



MOD-83-0000293-A

Witness statement given on behalf of the claimant

Witness statement given by: Fatima Zaboun Dahash

First witness statement

Exhibits: FZDI

Date: 23-2-2004

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ACO Ref:

ADMINISTRATIVE COURT OFFICE

BETWEEN:

**THE QUEEN
(On the application of Mazen Jumah
Gatea Al Sukaini) and others**

Claimant

and

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

Respondent/Defendant

**WITNESS STATEMENT
Of
FATIMA ZABOUN DAHASH**

**I, Fatima Zaboun Dahash from Al Jubaila, behind Al Wasael Al Taalimiya, Basra, Iraq
state the following:**

- 1- I am the widow of Mohammed Abdulridha Salem who was shot on the fifth of November 2003 by a British soldier, and sustained a fatal injury. My husband passed away at the hospital on the seventh of November 2003.

- 2- In the evening of the day of the incident on the fifth of November, my husband went to visit the maternal uncle of his children Mr. Mahmoud Zaboun at his home near Al Jubaila School which is located near Al Andalus in Basra.
- 3- This visit was during the month of Ramadan. At around 11:30pm, the British soldiers raided this house. They broke into the house by breaking the outside door. And one of the soldiers moved on until he came face to face with my husband in the hall of the house and fired a bullet at him. At that time, my brother's wife got involved and begged the soldier not to fire more bullets. And the soldier pushed her aside and ordered the other soldiers to detain her in a room so that the people wouldn't hear her screaming in the silence of the night.
- 4- My husband was injured in his abdomen with the bullet that was fired from a rifle that was equipped with a silencer. After the incident, the British soldiers took my husband to the Czech Military Hospital where he had an operation; however, he passed away on the seventh of November.
- 5- All the people who were present had a big shock and were terrified for what they witnessed at the time of the incident. And we don't have any idea about the reason of targeting this house. This was an experience that can't be described and I am still in a shock state up to now.
- 6- My husband was forty five years old when he died; he was working as a teacher.
- 7- After the incident, we reported to the Iraqi police at "Al Maaqal" in Basra. We didn't apply for any compensation from the British Military.
- 8- Although I wasn't present at the time of the shooting, the people present at that moment insist that my husband didn't cause any threat to the British soldier who shot him without a reason. It appears that the British forces targeted the house that they raided by mistake. And this is a copy with the letters FZDI of a letter drafted by Major S.J. Rutledge, the Commander of the First Battalion of the King Division dated on the ninth of November 2003. The letter contains recognition that the British forces opened fire at my husband by mistake, because there was something that made them believe that an armed group entered my brother's house. The letter also expresses regret for the occurrence of the incident. However, my family didn't receive any compensation up to now.
- 9- I now request that the solicitor Phil Shiner of "Public Interest Lawyers" who represents me to lodge a claim at the British Court for compensation and for investigating the circumstances around that killing incident. I request that the

investigation disclose the reasons that led to this raid and the reasons of the presence of the British forces in Iraq in the first place. My family and I, request the disclosure of the truth regarding that killing incident to enable us to reach a better understanding of the reasons that led to the death of my husband, and thus, we will be in a better situation regarding knowing the reason of his death.

I believe that the facts contained in this witness statement are correct.

Signature Fatima Zaboun Dahash

Date 21/06/2004

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Exhibit FZDI

**THIS IS THE EXHIBIT MARKED "FZDI" REFERRED TO THE IN THE WITNESS
STATEMENT OF FATIMA ZABOUN DAHASH**

Signature

Date 21/06/2004