



MOD-83-0000488-A

Answers of Mr. Radhi Shabram to the questions raised by Sir George Newman at the hearing of 14/05/2019:

Describe the place and day of the incident

1. On Friday morning 23/5/2003 (the day of incident), I, Radhi Shabram (the father of the deceased Saeed Shabram), was sleeping at home located in the naval base. Saeed and Munem went out to graze our sheep. At around 11 am, my son [REDACTED] came and told me the British had killed Said.
2. At first, there were approximately 50 families living in the naval base. Then, a lot of families started coming to the naval base to settle therein and build new houses, other than those houses that originally existed in the base as these were already filled with residents.
3. At the time of the incident, the house of Abdel Nabi (the water station guard) was already built. The harbor was also there but there were no other buildings in place at the time, unlike today. The water station is the last building located on the direction of the harbor. The house of Abdel Nabi was the closest building to the incident.
4. There was an old cannon with a rope around it, which is the rope that I understand Abdel Nabi (the water station guard) threw to Munem Auda to climb out of the water into the harbor. This rope was tied to the old cannon and was used to pull cannon parts to fire at the time when the marine command was operating.
5. There were also concrete columns in the water with a wooden jetty sitting on them where fishermen sit, including Walid Jassem who I understand was there on the day of the incident (23/05/2003), and was called by the British soldier for translation.
6. There were also families undertaking construction works inside a truss (an old repair factory in the naval base). The families divided this truss (factory) for using as houses for the families that wanted to live in the truss which was more than 200 meters away from the place of the incident.
7. In addition, there was a new building constructed by other families living at the naval base. However, this new building was far from the place where the incident took place. The nearest building is the truss building referred to above.

Commenting on the allegations of threatened retaliatory death by me Radhi Shabram against the British Army

8. On the day of the incident, I, Radhi Shabram, went to the British military unit commander near the naval base, with the translator [REDACTED], who was working with them. I informed the commander that I needed divers to recover my son's body out of the water, but he told me that the divers were in Amarah governorate. He told me he would be able to provide the divers in 3 days, but I refused to accept that delay as my son would have been eaten by the fish in the water. Then, I really threatened him and angrily told him that "we are sons of clans and we will attack you (i.e. the British) and make it an (epic) battle". The commander replied that they are an army and I cannot do any harm to them.

9. Thereafter, I left the base and brought a diver at my own expense. I recovered my son's body out of the water and put it on a pick-up truck and took him to the same British military unit. I informed them that I got my son out. The British soldiers, including the translator [REDACTED], came out to see me. However, the British military unit commander was not one of them. The soldiers saw the body of my son Saeed. The translator, [REDACTED], then told me to go to the hospital. I took my son's body to the Republican Hospital (Al Basra Teaching Hospital). However, the hospital told me that they did not have space in the body fridge to house my son's body and they advised me to go to Al Ashar police station where the British army is located.
10. I went to Al Ashar police station. We discussed this matter and after discussion with the British army through the translator, and after they took a lot of pictures of my son's body; they sent me with someone to the Basra Teaching Hospital. Upon arrival, they asked me to keep my son's body in the hospital's freezer and to return the next day. Next day, when I arrived at the Teaching Hospital, they told me to go to the Pathology Department. We went there and the Pathologist. Dr. Saeed performed an autopsy and I received the death certificate after a few days. The autopsy report was delivered to the British, who told me to complete the burial and mourning ceremonies (which takes 3 days in Iraq) and to then return to them at the Presidential Palaces.

Commenting on the condolence visit paid by the British Army to Radhi Shabram

11. No one from the British Army visited me during the three days of mourning (Fatihah) or thereafter. However, less than one month after the mourning, a person who was sent by a translator working with the military engineering unit, showed up and offered me USD 1000 to be collected from amongst the soldiers themselves in exchange for my silence about Saeed. In addition, when I received the death certificate, the British told me at the time not to accept any money that might be offered to me by the British soldiers so as not to lose my son's rights. I did not accept the offer of USD1,000.

Commenting on the British army's searching for witnesses who were present at the place of incident

12. People from the area (the naval base) told me at the time that the British military unit at the base asked the people of the area about the incident, because following the incident and receipt of my son's death certificate on 25/03/2003, I left my residence at the naval base and I never went back as I went to live in another area (called Al-Hayaniya). I also heard that leaflets were distributed requesting people from the area (the naval base) to provide any information that might help in identifying the location of the victim's father, Radhi Shabram. In addition, the British Royal Police also distributed leaflets demanding assistance from 10 people who were witnesses to the incident. I think I still have a copy of this leaflet.