of.. why were they afraid. . were they afraid from the British soldier?

MA

I don't know ...

INTERPRETER

Did he look scary or what?

MA

No .. I mean he didn't leave us alone .. from a distance he told him Mister poor souls .. Mister .. he didn't accept .. he said come on .. the armour passed by us in the morning they didn't say anything .. the armour passed by us in the morning we greeted them and we offered them a drink .. they didn't speak to us .. but when the soldier came back alone he wasn't listening to anyone.

INTERPRETER

He said when they first came with their Warriors everybody started saluting them and saying hi hello and they even invited them for a drink nobody was afraid but when the British soldier came to them he was aggressive and he was pointing his gun from far away some of the people said these people they are very poor people don't take them and he was aggressive and they were afraid.

SGT TURNER

I just find it hard to believe that the children and the families that we saw today and yesterday when we were there ... didn't approach the soldiers and weren't there when him and Sa'eed were taken away ... can you explain to him its ... that we are not saying that he is a bad person we just need to know who the other people who were there ... even if they didn't see Sa'eed and Munem thrown into the water if they saw the British soldier lead them away we need to speak to them it's very important.

INTERPRETER

He said that when we came today I mean they people greeted us in a normal way and they were not afraid .. so it is important.. very important. . that those people who saw you .. saw the soldier taking you .. it is important to speak to them .. so if you know any of them .. you can say this person for example ... ?

MA

The same people .. the same group .. ask all of them . . none of them interfered .. we told them please save us

INTERPRETER

I mean those people who were standing there saw .. saw you ... ?

MA

Most of them .. yes .. most of them .. we told them save us .. we don't want to have anything to do with it.. because the soldier caught you and he had a weapon in his hand they were afraid of him .. but the armour they talk .. we greeted the armour ...

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INTERPRETER Let us now stay on the same subject.. the people when we came to take you ... ?
MA Yes.
INTERPRETER From among those people ... ?
MA There were many from among them [he means some of the people witnessed /saw what happened].
INTERPRETER He said when you came this morning and took us ...
MA Many of them saw us.
INTERPRETER There were some ... there were some of those people some of those people were actually witnessed the British soldier taking us
SGT BISKABONE Okay so why were they not pointed out to us?
INTERPRETER Fine .. why didn't they come with us .. why didn't they say yes we saw what happened?
MA You told me that we want only those who were there .. that's enough.
INTERPRETER He said because you said enough we want only those who were at the site.
SGT BISKABONE But I asked for the witnesses to come forward.
INTERPRETER We said we want the witnesses ... ?
MA Yes.
INTERPRETER I mean we asked for the witnesses?
MA The witnesses are there .. you can ask them .. it's normal.
INTERPRETER He said you can ask those people there and there were also he said.
SGT BISKABONE So they were witness to them being taken but they were not witness to them at the riverbank being thrown in?
INTERPRETER I mean those who were with you ... ?
MA Yes.
INTERPRETER When we took you ... ?
MA Yes.
INTERPRETER They saw you when the British soldier took you but they didn't see you when he pushed you in?
MA There were some people no they didn't go .. they came back and they said that they are going to release them .. and there were others no they fol/owed our situation until they threw us in .. and some people went back.
INTERPRETER He said some of those people only saw us taken by the British soldier and then they went home thinking that we would be released ... and others went away ... went along with us to the river bank and witnessed us being thrown into the river.
SGT BISKABONE Right... the people who were there this morning did not look to me like fishermen and people who were just going for a swim that he wouldn't know ... there were all family members children and they were all part of the same family group is he saying to us that he doesn't know any of their name?
INTERPRETER He said that those who were with you when we came and took you .. they didn't

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look like for example fishermen and not swimmers .. they look like family members?

MA The fishermen go to the edge

INTERPRETER So how can you say that the people were fishermen and they left?

MA You said that the place where they took you from .. were they able to see you.. were there any fishermen there .. does it exist in the world .. most of what the fishermen saw was at the place of the incident .. some people went back .. there were some who stayed and some went back .. to watch the situation.

INTERPRETER He said these people you saw this morning saw us being taken by the British soldier ... while those who were at the bank of the river they were fishermen and they actually saw us being thrown.

SGT BISKABONE So there were two separate groups of people who saw two separate parts of the incident?

INTERPRETER It means that there were two groups. . people who saw you ..?

MA And some people went back. ...

INTERPRETER And followed you ... ?

MA Huh.

INTERPRETER They followed you ... ?

MA Yes.

INTERPRETER And some people saw you while you were thrown into the water?

MA Some people you saw this morning .. they said .. daily .. it's normal the soldier will investigate with them and then he will release them .. I mean they weren't expecting him to throw us in .. so they went back .. and there were some people who watched the situation .. they saw everything .. they said that he will take them to the armour and release them .. because they don't have anything .. they said what will they do to them

INTERPRETER He said lot of people he saw this morning they thought that it's the usual thing that the British soldier take some people some ... ask them some questions and then release them while there are other people who were at the bank who saw us and witness us being thrown in.

SGT BISKABONE So to clarify there were two separate groups?

INTERPRETER So it means that there were two groups .. a group which was there initially ... ?

MA Initially .. yes

INTERPRETER On the riverbank .. on the dock ... ?

MA On the riverbank .. and there were some people

INTERPRETER And some people saw being taken?

MA Huh .. they didn't follow us .. we don't want any problems .. probably the soldier will shoot us .. so we don't want to have anything to do with it.

INTERPRETER He said yes there are two separate groups of people one of them saw them being taken and the other saw was actually at the bank of the river and saw everything.

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Person Interviewed: AUDA, MUNEM

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Form MG15(T)

Page 18 of 18

SGT BISKABONE Okay we are going to have to change tapes now so we are going to take a very quick break just to swap the tapes over.

INTERPRETER Ok. Now they will change the tape .. the tape.

SGT TURNER What's the time?

SGT BISKABONE The time is eleven zero five local time.

SGT TURNER Okay it's eleven zero five I am going to turn of the tape recorder then I will switch off the video.

End:

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