



MOD-83-0000406-A



Ref.: TG EUR 45/2007.019

The Rt Hon Bob Ainsworth MP
Minister of State for the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence
Floor 5 Zone B Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

19 November 2007

Dear Minister,

On 29 May 2007 Amnesty International wrote to the Secretary of State for Defence, expressing concern about the killing by UK troops of 'Ali Salam 'Abdul Hassan al-Rukabi, an Iraqi student aged 18, and two other people, in the city of Basra on 10 April 2007 (our reference: TG EUR 45/2007.005). We thank you for your reply, dated 18 July 2007 (your reference: D/MSU/4/5/2/is), on behalf of the Secretary of State.

In your letter you informed us that your officials had requested a copy of an Iraqi police report into the killing of 'Ali Salam 'Abdul Hassan al-Rukabi and the two other individuals, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], with a view to assessing whether there were grounds for further investigation. You also indicated that the father of 'Ali Salam 'Abdul Hassan al-Rukabi had made a claim for compensation to the UK military authorities in Basra on 13 June 2007, and that the claim was being investigated.

We are writing again now to seek further clarification, and to inquire specifically whether your officials have received a copy of the Iraqi police report of this incident, as requested; if so, whether further official investigations into the killing of the three men named above have been initiated on the basis of the Iraqi police report; if so, whether those investigations have been completed, or when it is expected that they will be completed; and what these investigations found, if these results are available yet.

We would also welcome clarification regarding the claim for compensation made by the father of 'Ali Salam 'Abdul Hassan al-Rukabi, specifically whether the claim has been considered yet, and what the outcome was if so.

Finally, since UK forces transferred to their current location at Basra Airport, we have received reports that Iraqis who have submitted claims for compensation relating to the death or injury of a relative or damage to property arising from the actions or alleged actions of UK troops have been unable to pursue their claims with the UK military authorities. We request clarification, therefore, regarding what steps have been taken, or mechanisms provided, to enable such claimants, and any potential new claimants, to pursue their claims for compensation with the UK authorities.

We look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Nicola Duckworth
Director
Europe and Central Asia Programme

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom
Tel: Int. Code: 44 (20) 7413 5500. UK Code: 020 7413 5500. Fax: Int. Code: 44 (20) 7956 1157. UK Code: 020 7956 1157.
E-mail: amnestyis@amnesty.org Web: <http://www.amnesty.org>