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RECORD OF INTERVIEW

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Enter type: ROTI

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

Person Interviewed: AL-OKAILI, MUNEAM OUDAH BALE
Place of Interview: DOUBLETREES HOTEL, ISTANBUL
Date of Interview: 19/01/2014
Time Commenced: 09:15 Time Concluded: 10:13
Duration of Interview: 58 minutes
Audio tape reference nos:
Visual image reference nos:
Interviewer(s): **IHAT 6**
Other Persons Present: **IHAT 4**

Police Exhibit No:	Number of Pages:
Signature of interviewer producing exhibit:	

Person Speaking

Text

IHAT 6

OK I've been told it, this interview is being correctly recorded, welcome back to room 207 at the Double Trees Hilton Hotel in Istanbul. My name is **IHAT 6** and I'm an Investigator on the Iraq Historical Allegation Team, also in the room, can you please introduce yourself?

MA

My name is Muneam Oudah.

IHAT 6

And also ^{Interpreter} The date is now Sunday the 19th of January 2014 and the time by my watch is 9.15 am, also present in the adjoining room are my colleagues **IHAT 7**, who is also an Investigator on the Iraq Historic Allegation Team and also **IHAT 4** who's an Investigator on the Iraq Historic Allegation Team. I'm going to check to make sure they listen to the recording, **IHAT 7**?

IHAT 7

Yep, fine.

IHAT 6

Muneam, I know when we spoke yesterday I discussed what we're going to speak about today and what I want to discuss and speak to you about was the tragic events which occurred in May 2003. I want to discuss things in detail and also I've got certain aerial photographs of that area of the dockside in Basra as it was in May 2003. Muneam, I want you to think back to that day, from the moment you woke up, I want you to give me as much detail of that day as you can possibly remember. I'd like to know what you and Said were doing and also when you first set eyes upon British Military in that area. Could you start by telling me in as much detail as you possibly can?

MA

When we first wake up in the morning I went to Said and told him let's take the livestock and go, we laid in an area, green area if you like and people were around us everywhere, families coming and going without problems and we stayed there up 'till, I would say, ten o'clock in the morning without encountering any problems. Sometimes my uncle comes and replace us, he asks us to go and sometimes he may come and ask to take the livestock back and a while after this, this particular armoured vehicle came. We both saw it and then I told 'Said this is an armoured vehicle', he said 'don't worry, they always come to wash their vehicle and will leave afterwards'. We stayed for approximately fifteen minutes and we noticed at a distance that one soldier is approaching us, is coming towards us but sometimes he disappears and appears again, we couldn't see him clearly but he wasn't very close to us, that's why we didn't give him attention, we stayed where we were and suddenly we just turned back and saw the soldier behind us, he was wearing his uniform with full gear and he was, apparently his sleeve, he was young and he was tall and he was putting his beret, rather than a helmet, we couldn't understand him first, as if he was trying to take us somewhere, he apparently we understand he was saying 'come with me to my other colleagues' and we knew that there were other soldiers there and he wanted to take us to them. We started to get worried and Said 'I'm going to run away' and I said 'Said, don't do this, this soldier will get angry and he might shoot you'. We walked for a short distance and I just felt Said again would like to run away and this soldier meant business, he's walking around, he's started nodding Said and I was really scared and we walked altogether until we reached his colleagues, they weren't prepared and they were actually astonished when they saw us, he was really angry and saying 'sit down, sit down, sit down' and I noticed the other soldiers weren't that, they appeared astonished as well, they didn't know why we were there. There's a Fisherman apparently they knew he can speak English and they went and asked somebody to bring him.

IHAT 6

Yes

MA

Many people were, many Fishermen were fishing and other families were in the area but not very close to us on both sides and this Fisherman spoke to the soldier, he spoke for approximately ten minutes and left and he got really angry this soldier and he asked us to stand up, he took us all the way to this dock or platform and we came very close to the (inaudible), the width of this platform, I would say 3 metres and the length is approximately 4 metres and he ask us to stand on the edge of it and our, we were facing the water and all the soldiers, the four soldiers were behind us and he started getting angry and speaking loudly and saying 'throw yourself', if we jump in the water we will drown, we tried hard to pass the idea to him that we can't basically swim, but we couldn't, we were pointing towards the sky means we only have god this means but apparently he didn't understand what we were saying so we're hoping that he would understand that, and he got really angry and apparently one of them or maybe the soldier by using his weapon, he pushed us towards the water and we were really scared that he might shoot us because he looked very angry, his other colleagues weren't putting any military

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form, they were just, washing or cleaning the vehicle, it doesn't have obviously tyres. After they pushed me, pushed me in the water, I managed to come up to the surface after approximately ten minutes, I tried hard to reach the bank of the river and climb up but I couldn't and if I wasn't able to have some rescue, I would have drowned, I can't basically swim to the other side or bank of the river, when I come back to this bank there are some metal which I can, which is slippery and I can't hold it and because oil and gas, it was oily, then I started shouting 'help help, I'm going to die, I'm going to drown', suddenly the Station Operator called Abu Ali, he threw me a rope to me, I caught it and he started pulling me. A little while afterwards I just lost conscious, I didn't know what was going down, after one day or two days, they sent for me and they said regrettably your cousin Said had died, there was an incident and apparently there was an investigation. I attended at their headquarter that is the British Royal Police and (inaudible) area where sometimes palaces used to be, apparently they started the investigation and there was [REDACTED] interpreter, he said 'we are going to take you to the place where the incident happened and we will have photos and then', we arrived at the location and he said 'where were you, where did you start from?' and he was carrying camera, whatever I, he photo each movement I did, until I arrived or reached the bank and he said 'you may stand where you were' and he took a photo and they took basically all the necessary papers and started the investigation. They said we will do our best and follow the procedures and we'll let you know and most of the investigation was done, basically, with my uncle. They issued a death certificate for his son and we told him that we have to do the condolences procedures and then you have to give us some time and they didn't contact us for approximately ten days afterwards. They started going to see my uncle, not me and I spoke to only to the (inaudible), most of the time they went to see my uncle, they tried every way to solve the problem but offering money and they tried to negotiate...

IHAT 6

Muneam? You've given me lots of information, can I bring you back to that day in May because I just want to try and get more information on exactly what happened on that day. What were you and Said doing immediately before you saw the Soldiers?

MA

Nothing in particular, as I said this area was, before it was occupied by the Army and afterwards they deserted the area so there were a lot of stuff in this particular area and you may take whatever you like but we didn't do something in particular. Because the Army, after they left they left everything behind, TV's, refrigerators, all their belongings were left there, if you take them, where are you going to take them to be honest with you, because we lived there.

IHAT 6

I want to talk about the Soldier who approached you and we'll call him Soldier one, OK? I want you to describe him in as much detail as you possibly can, think, think of what he looked like from his head to his feet.

MA

He was tall with large or bulky body and he was putting his goggles or glasses right by and the on one side and dotted or spotted Military uniform and apparently he removed his sleeve up to his arm and he was wearing his full gear, he wasn't putting armoured jacket on, something like this, no, but he was wearing Military uniform. He was, as I said he was putting glasses or goggles or I couldn't see his face and they all look the same, they all have reddish skin or I couldn't.

IHAT 6

Do you remember anything about his uniform, any particular insignias?

MA

There were some insignias but we can't basically know what it means.

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IHAT 6

Did you notice anything personally distinctive to him? By that I mean any tattoos or scars or any identifying features?

MA

He had tattoos, to be honest with you but I don't know what it means, I can't remember what it means but I remember him having some tattoos because three quarters of his arm was exposed but I don't know what it means.

IHAT 6

And do you remember you motioned the arm part of the body, do you remember which arms he had tattoos on?

MA

Honestly, I can't remember.

IHAT 6

OK and I know you mentioned he had a weapon?

MA

Yes.

IHAT 6

Can you describe the weapon to me?

MA

It looks like Kalashnikov, rifle but, and it has some holes, is it, the length of it is as he showed you, it has a fabric carrier and apparently he was putting it on his shoulder, the colour of this carrier is basically the same as his clothes and the weapon was totally black.

IHAT 6

And when he approached you, how was he carrying the weapon?

MA

When he first come towards us, he was carrying, he was carrying the weapon on his shoulder by using the fabric carrier but when he asked us to go with him, he took it and he pointed the weapon towards us, he was as if ready to do something.

IHAT 6

And what did you think? What was going through your mind at that time?

MA

We just thought that he might take us to his other Soldiers, colleagues and then they might send for an Interpreter and ask what we were doing there, and I said, maybe he suspected that we had some weapons or something like that and after he take us there and investigate, he would let us go, we weren't too frightened also but we just thought he would take us to his colleagues and he will ask further there and he will let us go and we just believe that if we don't obey him, obviously we'll get harmed. We have examples before, people being taken and they just take them and ask them some questions and they let them go so I started calming Said saying 'don't worry this is what basically happens' but because I am obviously older than him, what will happen because we weren't carrying any weapons and we are not members of any militia. At the beginning of 2003 there weren't any militias then because, and we didn't have any reason to be afraid to be honest.

IHAT 6

Muneam, do you remember what you were wearing on that day?

MA

Shirt and trousers, it's not, it's a local kind of trouser, it's rather wide because, so wide, it is where, where also in the Northern part of Iraq they call it Sarwal, rather wide.

IHAT 6

And do you remember what kind of shirt you were wearing?

MA

I can't remember the colour, it was a normal shirt.

IHAT 6

Do you remember what Said was wearing on that day?

MA

He was also wearing a shirt but his buttons were open, it was hot, rather hot that day, tracksuit, and a tracksuit.

IHAT 6

Do you remember what he was wearing on his feet?

MA

Yeah, like a slipper, they took a photo of one of my slippers, it was left on the top, I left it there, I didn't bring it later on.

IHAT 6

And do you remember, I know this might be difficult, do you remember what colour clothing he was wearing?

MA

Pinkish or pink I would say, yeah. That's the shirt.

IHAT 6

And colour trousers?

MA

I can't remember honestly.

IHAT 6

OK. You told me earlier that when you first went out that morning, you saw many other people near that area?

MA

Yeah a lot of people were living there, as I said, even when this Soldier approached us, people were coming and going.

IHAT 6

And did you know, did you personally know any of the people walking around the area at that time?

MA

I know a lot of people in the area but are you referring to the incident itself or ...?

IHAT 6

On that morning, the morning of the incident..

MA

Many people like my relatives, I don't know, the answer is no but there are people who are in the area, if they were very close to us they might ask and then ask me, for instance 'what's wrong with this soldier' and they might offer some help, they were doing their own business coming and going, otherwise they could have offered some help.

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IHAT 6

The reason I'm asking the question is whether you knew anybody who may have witnessed what was happening.

MA

Many people saw the incident and they are, when they sent us for us, when we went to the airport and they said we will do our investigation and ask people in the area, don't say go to this person or that person, we will do the investigation ourselves and see whether they saw the incident or not. So that they won't be astonished and we will take their statements as they show.

IHAT 6

I understand.

MA

You can, I'm sure you know the witnesses (inaudible), Abu Ali and other people and you have, I'm sure, their telephone numbers, then you can ask them yeah.

IHAT 6

Alright, I want to explore what you remember on that day and whether you remember seeing anybody you recognise there at that time.

MA

Thing is my uncle and my, the rest of my family weren't that far from where the incident took place but the problem is they didn't allow us to go and seek some help from our family in order to come and...

IHAT 6

I understand.

MA

...maybe to speak with them, that's why I didn't have any witnesses, yeah. Had we had this opportunity to go and ask somebody from our family, it would have...my uncle, 15 minutes before the incident came and he said 'is everything alright?', Abu Mohammed that is and really something and afterwards he left, he said, half an hour before the incident he was there with us, he just ask 'anything, is everything is alright?' and he said yes.

IHAT 6

OK, thanks for that further information, I want to know, go to the quayside, I want you to think about being on that quayside, I want you to try and remember as much detail as you possibly can about the description of the Military vehicle, I want you to try and remember any descriptions, if you possibly can, about the other Soldiers and about the Fishermen, can you tell me?

MA

The descriptions of the Soldiers shall I start with?

IHAT 6

Yes, yes.

MA

The other Soldiers were rather short unlike the Soldier one, they weren't putting their full Military uniform, they were cleaning their armoured vehicle and one of them was using a hose to clean the vehicle. I think it was on the left side, the vehicle that is and we were from the other side, the Fisherman, the Interpreter I call him, was rather, he's middle aged I would say, big moustache and his eye lashes rather dark, he's middle aged I would say, this is the Fisherman.

IHAT 6

Yes.

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MA We were actually frightened that, at that particular time, there were many people but unfortunately nobody was able to go and, because they were slightly far, to go and inform our family.

IHAT 6 Muneam, can you describe the Military vehicle for me?

MA It wasn't large to be honest with you, it is similar to an Iraqi Armoured vehicle called BNB1 which is small in size.

IHAT 6 Apart from Soldier one, how many other Soldiers did you see on the quayside?

MA Apart from him we saw four other Soldiers.

IHAT 6 I know what you said that they weren't wearing Military uniform...

MA I didn't mean as full, full Military uniform, I would say half, for instance his vest wasn't Military, he was putting his boot but he wasn't ready for instance, he wasn't putting his beret or carrying his weapon this what I mean but from here downwards, apparently he was wearing his Military trousers, they weren't wearing the full Military uniform.

IHAT 6 And do you remember anything distinctive about any of the four Soldiers and when I say that, any tattoo's, scars or anything else to identify those Soldiers?

MA They didn't come close towards us, they didn't pay any attention to us to be honest, he was trying, you know the other Soldier, Soldier one was saying, was trying to speak to them and when they apparently saw him got angry, later on they came towards us, that was at the very end, late stage but at the beginning they didn't, I myself think he was more concerned than them, they didn't pay any attention. I did Said, I told Said those people apparently will help us or let us go but the other person was rather angry, unlike them and when they came they stood behind us and we had no escape or whatever you like and then you can't basically go anywhere, because there were already four plus him, there were five, we have an old saying in the Arabic sense, we say the enemies if in front of you and see behind you, so where can you basically go?

IHAT 6 Do you remember any conversation taking place in-between Soldier one and the other Soldiers?

MA Yes, yeah, he was speaking, he was speaking to them and until he showed some sort of anger, apparently afterward they started to respond to him.

IHAT 6 And do you remember them addressing anybody by names?

MA Even if he did so, they were speaking and shouting, we don't know what they were saying and his voice was rather loud, he was shouting at them.

IHAT 6 Where did Soldier one hold a conversation with a Fisherman?

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MA

On the dock itself, when we sat down he went to bring this Fisherman and he asked his colleagues, his other Soldiers to look, to keep an eye on us and he went and brought that Fisherman, he wasn't that far, approximately ten minutes walking and then he came, this person, and he started speaking with him, they spoke approximately for ten minutes or so and then he left. We were sitting for a while and afterwards he started getting angry and said 'stand up' and he took us all the way towards the edge of the platform, Said as far as I remember was to the left and I was to the right and he started, we just thought he was saying throw yourself in the water, when you look back you can find them very close to you, we tried our best to make them understand, we said for the sake of god pointing our fingers up but he didn't respond, eventually he just pushed us in the water. And as I said afterwards when I managed to come up with the assistance of Abu ALI and I have no news about Said, that he was, because when I managed to get up later on, I couldn't see him, whether he was on the other side or not, I have no idea.

IHAT 6

Muneam, did you, were you close enough to hear the conversation between Soldier one and the Fisherman?

MA

I was yeah very close, as if we were there and they were sitting this distance, very very close.

IHAT 6

And did you understand the conversation?

MA

We asked him actually because, told him 'what did they tell you?' but he was afraid, he wouldn't tell us, he said 'I don't know, I don't know' because he was thinking if something serious happened, he might be responsible, he just took his tools and went back, we couldn't understand anything from him, after, immediately after he went then he, as I mentioned earlier, took us and we obviously (inaudible).

IHAT 6

In terms of the conversation between Soldier one and the Fisherman, can you describe the body language and whether, in your opinion, it was a conversation or was it more animated and an angry exchange, could you just describe the way they were relating to each other?

MA

They were both speaking in English, obviously Soldier he couldn't speak a single Arab word, they were chatting to each other, I couldn't understand what they saying.

IHAT 6

I want you to...Muneam we've been going for just sort of 45 minutes, are you still OK to carry on?

MA

Yeah I'm OK, I'm fine.

IHAT 6

Good, I want you to think about, you've described what it was like standing on the edge of the harbour wall, what made you think that you had no option but to jump in the Shatt -Al-Arab river?

MA

It's better than being shot by this one, because he was angry and he was carrying his weapon, he was really angry, that's why.

IHAT 6

Did you think that the, if you wouldn't have jumped, you would have been shot by the Soldier?

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MA This is actually was my expectation because we saw him very angry, so what else he might do, because he didn't let us go back when he look you find four Soldiers behind you and they were very close towards us and we were on the edge of this platform, I thought that I might find a way to escape but I wasn't able to do so.

IHAT 6 Do you remember whether any of the other Soldiers were holding any weaponry?

MA No, no, no, none of them were carrying a weapon and then they didn't care even after they ask us to jump, they didn't come as close as this Soldier was.

IHAT 6 And do you remember how Soldier one was holding his weapon, just before you jumped into the Shatt-Al-Arab?

MA He had, he was putting his weapon on the back of Said immediately and then he (inaudible) in front of the rifle but he didn't do this to me, he was rather concentrating on Said, maybe he was thinking that h is young and he might be able to escape, that's why.

IHAT 6 And did you and Said have any conversation; do you say anything before, immediately before you jumped into the Shatt-Al-Arab?

MA No we didn't but we were frightened. Each one of us was thinking of his destiny basically.

IHAT 6 Of course. When, I want you to think about when you were standing or sitting on the harbour side, can you describe in as much detail as you possibly can about the surroundings and...and by that I mean any ships or boats on dry dock? Any...sorry, any vessels on the river?

MA There were ships and, but far from us but the place we're staying on, in front of us there was nothing, there was a broken ship to the side, it was destroyed, an Army ship apparently, half sunk in the water to the left side, but in front of us it was clear, nothing in front of us.

IHAT 6 I know you mentioned that the Shatt-Al-Arab was dirty and muddy, can you explain to me the distance to the other side of the river?

MA I'm not quite sure whether, the width of Shatt-Al-Arab is around one kilometre, it isn't that wide but I think it is deep, I would say it is the same distance of most rivers. From Tuumoonene which is another area on the other side to the Naval base isn't that far, I would say it was not more than one kilometre.

IHAT 6 And what, from my understanding, what kind of, you've already said the waters, you believe the waters to be very deep, what did you understand about the river or the tidal flow at that time?

MA Yes, yes sometimes it gets higher and lower, yeah sometimes even we see the platform is fully covered with water where it rises up and sometimes it gets damp and we can see when we are herding our livestock.

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IHAT 6

On that day, how can you describe the river at that time?

MA

It was rather high, middle high I'd say, it wasn't down.

IHAT 6

Have you ever swum in that river?

MA

No, no.

IHAT 6

What were your swimming abilities like?

MA

I wouldn't say I'm good at it swimmer to be honest, even if I swim I would stay very close to the shallow area, I don't go deep inside, I don't go further in the river.

IHAT 6

And Muneam, what was your knowledge of Said's ability to swim?

MA

None at all, no. We have a saying 'he might drown in a bucket', he doesn't know how to swim at all.

IHAT 6

I'm going to bring the interview to a close and have a break, the time is now 10.13am. OK?

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Person Speaking

Text

IHAT 6

OK Muneam we are recording, we are in room 207 at the Double Trees Hilton Hotel, Istanbul. My name is IHAT 6 and I'm an Investigator on the Iraq Historical Allegation Team. The date is Saturday, sorry Sunday the 19th of January 2014 and the time by my watch is 10.56 am. Two colleagues present in the other room, IHAT 7 who's an Investigator on the Iraq Historical Allegation Team and also IHAT 4 who is an Investigator on the Iraq Historic Allegation Team. IHAT 7 can you hear me?

IHAT 7

Yes I can.

IHAT 6

OK, IHAT 7 can hear me which is good. Can you please introduce yourself again?

MA

My name is Muneam Oudah.

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IHAT 6

And also present is...

Interpreter

Interpreter

IHAT 6

Thank you. Muneam as I said to you before that you are the most important person here and if you want a break, just let me know but we will be breaking for lunch in good time. I'm going to ask you to draw a diagram, initially where you and Said were standing, near the harbour side and I want you to draw the position where you saw the Soldiers and also the direction of Soldier one approached you and Said. Are you happy to do that for me?

MA

Yes, yes.

IHAT 6

Before you do that I need to ask you a question in relation to what we spoke about this morning, on that day in May, how many Army vehicles did you see near the harbour side?

MA

We were asked to stand near one particular Army vehicle, whether there are other Army vehicles I don't know, I stood near one particular vehicle.

IHAT 6

Did you see any other Army vehicle?

MA

I was only concentrating on actually how to find a way to escape or to go away, I wasn't concentrating about on the surroundings to be honest with you.

IHAT 6

OK. I'm going to give you a sheet of paper, as I mentioned before, if you could draw a sketch plan on the harbour side, the Naval base where you were staying, the compound for where you kept the sheep and your position with Said when you first saw the Soldiers. OK, thank you.

MA

The naval base is surrounded by fence all around.

IHAT 6

Yes.

MA

Can I...

IHAT 6

Of course.

MA

..sketch (inaudible)

IHAT 6

Can you first of all put your signature next to the first sheet, the date and the time?
Thank you.

MA

That's fine.

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IHAT 6

Can you just explain to me that diagram?

MA

This is the main entrance to the Naval base, this is the Naval base which is surrounded by a fence as you know, this is a football pitch which belongs to the Army, this is a green area between the, it has small places where there's grass and small lakes with water. The airport where the block of buildings, this is another large, we call it Gemulong which is a warehouse, this was rather a long one. This is another large building on the other side, behind them there's a road, this is a road...

IHAT 6

Yes

MA

...this is the water station where they come normally to wash their vehicles, this is the bank of the river and this is the platform which was inside the river, this is the beginning of the river, it is supported by metal plates, the bank is supported by metal plates, so that the bank because it's (inaudible), it is, it's not higher than the road itself, it's with the edge of the road it was only down into the river. This deck goes approximately 4 metres inside the river and the width of it is approximately 3 metres, it is made from wood not from metal. This is obviously the river and their tank was in this location. Abu Mohammed used to live in this part of this block, at the very edge and this is where he keeps his livestock, it is an open area in front of this building. As you can see we were in this location opposite this block of buildings and there is a road in this area he's saying it divides the area into two sides.

IHAT 6

Muneam, can you clearly mark the map where you were staying?

MA

I was in this location.

IHAT 6

What I meant to say where you were sleeping that night in the Naval base?

MA

Yes, I was there for a while, 2 days maybe.

IHAT 6

I understand but can you clearly mark that on the map where you were living in the Naval base.

MA

Here, there are two rooms in this block, in this building yeah.

IHAT 6

Can you, next to where you were positioned, can you put your names next to them so I can clearly...

And when you first saw the Military vehicle, can you show me which direction you were approached by Soldier one?

MA

At the beginning we were in this location near the football pitch and we moved further down and we saw the Soldier, Soldier one coming through the main entrance or gate, he didn't come through this main road which divides the whole area as I mentioned earlier, he used the other one which was all the way around the base, inside the fence, it's not outside the fence, it comes all the way from here and it goes to this road. We saw the vehicle entering as we were standing here, they were rather driving slowly and it catches my eye and I ask Said 'what is this?' he said 'don't worry about it'. After a while we moved to this area, we remained there approximately until 10am, the armoured vehicle or the tank apparently arrived at this point and stopped there.

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After a while we noticed a Soldier coming towards us, he first came, at the beginning he came from this direction and there were some movements as mentioned people were moving in the area, we couldn't hear or distinguish features at the beginning while he was coming and then he kept moving until he arrived at this building and he came all the way down until here, this is a green area, plants there and he moved, turned and came towards us, obviously this is a small sketch but it's much wider in reality and until this point he arrived and became very hostile and when he took us we followed the same route, from this building and we, and we came to his other place in front of this warehouse, when he came he came from behind this warehouse but when we went where he took us, we came in front of this house, warehouse.

IHAT 6

Just to go over, can you just tell me again where was it on that map you first saw Soldier one?

MA

I saw him while I was here close to the football pitch.

IHAT 6

I understand but where was he on that map?

MA

First time we saw a Soldier coming toward us was approximately this area behind, he came behind this warehouse.

IHAT 6

Yes

MA

And afterwards we couldn't see him anymore, there's a, as I mentioned, people were coming and going and he just suddenly disappeared and then he came from this way, passing this building, through this area where there are plants and green area and he found us standing there.

IHAT 6

Muneam, at one point you say you saw him near the main gates behind you...

MA

You mean when they first came?

IHAT 6

I'm talking about Soldier one.

MA

Yeah, what's wrong with it?

IHAT 6

With Soldier one, you mentioned earlier that he was behind you...

MA

At the beginning we couldn't see him but when he came from this direction behind the warehouse until he reached this point...

IHAT 6

Yes.

MA

...and then he just, as I said, disappeared for a while because there were people and buildings and when he reached this building, we just couldn't see him as well and there are some plants here and we couldn't also see him until he turned behind us in this area.

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IHAT 6

When you said you saw Soldiers come in to the main gate there, did you mean the vehicle?

MA

No, we saw, what I meant I saw the armoured vehicle entering.

IHAT 6

I understand, there's slight confusion. Did Soldier one, at any time, was he standing behind you?

MA

You mean after they arrived or what? I don't know.

IHAT 6

OK, did you see Soldier one leaving that vehicle?

MA

There were no British Soldier in the area, I'm sure that he won't be coming alone, that he would come by using an armoured vehicle but we knew that an armoured vehicle entered into the base and one of the Soldiers were in this armoured vehicle came towards us but he didn't come immediately afterwards, after the armoured vehicle enter and later on he came.

IHAT 6

When Soldier one marched you and Said towards the Shatt-Al-Arab, where was he positioned in relation to you two?

MA

He was behind us.

IHAT 6

And how close would you say he was?

MA

As if the same distance between me and (inaudible), he was very close.

IHAT 6

Muncam, you were going to draw another sketch plan, was that a continuation of this?

MA

I just wanted to make it more clearer maybe.

IHAT 6

If you think that's, is going to help you explain the position you, there within the compound please do.

MA

No I mean, I just felt to make it for your own sake yes.

IHAT 6

That's fine thank you.
Can I now ask you to draw another sketch plan of where you and Said were at the quay side or the harbour, with that I mean the position of the Fisherman, the position of the Soldiers and particular Soldier one and the position of the Military vehicle?

MA

This is the tank...this is where the fisherman was standing, he is obviously fishing, this is the dock or platform and this is the armoured vehicle, this is the water station where they take water from in order to wash their tank, those the four Soldiers were very close to each other, this is me Muncam and this is Said and this is Soldier number one, he told us to sit down in this area and he went to bring the Fisherman, the, after the Fisherman came he started to speak with him only. They spoke for approximately ten minutes or so and he ask us to go this direction towards the

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dock or platform, Said was on this side, this is me, this is Muneam. Soldier number one was standing there and the other four Soldiers were close to us and behind us here, four, they were behind us.

IHAT 6

Can you clearly mark that as a Military vehicle? And mark where the river is as well please.

MA

This is a road.

IHAT 6

Can you point out and mark where you made to jump into the water?

MA

Towards this direction and I swam all the way until I reached the bank, this is supported by the metal (inaudible), and after I managed to, they pulled me out of the water in this location.

IHAT 6

Who's Muneam? That's you is it? How much of a drop was it from the harbour side into the water? The distance where you were made to jump from the water into the river?

MA

1 metre and a half to 2 metres I would say because the dock was high and the water was slightly down, there are wooden poles, if you like, supporting this dock.

IHAT 6

Could you sign that? Date and time. Thank you.
Muneam I'm going to show you some aerial photographs of that area and ask whether you can identify or recognise the photographs and I'll ask you to point out certain areas of that map.
Muneam can I ask you to have a look at a map and see whether you recognise anything on it?

MA

Is this for the base itself?

IHAT 6

Yes the Naval base, should be on that map.

MA

It doesn't look clear to me because it was taken from very high distance.

IHAT 6

I understand.

MA

I just can't find where the main entrance to the...

IHAT 6

OK I've got other maps there which may assist you.

MA

I would prefer to look at those.

IHAT 6

OK, I'm going to mark this map as my exhibit IHAT 6/100, this map which shows greater detail.

MA

It is still very poor.

IHAT 6

Can I show you this in junction with this ordinance survey map of that area at that time?

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MA This should be...

IHAT 6 And whether it will assist you any clearer. It's got the athletic field there, mobile cranes.

MA Yes yes, there are (inaudible), we are on the other side, this side, this is, we were close to this area and then I obviously made my way towards was rather small platform but the base is huge.

IHAT 6 Yes of course.

MA I can't see the deck, it should be here somewhere.

IHAT 6 Are you able to recognise the naval base you were staying at on this map?

MA Let me remember please, I started to remember, this is where the water station is.

IHAT 6 Can you mark this map with what you tell me, if you identify this as a water station, can you please mark it?

MA Write it down? For instance or just...

IHAT 6 Maybe draw an arrow next to it and then describe.
Munear, before you do anything, I'd rather you, if you don't understand or are confused, just tell me. I want you to be quite sure in your own mind that you understand points on that map. It's also important to take your time, there's no rush.

MA Where these buildings are on this map, I can't find it here, there are also buildings here that I can't here.

IHAT 6 OK.

MA These are Military buildings, these are Military caravans, there's another caravan, there's a Military building, this is the athletic, this is the (inaudible) area I would say, I think we were, we were here and this is the distance.

IHAT 6 Can you mark that on the map?

MA On this map?

IHAT 6 You can mark this map as well.

MA This one is better.

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IHAT 6

If you recognise it more clearly on this map, please mark this map.

MA

What do you want me exactly to do on this particular map?

IHAT 6

Can you, where you were staying at the Naval base.

MA

In this area.

IHAT 6

Can you mark that with a letter.

MA

Cross.

IHAT 6

OK cross, he's put a cross there and describe what you mean.

MA

Yes second accommodation, where I used to stay.

IHAT 6

Can you specify there that's where you, your uncle, your cousins...

MA

Yeah, write it down?

IHAT 6

Yes, if you could.

MA

Shall I say the family?

IHAT 6

OK, family. Can you show me on that map where the sheep were held?

MA

Where is it kept or where they herded? Around this area I would say.

IHAT 6

And can you mark that area?

MA

(inaudible)

IHAT 6

I understand.

MA

...very far.

IHAT 6

Can you mark that with a different letter?

MA

A large dot or something like this?

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IHAT 6

Yes.

MA

The area where the livestock were herd, yeah.

IHAT 6

Can you show me on the map where the livestock were kept in (inaudible)?

MA

In front of it, not inside this caravan. This building actually is built from bricks, this one is different material.

IHAT 6

Can you show me on the map, with another symbol or letter, where the sheep were kept?

MA

A letter A for instance. Where the livestock is kept at night.

IHAT 6

Are you able to point out on that map where the Soldiers, the Army vehicle was being washed?

MA

This is the water station, the white one.

IHAT 6

OK and can you mark that with some letter or symbol? And can you also show me where you and Said were standing on the platform before you went into the river?

MA

When they, before we were thrown into the river there is a road here and we were here but you mean when they pushed them to the river? I can't see the platform to be honest, possibly here.

IHAT 6

OK, if you can't see it...

MA

It's behind this building, he is referring to it as the long one.

IHAT 6

OK. This building at this point, do you remember what kind of building this was?

MA

Warehouse for the Military.

IHAT 6

Could you also point out on that map the route that Soldier A took you, from when he approached you and walked you down towards the river?

MA

We were approximately in this area, so he took us all the way.

IHAT 6

Can you draw a line or an arrow? Do you want try another pen?

MA

If it's another colour it would help.

IHAT 6

I know it's not great. Can we try that?
Can you show an arrow with your direction of travel?

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MA On the same map?

IHAT 6 Yes on the same map.

MA Close to it or what? He's confused.

IHAT 6 Yes, that's fine, that clearly shows the direction you were walking in. Can you also show here, or you can draw an arrow and what you mean by that arrow?

MA Because there's another arrow where you tell him to...

IHAT 6 OK. Could you also sign that map and date it for me please? Thank you. Can you also sign this map and date it for me? Thank you Muneam. I am going to produce the aerial photograph as my exhibit, that will be IHAT 6/101 and the ordinance survey map as IHAT 6/102. Are you still OK to carry on?

MA Yeah yeah.

IHAT 6 I've got some photographs here and I want to see whether you can recognise these photographs. The first photograph.

MA This is the beginning of the main entrance.

IHAT 6 (inaudible) mark that.

MA Write down what that is or ?

IHAT 6 Yes write down as you did before.

MA This is the road off, the, if you like, it represents the Naval base, this is the beginning towards the entrance of the Naval base.

IHAT 6 And can you mark that on the sheet of paper 'beginning of the Naval base'.

Interpreter He wrote down 'the beginning of the gate'

IHAT 6 To the Naval base. And can you similarly date and time the sheet. Thank you. So I'll produce this as my exhibit IHAT 6/103.

MA It's really clear because it's colour.

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IHAT 6

We've got 12 photographs to go through.

MA

Don't worry, I'm not hungry unless, unless.

IHAT 6

You're very helpful. Do you recognise this second photograph?

MA

This is the road leading to the area, when you enter the Naval base there were two sides on this road, it divides the area in two sides.

IHAT 6

And can you describe that as you said on that map, can you write down for me?

MA

I would say the road leading to the river...

IHAT 6

Yes.

MA

...goes through the Naval base. It is the end of the road and the road leads to the Military base.

IHAT 6

I produce this as my exhibit IHAT 6/104. Third photograph.

MA

This building belongs to the Army, it's like a warehouse or...

Interpreter

He keeps saying Jemalone!

MA

it is deserted, nobody was living because it wasn't fully (inaudible), it has only a roof and...

IHAT 6

Is that building familiar to you?

MA

It is an empty Jemalone warehouses where they keep their stuff in, I would say it is a warehouse that belongs to the Army, empty.

IHAT 6

Do you recognise that as being a part of that Naval base?

MA

Yes, yes it belongs to it yes.

IHAT 6

Can you write that down underneath?

MA

I would say this is a Jemalone or a warehouse that belongs to the base and this area also belongs to the base.

IHAT 6

That's fine.

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MA

It is empty, shall I, it is empty.

IHAT 6

If that's what you see.

MA

This area or this space is also, belongs to the base, these are plants which belongs to the...

IHAT 6

Muneam can you, same as before, sign and date that please? I'm going to, we've been going for just over an hour and I'm going to stop the interview now, we could go for lunch and then go over the rest of the photographs, Muneam is that OK with you?

MA

Yes that's fine, OK.

IHAT 6

Right the time is now 11.58 am, I'm going to stop recording.

END OF CD

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DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

URN: Y11

Enter type: ROTI

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

Person Interviewed: AL-OKAILI, MUNEAM OUDAH BALE
Place of Interview: DOUBLETREES HOTEL, ISTANBUL
Date of Interview: 19/01/2014
Time Commenced: 14:10 Time Concluded: 14:45
Duration of Interview: 35 minutes
Audio tape reference nos:
Visual image reference nos:
Interviewer(s): IHAT 6
Other Persons Present: IHAT 7, IHAT 4

Police Exhibit No: Number of Pages:

Signature of interviewer producing exhibit:

Person Speaking

Text

IHAT 6

OK we're recording again. Right, we're in room 207 at Double Trees Hilton Hotel, Istanbul. My name is IHAT 6 I'm an Investigator on the Iraq Historical Allegation Team. The date is Sunday the 19th of January 2014 and the time by my watch is 2.10 pm. My two colleagues are in the adjoining room, IHAT 7 who's an Investigator on the Iraq Historical Allegation Team and also IHAT 4 who's also an Investigator on the Iraq Historic Allegation Team. I'm just going to test and call him, IHAT 7 can you hear me?

IHAT 7

Yes IHAT 6

IHAT 6

Can you please introduce yourself again?

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MA My name is Muneam Oudah.

IHAT 6 Thank you and also an interpreter present.

Interpreter Interpreter

IHAT 6 Muneam before we went for lunch, I took you through a sequence of photographs which you identified and described in Arabic underneath the photograph. What we're going to do this afternoon is in this first session we're going to go through the remaining photographs and I'm going to ask you whether you recognise each photo and if so, can you describe what you see in each photograph and then I'd invite you to sign and date each photograph. Once we've finished these photographs we'll then have a break and then we'll go on to asking further questions with respect of what happened on that day in May 2003.

MA OK.

IHAT 6 Are you happy for me to show you these remaining photographs?

MA Yes.

IHAT 6 OK. Muneam this is photograph number 4 from the album containing 12 photographs, can you take a look at that photograph and see if you recognise the location.

MA This photo is taken close to the water station where the cleaning or washing of the vehicles took place near the Military warehouses, empty warehouses belonged to the army (inaudible), they weren't occupied by anyone, they were empty.

IHAT 6 And the first photograph, can you just tell me what that building is?

MA This is the water station.

IHAT 6 The water station?

MA Yeah.

IHAT 6 Can you put a symbol on that building? And then identify it,

MA This is A the first to water station, OK, empty Military warehouses.

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IHAT 6

Underneath can you put the location where you recognise these photographs?

MA

The location belongs to the Navy headquarter. The same, this photo is taken basically the same location as before, this is part of it, it's part of it.

IHAT 6

Thank you. Can you sign and date please? Thank you. I'll exhibit that as IHAT 6/106. Muneam can you turn over to the next page, page 7 please?

MA

This is the river bank but it is taken from rather distance, it also belongs to the Navy headquarter.

IHAT 6

If you recognise that photograph, can you just explain what you've said. Thank you. I recognise that as exhibit IHAT 6/107, I should explain IHAT 6, that's my initials.

Interpreter

I did that already.

IHAT 6

Picture number 6.

MA

This is a building which is on the edge of the river.

IHAT 6

Can I ask you first of all do you recognise the photograph?

MA

Yes, yes I know. It's a building which is close to where the incident took place, I think it is related to the water station where they operate there.

IHAT 6

Muneam can you write down what you can see from that photograph? That's my exhibit IHAT 6/108. Photograph number 7, can you tell me if you recognise that photograph?

MA

He saw the man holes for the sewerage and septic's use.

IHAT 6

Do you recognise that location?

MA

It is near the headquarter. There's a round petrol station but I hear that it was demolished, sometimes they use similar shaped something for storing gas and sometime it is used as manholes, I'm not quite sure whether it is used for storing gas or it is a manhole but it is within the...

IHAT 6

Can you write that down? This is my exhibit IHAT 6/109. Can I show you photograph number 8 and can you tell me whether you recognise the photograph or not?

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MA

These are, as he put it, jemaone which are warehouses or bungalow shaped buildings which belong to the army, this is the same one as you showed me earlier in the other photo but this is from the other side. From the other side there was no fence but from this side, and there is no (inaudible) from this side there is.

IHAT 6

That's my exhibit IHAT 6/110. I'll show you photograph number 9 and can you tell me whether you recognise the contents of that photograph?

MA

This is another building which is close to the Navy base, this is where they put the engines, where the Navy ships are referred, this belongs to the army so this is a rather service or maintenance area. So this is the place where they (inaudible) either or ships.

IHAT 6

Can you mark that as a maintenance area as you described it?

MA

Ships maintenance and servicing area which belongs to the headquarter, the Navy headquarter.

IHAT 6

Thank you. 3 more to go. I recognise this is my exhibit IHAT 6/111. Photograph number 10, can you let me know, can you tell me whether you recognise what is in this photo?

MA

Can I mark on...

IHAT 6

Yes.

MA

...this is the rope which was thrown to me, I try to draw an arrow.

IHAT 6

Can you, again, mark that area with a letter or symbol? You may be better using that pen.

MA

Shall I put number 6 on this photo?

IHAT 6

Put whatever you want on it.

MA

There used to be an anti air craft gun apparently which is broken and left in this area and they use, this is, so the rope was thrown from exactly this area to where I was, so I grabbed the rope in this particular area. This is the dock which I mentioned earlier from which we were pushed towards the river.

IHAT 6

Can you clearly mark and identify the area where the rope was thrown to you, where you were rescued?

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Interpreter He put that number as a mark, number 6.

IHAT 6 So put that mark. And then can you describe what you've just said to me.

Interpreter (inaudible) in Arabic obviously. Should he mark the deck as well?

IHAT 6 Yes.

MA As far as I can imagine, in front of me right now this is the area from which the rope was thrown to me and I was in this location and before he pushed us towards the water, we were forced to stay here in this particular area for 10 minutes and he moved us towards this deck or platform.

IHAT 6 Can you describe this area as where you made to sit before you moved to this area where you went into the water, can you write in there?

MA I'll put my name for instance Muneam...

IHAT 6 Yep.

MA ...Muneam, this is the location of the Soldiers, this is Soldier number one or A as you put it and this is the...

IHAT 6 Soldier number one?

MA Yeah, this is the Fisherman and this is...

IHAT 6 Could you draw a directional arrow, the same as before, to show where you ended up?

MA There is a space here because obviously it doesn't appear (inaudible), when you say it as if it is blocking there was the river whereas it is not because there is a space down there. This is rather long distance, it doesn't show on this particular photo continues these arrows as you can see.

IHAT 6 Right. So were you, looking at this photograph, does that indicate where you were standing before you were forced into the river?

MA Yes. Slightly middle, there is another edge here I would say and we were there, yeah. It has (inaudible) lifting the, this one is made of metal, this one is made of from wood, it's similar to this one on the other side.

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IHAT 6

By that, can I come to the conclusion that, where you were forced into the river is not on this frame?

MA

Slightly further I would say but it is all clear to me, the deck itself, the place where the rope was, you know.

IHAT 6

That's fine, have you signed and dated that? Thank you. I'll produce that as my exhibit IHAT 6/112. Muneam we've got 2 more photographs to go. Do you recognise this photograph?

MA

This is where they water engines as he put it possibly, from water station, small water station, it has rather large taps, it belongs to the Navy, it belongs obviously to the Navy headquarter, it's water station.

IHAT 6

Thank you. I identify that photograph as my exhibit IHAT 6/113 and the final photograph is photograph 12, Muneam can you tell me if you recognise this photograph?

MA

This is the same water station but this photo was taken from the back of the building, this is the edge of it from this direction, the same building that appeared on the previous photo from the...

IHAT 6

Can you cross reference it with that other photograph?

MA

This is the water station; it's the same as this one.

IHAT 6

OK.

MA

It's the same one.

IHAT 6

And can you write that down please? Thanks very much. I'm identifying that as my exhibit IHAT 6/114. Muneam thanks for you help, we'll have a break and we're going to speak to you once more before the end of the day today providing you are happy to do that?

MA

OK.

IHAT 6

Thank you, ok I'm going to stop the interview and the time now is 2.45 pm.

END OF CD

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

URN: Y1J

Enter type: ROTI

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

Person Interviewed: AL-OKAILI, MUNEAM OUDAH BALE
Place of Interview: DOUBLETREES HOTEL, ISTANBUL
Date of Interview: 19/01/2014
Time Commenced: 15:15 Time Concluded: 15:53
Duration of Interview: 38 minutes
Audio tape reference nos:
Visual image reference nos:
Interviewer(s): IHAT 6
Other Persons Present: IHAT 7, IHAT 4

Police Exhibit No: Number of Pages:

Signature of interviewer producing exhibit:

Person Speaking

Text

IHAT 6

OK here we are again, room 207 at Double Trees Hilton Hotel, Istanbul. My name is IHAT 6 and I'm an Investigator on the Iraq Historic Allegation Team. The time by my watch is 3.10 pm on Sunday 19th January 2014. Can you please introduce yourself again?

MA

My name is Muneam Oudah.

IHAT 6

And also Interpreter present.

Interpreter

Interpreter

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IHAT 6

Thank you, I've got two colleagues in the adjoining room, that's IHAT 7 who's an Investigator with the Iraq Historic Allegation Team and also IHAT 4 who's an Investigator on the Iraq Historic Allegation Team. I'm just going to check this recording is working. IHAT 7?

IHAT 7

Yeah, OK.

IHAT 6

OK, IHAT 7 can hear our conversation. Muneam I'm going to ask you some more questions, more specific questions in relation to that incident in May 2003, I do apologise in advance if you think some of the questions are repetitive.

MA

That should be alright.

IHAT 6

But they are necessary for the fine eye detail of what happened that day. Muneam can you give me an estimate of the distance it would have taken you to walk from where the soldier first detained you to the dock yard?

MA

By kilometres for instance? Or by time? It took us approximately ten minutes walking.

IHAT 6

Ten minutes?

MA

Yeah.

IHAT 6

And could you give an indication of the distance as well?

MA

I don't know whether I would say it's a kilometre from here for instance to the edge of the water, I'm not good at it.

IHAT 6

OK.

MA

I can't tell you.

IHAT 6

A question about you dealing with Soldier one, apart from the fact he held a gun pointed in your direction, was any force or any other man handling used to detain you or Said?

MA

No, nothing apart from his weapon.

IHAT 6

OK. Was there any conversation between you and Said when you walked to the river?

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MA As I said he was afraid and he wanted to run away and I told him not to, I started to reassure him and said don't worry, it shouldn't be anything, that was, we will, after he will push us he will release us and we continued.

IHAT 6 Muneam was there any particular reason that you thought Said was or he was inclined to want to run away from the Soldier?

MA I can't tell you exactly why, maybe he was afraid because this Soldier or because he was taken to another place where he could be asked or interrogated, as for me I told him there's nothing to worry about but he was young and he was scared, he was emphasizing on Said himself whenever he and he (inaudible) to him a couple of times with his rifle so when he, Said, realised that he stopped saying that until we arrived to the location and I said what will happen, don't worry he can't be, he can't do anything to us, let's be together and see.

IHAT 6 At that time in May 2003 could you or Said speak or understand any English?

MA Yes he studied and he knows a few words. I told him you speak to him in English, he said I don't know what to say because we don't know the meaning.

IHAT 6 Could you understand any English at that time?

MA No, he is better than me.

IHAT 6 And Said speak any English to the Soldier?

MA No, I spoke to Said and told him speak to him in English, he said even if I know a few words he wouldn't understand, I can't basically communicate with him.

IHAT 6 You've given your account how this Soldier directed you down to the water, the water's edge but how did you know what direction to go in when the Soldier was behind you?

MA We know that there's a location where the vehicles are cleaned or washed, so naturally he would take us to the rest of his colleagues, because there is a water station there and the Military or the Soldiers used to come and wash their vehicles there, so we knew, we guessed that he's going to take us to his colleagues.

IHAT 6 And did the Soldier, did Soldier one use any words or gestures to you two?

MA Yeah he said something but we don't know what he was saying.

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IHAT 6

OK. What distance were the armoured vehicles from you when they entered the Naval base?

MA

I would say 500m or so, it entered and they drove all the way behind us.

IHAT 6

And when the Soldiers entered the Naval base, would they have seen you?

MA

I think so, most probably yes because they were driving in a rather slow manner and children were waving to them.

IHAT 6

And were there were any obstructions between you two and the military vehicle?

MA

We didn't take any notice of it, we didn't care so.

IHAT 6

I don't know if you understood that question, were there any physical obstructions...

MA

No no they could see us very clearly.

IHAT 6

OK, thank you.

MA

It was an open area.

IHAT 6

What were you and Said doing when the vehicle entered the compound?

MA

We were standing near to the side of our livestock.

IHAT 6

Going on to the Fisherman, did the Fisherman speak to you on behalf of the Soldiers?

MA

Yes.

IHAT 6

And what did he say to you?

MA

He didn't tell us anything, we couldn't understand anything from him, we told him 'what did they tell you?', because he believes he is one of, living in the area so he might be responsible later on if he says anything.

IHAT 6

I understand.

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MA So he rather not say anything, he just spoke to them for approximately ten minutes and leave.

IHAT 6 Muncam, which one of you two asked him 'what did the Soldiers say?'

MA We both ask him, ask him about this Soldier and we said 'what does he want from us?' he didn't say anything.

IHAT 6 Did anyone else speak to you on behalf of the Soldiers, in other words interpret on their behalf?

MA No, no, nobody at all.

IHAT 6 OK. Did the Soldiers search you or Said at any time?

MA No, even this Soldier, he didn't touch, he didn't do anything, he didn't bother to search us at all.

IHAT 6 Had you done anything to make the Soldiers come to you? In other words did they accuse you or make any gestures that you may have been doing something wrong?

Interpreter This only Soldier or all Soldiers? Are you referring to one Soldier?

IHAT 6 I'm referring to Soldier one.

MA He just came toward us and he was standing behind us, he didn't do anything to us, he didn't search us himself and we thought that he would take us to his other colleagues and there we might be searched and we hoped that we will find an Interpreter there, we know that most of the American Soldiers are accompanied by an Interpreter to assist in these kinds of situations, if you are arrested for instance, the Interpreter would tell you the reason why.

IHAT 6 OK, the reason I'm asking that question is that, was there any, I know you mentioned that you were entitled to take the leftover equipment in the Naval base because no-one owned the property...

MA As I mentioned earlier, these things were left in the base, Naval base and everybody was coming and selecting anything they can see without being asked, for instance TV's, refrigerators, tents, weapon, everything you can find there. The Army just left and behind they left their food, their bowls, everything.

IHAT 6 I'm just exploring the fact where there may have been a possibility that the Soldier may have approached because he thought you two may have been stealing something from that area.

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MA

Even he had seen, I'm saying that many people were taking these things, these left things but we were herding our own livestock and he couldn't find anything in our hands for instance and it's very close to where we were, we could have taken anything we wanted because the Army had left already, as I said, if you want something from there you could take it without being asked or anything, we are staying there we could have taken anything we wanted, at the time we, that suit us, if there is any risk, we would postpone it or do it another time.

IHAT 6

You've partially answering my next question but will ask you again, could Said speak any English at all at that time?

MA

A little bit, I wouldn't say he was fluent.

IHAT 6

And do you remember him trying to speak any English to the Soldiers, Soldier one?

MA

We didn't speak to him but I know that he can speak some English.

IHAT 6

When you told Soldier one that you couldn't swim, what gestures did you make?

MA

I was just pointing to the water and saying 'no', like this it means that, and we say another gesture for like mercy, we begged him a lot if you like, so that he would take us to his other colleagues but it appeared that he was really angry, when I remember the incident right now I could tell you (inaudible) his colleagues, the other soldiers were more lenient but he was really angry. They weren't angry, as angry as him and he was really angry.

IHAT 6

You've already given me a description of what you remember of Said's clothing, you said he had a buttoned shirt, trousers...

MA

A tracksuit he said.

IHAT 6

And some kind of slippers or sandals and, correct me if I'm wrong, I think they were...

MA

Shadada in Arabic means like flip flop.

IHAT 6

OK. And he had pink clothing?

MA

Yes, yes.

IHAT 6

Can you remember whether he was wearing...

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MA Even I still remember that his upper buttons were open, pockets showing.

IHAT 6 Do you remember whether he was wearing anything else?

MA No I don't remember anything else because the weather was so nice at that time.

IHAT 6 Would you know whether he was wearing anything underneath the shirt?

MA No he wasn't wearing anything under his shirt.

IHAT 6 Again my next question we've touched on this earlier on, what other people, civilians, were in the area of the dock yard? Did you know any by name?

MA I don't know anyone, I know people in the area whom I don't have any knowledge of, otherwise I could have sought their help, so anyone, let's say if I know anyone I would have told them to go to my uncle or my family and send them to us, we were a bit far from where we were, some people were fishing, some of them swimming but they didn't come close near us, they were a bit far.

IHAT 6 Again, approximately how many other people could you see from that dock side area?

MA I would say ten or more but they were doing different things, some was fishing, some was sitting on the edge of the river, they didn't take any attention of the Soldiers. They weren't close to us, they were quite far, they can't basically hear the conversation between us or even see.

IHAT 6 Muneam could you describe any of them to me?

Interpreter Those people he knew?

IHAT 6 Any of the people, the ten people.

MA Abu Ali, the one who was operating the water station is a rather tall person and he has a big moustache, he was rather close to where we were, when he saw them speaking to us he didn't think that there was something wrong and apparently he just left, had he stayed for a while and realised that there some sort of problems he would have called Abu Mohammed but he left.

IHAT 6 How did the Soldiers communicate with you? Did any of them speak Arabic?

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MA

They don't speak Arabic at all.

IHAT 6

Did they use gestures?

MA

Only Soldier one, he was trying to threaten us, the other Soldiers didn't take attention.

IHAT 6

And did anyone at all ask you questions on their behalf?

MA

No, nobody.

IHAT 6

Was there anything on the dock wall to get, to help you get out of the water?

MA

No, nothing at all. Unless somebody threw (inaudible) you basically can't go out, unless you are a good swimmer and can swim to the other bank.

IHAT 6

Was there anything in the water that would have helped you swim or float?

MA

No, nothing at all.

IHAT 6

When you went into the water was there anywhere else, anyone else already in the water?

MA

No, no-one. Even there weren't any boats, the river was almost empty.

IHAT 6

Muneam, how did you get into the water? Jumped or pushed?

MA

He pushed me with both his hands like this, he came across to us and then he pushed us, I just fell down and, because there was a gap between the deck and the water, that's why I fell very quickly.

IHAT 6

Who was the first one to enter the water?

MA

We both fell at the same time.

IHAT 6

And who pushed the both of you into the water?

MA

Soldier number one, the rest has nothing to do with it, we were close to each other, Said was on the right side and I was on the, sorry left side and I was on the right side.

IHAT 6

Do you have any idea of how long you would have been in the water?

MA

I would say 2 minutes but I was almost dead after I came up to the surface, I was suffocating because I sink, drown and when I managed to reach the surface and I started to breath, I just was tried to swim in any sort of way and I came close to the edge but it was really difficult for me to reach the edge of the bank, whatever I tried to catch I just couldn't climb up, I started to shout 'help help I'm going to die, I'm going to die' in rather loud voice, as if these were my last minutes and this man came and threw a (inaudible), threw the rope to me and he pulled me out of the water. He put me on the edge, minutes afterwards I just lost conscious, I don't know where I was.

IHAT 6

Have you any idea how long that time between, when hitting the water and being rescued?

MA

I would say ten minutes or so.

IHAT 6

OK. Muneam do you see Said in the water?

MA

No, he didn't come out.

IHAT 6

Was there any conversation between you and Said when you were seated by the army vehicle?

MA

Between us we didn't say anything but we were just waiting for the Interpreter to come in order to see what is going on and we kept silent to wait further actions.

IHAT 6

Muneam after this dreadful incident, who was the first person you spoke to after you were pulled from the river?

MA

The British Royal Police, they put, they are the British Royal Police, they spoke to us and they said we are going to investigate and they said the other person has died, so you are going to come with us in this armoured vehicle and we have a camera and you are going to tell us about the incident as it happened. A group of people came with me and took me to the location where the incident took place and they started taking photos exactly from the point where we were at in the morning, they took a photo and said where did you, (inaudible) you took, each single moment they take a photo until we arrived the incident location and they said you may stand on the edge of the river dock as it was and then he even took photos to the slippers or one of the slippers or flip flops which were left there.

IHAT 6

Muneam where were you when you were first spoken to by this Army Police Officer?

MA

My father and my brothers came and took me, my father and my brother took me to the house,

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they hear that an incident took place and both Muneam and Said, they thought both of us die, they took me to the house and I don't know what was going on, I was told that my father and my brother carried me to the house.

IHAT 6

Which house?

MA

To our house in Al-Hussein district (inaudible) district, I didn't go back to the Naval base because of the incident.

IHAT 6

Do you remember the journey at all from harbour side to your house?

MA

No I can't remember.

IHAT 6

OK.

MA

People actually told me that my father and my brother came and took me but when I gained conscious later on I hear this story.

IHAT 6

Muneam I must thank you for that further information, I'm going to, I've no further questions to ask you but I'm going to speak **IHAT 7 and IHAT 4** next door, if there's no further questions we've finished for the day, OK?

MA

OK.

IHAT 6

One minute.

Right Muneam I've just got a few more questions, you've answered these questions previously but we just need a little bit more detail and clarity. Were you aware of any injuries on Said's body prior to the incident or after?

MA

No no no.

IHAT 6

Did Said struggle before being pushed into the water?

MA

No no.

IHAT 6

My final question is did any other Soldier touch you or Said?

MA

No.

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IHAT 6

OK, thank you. Muncam thanks very much for your attention and concentration today, I'm not going to ask you any further questions but do you have any questions for me?

MA

I have here some letters from the British Forces when they...

IHAT 6

Can I just say we will deal with issues, any paperwork, further on with the interview, either tomorrow or Tuesday, Wednesday. Muncam so keep that, any paper you've got keep it safe and we'll address any issues or paperwork later on in the week.

MA

This is only for your own information because I thought you might need it later on so I...

IHAT 6

I'll give it my fullest attention when we address further issues.

MA

Even there was an Iranian obviously satellite channel showed the incident on TV and this has, hasn't mentioned to you before, they filmed the incident and it was shown on TV.

IHAT 6

OK, right.

MA

More than one person (inaudible) informed us that we were, they saw us on TV regarding this incident.

IHAT 6

OK, that's interesting and I wasn't aware of that but we will, I'll speak to you about that and other incidents later on and the reason being because it takes lots of concentration and effort into answering all the questions in the last 2 days and we need to make sure you go home to the Hotel in good time.

MA

Thank you very much.

IHAT 6

Right I'm going to end the interview and the time is now 3.53 pm.

END OF CD.

