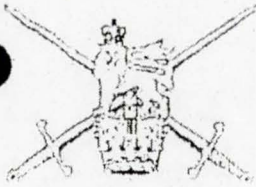


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ARMY

Officer Commanding  
C Company  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The King's Regiment Battlegroup  
Operation TELIC 2  
British Forces Post Office 647  
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Mr Mahmoud Zaboun

KINGS/C COY/3067V

9 November 2003


Dear Mr Zaboun,

STATEMENT ABOUT THE SHOOTING OF MR MOHAMMED ABDUL RIDHA SALIM

The events leading up to the unfortunate shooting of your brother in law are as follows:

- An anonymous civilian came to the gates of Camp CHEROKEE and told the British Forces that he had seen approximately 10 men armed with rifles and RPGs entering a house that was subsequently identified as your property.
- Because of the threat such a group poses a British Army platoon was deployed to enter the house and ensure that the men were disarmed and detained. Due to the possible risks a surprise entry to the building was carried out. During this Mr Mohammed Abdul Ridha Salim and another male came downstairs, believing they were being attacked by criminals.
- Sadly, as he was coming downstairs, Mr Mohammed Abdul Ridha Salim met a British Soldier coming the other way. The soldier thought he was in danger and fired one round at Mr Mohammed that hit him in the stomach. The British Forces took Mr Mohammed Abdul Ridha Salim to the Czech Military Hospital and he was operated on. Sadly he later died.

It appears that the British Forces were deliberately misled on this occasion and it is regrettable that this incident led to the death of Mr Mohammed Abdul Ridha Salim. We extend our sympathies to his family.

  
S J ROUTLEDGE  
Major  
Officer Commanding