



MOD-83-0000340-A

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MOD Form 266B (Civilian)

Case No: 64654/03

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

(CJ Act 1967, S.9; MC Act 1980 SS.5A(3a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981 r70)

**Statement of:** Aiad Salim HANON

**Age if under 18:** Over 18      **Occupation:** Factory Worker  
(if over 18 insert "Over 18")

This statement (consisting of 6 pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2003.

Signature: AS HANON

I am the above named person.

I know Ahmed Jabar Karheem who is someone I met on the day of the incident I am going to describe.

On the 8 May 03 about 1000 hrs, I was in a large derelict building complex in Basrah. The complex is near a very large traffic junction called Sa'ad Square, this junction is on the main road entering Basrah from Az Zubayr.

I was in the compound looking around trying to find some chairs. I became aware of a group of soldiers and Iraqi police patrolling through the site, they were being followed by a tank.

I tried to run away from the soldiers and police but they caught me.

I remember there being 4 soldiers and 6 policemen. The soldiers were wearing the light yellow coloured uniforms, they had green berets with a badge that I can't remember. I do not recall seeing any badges of rank on the men, however I was very scared and wasn't really paying much attention.

Of the four soldiers one was the driver and one was in the top of the tank so I didn't really see what they looked like. Of the other 2, 1 was about 6 foot tall and was quite fat, he had very short hair, almost bald. He seemed to be crazy making strange facial expressions. The other soldier was slim and slightly shorter, he also had very short hair.

Signature: AS HANON

Signature Witnessed by: G CHALLIS

B - 1

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MOD Form 266E (Continuation Sheet)

Sheet No 2

Case No: 64654/03

Continuation of statement of: Aiad Salim HANON

The six Iraqi policemen were wearing dark blue caps with 'BASRAH POLICE' written in Arabic on the front. They were all carrying truncheons. I would be able to recognise the Iraqi policemen again but not the soldiers, as they all look the same to me.

As I was caught both the soldiers and policemen hit me with their clenched fists several times. The soldiers also hit me on the back with the butt of their rifles. At some point during this I was punched in the right eye and it is now bruised and swollen. I was terrified and lay down on the floor, my hands were then tied behind my back with a strip of material. The material was similar to clothes.

During this time 3 other boys were caught including Ahmed and beaten in the same way as me, we were then all put in the back of the tank.

I don't know exactly how long this episode lasted but it wasn't very long, perhaps a minute or two.

In the back of the tank were the two soldiers I have described, the six policemen and me with the 3 others who were caught.

I would say we were in the tank for about 15 minutes before it stopped and we all got out including the driver and the soldier on top.

I noticed we were at Basrah Public Hospital. The 3 others and I were made to sit on the floor. The driver and soldier from the top of the tank went inside the hospital. The Iraqi policemen stood to one side slightly away from us. The two soldiers who I described and were in the back with us started beating us again using their hands, feet and heads, I would say this lasted for about 5 minutes.

We were then made to get back in the tank. Everyone was in the same places as before except the 6 Iraqi policemen who stayed at the hospital.

I would say this time the drive lasted for roughly 20 minutes. The tank stopped and we were again forced out. I saw we were to the side of the large bridge that crosses the river between Basrah and Az Zubayr, we were on the Basrah side. Where the tank had stopped we were by the edge of the river. All the soldiers got out of the tank and our hands were untied. The soldiers spoke to each other briefly before the two who were in the back pointed their rifles at us and motioned for all of us to dive in the river.

Signature: AS HANON

Signature witnessed by: G CHALLIS

B - 2

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MOD Form 266E (Continuation Sheet)

Sheet No 3

Case No: 64654/03

Continuation of statement of: Aiad Salim HANON

We all dived in the river. We were treading water on the surface except Ahmed who can't swim. Ahmed was splashing around on the surface who looked like he was really panicking as the water was far too deep to stand up.

As this point either the driver or soldier from the top looked as if he was going to dive in to save him. He put his rifle down and began taking his shirt off. However, the other soldiers waved for him to get back into the tank which he did and they then drove off.

By this time Ahmed had sunk below the surface of the water. The other 2 and I then swam to the edge of the river and scrambled out. We could not get Ahmed, as none of us are good swimmers.

Once we got out of the water there was no sign of Ahmed. I believe he drowned and I have not seen him since.

We then went our separate ways and I walked home.

I later went to Ahmed's house and told his family what happened.

I have handed Ahmed's ID card to Cpl Challis of the RMP. He attached an exhibit label marked ASH/1 which I have signed. I did this about 1105 hrs on 10 May 03 at Basrah Police Station.

Signed: AS HANON

This statement has been recorded through [REDACTED] who is a qualified interpreter.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Signed: G CHALLIS  
Cpl  
RMP

Signature: AS HANON

Signature witnessed by: G CHALLIS

B - 3

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