



MOD-83-0000501-A

STATEMENT PRINT

Surname: [REDACTED]  
Forenames: [REDACTED]  
Age: 45 Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Address:

Postcode:

Occupation: INTERPRETER

Telephone No:

Statement Date: 09/06/2003

Appearance Code: Build:  
Height (From): Height (To):

Hair Details: Position Style Colour

Left Eye Colour: Right Eye Colour:

Complexion1: Complexion2:

Glasses Worn: Glasses Use::

Accent Details: General Specific Qualifier

Number of Pages: 4

I am the above named person. Although I am an Iraqi national and my first language is Arabic I am fully conversant in the English language. I am therefore happy to give this statement in English.

I am currently employed by the British Coalition Forces in Basra as an interpreter. As such I am attached to the Black Watch Battlegroup. I generally assist members of the Black Watch and Engineers attached to them.

About 1430 hrs on Friday 23 May 03 I was working at the Engineer Camp at the old Naval Academy. I was asked if I could interpret for some Iraqis at the main gate.

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Once there I saw about 6-7 Iraqi males at the gate. They appeared to be quite aggressive and I very quickly discovered that they were the family of a boy who had drowned in an incident earlier that day.

I recall the father of the dead boy say that the soldiers from our camp tied him up and threw him in the water. It appeared that there was no doubt in his mind that British soldiers had killed his son.

I then called for the assistance of an Officer named Captain **SO76** who came to the main gate shortly afterwards.

I recall the Captain saying words to the effect of "We are just engineers. We came to your country to help you, not to kill you".

The father stated that he wanted divers to get his son immediately, but Captain **SO76** told him there were in Omara which is about 200 km away. The Captain then asked the father what his son was doing when he was tied, to which the father replied he was just herding goats and sheep.

The Captain then said that his son was actually stealing, to which the father replied "He may have been stealing but it was from Iraqis, not the British" or words to that effect.

The father then told me that I was a "fucking spy" who worked for the enemy. He also stated that he would kill British soldiers in revenge for his son's death, at which point the Captain said that if he attacked the British they would retaliate and he would die, to which the father replied, he didn't care.

The father then stated that he gave the British two days to recover his son. He would then start killing. After a period of time reasoning with him this was raised to seven days and he left.

I would like to add that I also recall the father stating at one point that he would shoot anyone who came through the gates of the camp. I told him that civilians also came through the gates, to which he replied he didn't care.

I also recall speaking to a man whose name I do not know. He works as a guard at the Port where the incident happened and he told me that he saw everything. He stated that British soldiers tied the hands of two local Iraqis with phone wire and then pushed them into the water. This was about two days after the incident.

I then saw the man again about a week later and he appeared to be disturbed about something. When I asked what was wrong he told me that the dead boy's family had threatened him. He then stated that he only saw one of the Iraqis being pushed into the water by the British and his hands were not tied. He also stated that there was not many people in the area at the time. Only himself, an unidentified woman, a teenage

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boy on a bike, some children and some fishermen on the other side of the dock. He told me this as the first time I spoke to him he had stated there were many witnesses.

I have not had any contact with any of the persons involved since then.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Signature Witnessed By:

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