



MOD-83-0000530-A

Name of Witness: **Afaf Radi Na'ama**

Statement Number:

Date: January 31, 2023

Investigation regarding the death of Radi Na'ama

Witness Statement

Afaf Radi Na'ama

I, **Afaf Radi Na'ama**, would like to state the following:

A) Background

1. I, Afaf Radi Na'ama, the eldest daughter of Radi Na'ama was 26 years old at the time of the incident. At that time, I and my husband (Wathiq Hassan) and my three children Wessam (7 years), Zahraa (3 years) and Zainab (2 years) were living with my parents in the same house. I was also 6-months pregnant. We were living with my father, mother and my siblings Mohammed (25 years), Fatima (20 years), Kazem (18 years) and Saad (13 years). Our home address is [REDACTED].
2. My father was born in 1948 and was 55 years old at the time of the incident. He was working as a taxi driver and his address is abovementioned: [REDACTED].
3. My father did not have any political history or affiliation and no criminal record. He was a former soldier in the Iraqi army and was hurt in his right hand during Iran-Iraq War. He was discharged from the army for medical reasons due to this injury.
4. My father was not suffering from any diseases and his health was good, except for a little weakness in the movement of his right hand because of his injury in this hand during Iran-Iraq War as abovementioned.
5. My father knew some English words.

B) May 08, 2003 – Search Operation

6. At approximately 9 a.m., at breakfast time, my father went to bring breakfast from the shops near our home and we heard a loud sound of tanks that were coming closer. Our house was in the corner of the alley, overlooking two streets, and had windows directly overlooking the street. Then, British soldiers entered into our house by force and the tanks and soldiers surrounded the street. A number of soldiers, that I do not remember how many exactly, forcibly and violently entered and spread into the house and my children started screaming because of the terrifying situation they saw. The Iraqi translator who was accompanying the soldiers entered into our house to calm us down and said: there was nothing to be afraid of, it is just an inquiry and kept us in the living room. My mother was not there at that time because she was at the hospital and my brother Kazem was with her. At that time, my father came and I saw the soldiers leading him to a female soldier who seemed to be in charge of the patrol that broke into our house. After my father

entered the house and identified himself as the house owner, the female soldier asked my father about my brother Mohammed and I heard my father telling her that Mohammed is not here (No Mohammed). The question and the answer were in an argument between them and the voice of the female soldier was loud. At this moment, the female soldier punched my father in the face so he fell to the ground and the soldiers tied his hands by a zip tie and covered his head in a bag and then they carried him and put him inside one of the tanks that accompanied the military force that broke into the house. During these incidents, the neighbors gathered around our house and asked the soldiers about the reason why they were taking my father and telling them that he is a good man. The translator told them that they are just taking him for the purposes of inquiry for two hours and then he will return to his home.

7. I would like to add the following:

- a) Yes, as mentioned above, my father was abused and treated with violence when the female soldier punched him in the face in front of us. In addition, the soldiers tied his hands by a zip tie and covered his head in a bag. As for the abuse and violence that occurred after that, we did not see this, but it is evident that he suffered from extreme violence that led to my father's death.
- b) Yes, my father's head was covered in a bag as above-mentioned.
- c) Yes, as abovementioned, when the female soldier punched my father in the face he fell to the ground. After that, the soldiers tied his hands and put a bag on his head. My father was in a squat position that prevent him from moving.
- d) Yes, my father's hands were tied.
- e) Nobody told us anything except for the translator who told us that they took my father for an inquiry for two hours and then he will come back home and we understood that it is just a simple investigation and then he will come back.

C) Post Search Operation

8. I re-read my previous statement and I can confirm that its contents are true except for the incident date, which is 08-05-2003 not 09-06-2003. I would also like to re-submit a copy of the letter dated 10-05-2003 (i.e. two days after the inspection) that was delivered to us by hand to inform us of the allegation that our father suffered from a heart attack during his interrogation by the British forces.
9. After my father, Radi Na'ama, was arrested, the British forces did not tell us. They just gave us the letter above mentioned in Paragraph (8).

D) Death of Radi Na'ama

10. On the day following the arrest of my father Radi Na'ama (i.e. on 09-05-2003), after one whole night following the arrest, no one called to inform us of what happened to my father. I went in the morning to the location of the British army at Al Tuwaisa area near the Red Bridge. I went there with a translator, who is our neighbor, to help me in translation. However, they did not tell us anything regarding the arrest and we did not get any information from them. As I mentioned in my statement, on the same day (09-05-2003) afternoon, the British forces came back to inspect our home again.

One day after that, i.e. on 10-05-2003, a car came to us to deliver the above-mentioned letter mentioning that my father was transferred to the military hospital. After receiving the letter, I went to the hospital with my husband. Upon inquiring at the hospital, they told us

that they did not receive such case and we did not get anything from them. While I and my husband were going back to our home in a taxi, I was devastated and crying. The taxi cab driver, who sympathized with us, told us that he has a relative who is an official at the hospital and he said that he will ask his relative and inform us of his reply. In the evening of the same day, the taxi cab driver came to us and told us to go to the hospital tomorrow to meet his relative working as an official at the hospital to inquire about my father. On the following day, i.e. on 11-05-2003, I and my husband (Wathiq) and his brother (Bariq Hassan) went to the hospital and met the relative of the taxi driver (i.e. the hospital official) who told us that there is no patient brought by the British forces in the hospital. However, he told us that there is a unknown body that was brought by the British forces. I told him that this certainly would not be my father because the letter mentioned that my father had an alleged heart attack and was brought to the hospital and was not dead. After that, my husband Wathiq and his brother Bariq went to the morgue, and I waited for them because I could not bear seeing dead bodies. When my husband and his brother came back from the morgue, they told me that the person in the morgue was not my father. When we went home, they told me that they found my father in the morgue and did not tell me when we were at the hospital because they were concerned about me, especially that I am six-months pregnant. On the following day, i.e. on 12-05-2003, my husband Wathiq and his brother Bariq, who went to the hospital before me, received the body of my father and took my father out of the morgue and put him in the coffin. When I arrived at the hospital, I asked them to see my father's body that was in the coffin. As I mentioned in my previous statement, my father's clothes were torn and dirty and there were traces of beating on his body in addition to bruises and blue areas on his body. After that, we took the body to the city of Al Najaf Al Ashraf to bury him.

11. Kindly refer to my answer in Paragraph (10) above.
12. After my father, Radi Na'ama, was arrested, the British forces did not tell us anything. They only gave us the letter above mentioned in Paragraph (8).

E) Interactions with the British Military and Police

13. Except for the inspections mentioned in my previous statement and in this statement and giving us the letter above mentioned in Paragraph (8), nobody from the British military police spoke to us.
14. Except for the inspections mentioned in my previous statement and in this statement and giving us the letter above mentioned in Paragraph (8), nobody from the British army nor its representatives spoke to us.
15. Yes, at that time, as I remember, we submitted a complaint to the Human Rights Organization or Amnesty International (I am not sure about the name) that was headquartered, at this time, at Marbad Hotel. A meeting was held with me and my sister Fatima and each one of us was interrogated separately for approximately (6) hours each. Also, as far as I remember, we submitted a complaint to the Red Crescent located in Al Ashar near Al Ashar Police Station. I also contacted media channels regarding this, including the BBC in 2017 that was working on a documentary on this matter in which my father was mentioned. In addition, as far as I know, there is a compensation claim filed in Britain by Abu Jamal, but I do not know what happened in this claim and we did not receive any compensation to date.

F) Impact of death of Radi Na'ama

16. I would like to tell you about the day that changed my life with my family. I was living safely with my family and suddenly I woke up to the worst nightmare ever. We are a simple family who did not hurt anybody and my father was a poor man and all he wanted was to provide us with the necessities of life that burdened him and burdened each Iraqi family because of the former regime. My father was the safety (ie rock) that surrounded our house. Although I was married at that time, I did not want to leave my parents' house because I could not live away from my father and my family. On that fateful day, I lost that safety because of the British forces that I never harmed and my family did not do anything wrong to them. The British forces killed my father and ruined my home and all that is beautiful in my life. After the death of my father and the loss of my siblings (Mohammed who disappeared few months after the death of my father and my brother Saad who died at the age of 13 by a stray bullet), my mother had a stroke that led to her death. I was the one providing for my family and my living siblings (Fatima and Kazem). I always ask myself why this happened to me? Did the British forces come to ruin my family and the other families who have suffered at their hands or to free us from a regime that tortured us for many years?

I would like to add the few phrases above-mentioned that are not enough for expressing the grief, pain and sorrow I feel for what I and my family have experienced. Only two members are left from my family, who are my brother Kazem, who is currently suffering from epilepsy, and my sister Fatima, who even now panics when she hears the word "British". Where is justice in your opinion? This is what I wanted to tell you about the date my father was arrested by the British forces. To date, I am still searching for a justification for the crime of the British forces against my family on 08-05-2003 and I am leaving the matter for your opinion.

This is the truth.

I acknowledge that the facts mentioned in this statement are true.

Name: **Afaf Radi Na'ama**

Signature: [Signed]

Date: 31-01-2023