



MOD-83-0000278-A

Filed on behalf of the Claimant
Deponent: Fatima Zabun Dahesh
1st Witness Statement of Deponent
Exhibits: "FZD1"
Dated: 23.02.04

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ACO Ref:

ADMINISTRATIVE COURT OFFICE

BETWEEN:

**THE QUEEN (on the application of MAZIN
JUM'AA GATTEH AL-SKEINI) and others**

Claimants

and

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

Defendant

WITNESS STATEMENT

of

FATIMA ZABUN DAHESH

I, **FATTEMA ZABUN DAHESH** of Al Jubaila, behind Al Wassail Al Taalimiya, Basra, Iraq, SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I am the widow of Muhammad Abdul Ridha Salim who was shot and fatally wounded on 5 November 2003 by a British soldier. My husband died in hospital on 7 November 2003.

2. On the evening of the incident on 5 November my husband went to visit his brother-in-law at the home of Mr Mahmood Sabun near Al Jubaila, a school, which is in the vicinity of Al Andalus, Basra.
3. It was a visit made during the months of Ramadan. At approximately 23:30 a raid took place by British soldiers on this house. They forced entry by breaking down the front door. One of the British soldiers came face to face with my husband in the hall inside the house. He fired a shot at him. The wife of my brother-in-law Mrs Intesar Abdul Baqi pleaded with the soldier not to shoot again. The soldier pushed her aside and ordered the other soldiers to lock her in a room so that others could not hear her screams in the quiet of the night.
4. My husband was hit in the stomach by a bullet fired from a rifle with an attached silencer. After the shooting incident the British forces took him to the Czech Military Hospital, where he was operated on but died on 7 November.
5. All those present at the incident are completely shocked and horrified at the events and they have no idea why their home was targeted and refer to the experience as indescribable. I am still in a state of shock.
6. My husband was aged 45 when he died and his occupation was as a teacher.
7. After the incident we reported the shooting to the Iraqi Police at Al Maqal in Basra. We have not applied for any compensation from the British Army.
8. Although I was not present at the time of the shooting those who were present insist that my husband posed no threat to the British soldier who fired a shot at my husband for no reason. The British Army appears to have mistakenly targeted the house that was raided. I now produce shown to me marked "FZD1" a copy of a letter from Major S J Routledge Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, the King's Regiment, of 9 November 2003. This letter accepts that the British forces shot my husband by mistake as they were led to

believe that an armed group had entered my brothers house and expresses regret at the incident. However my family has not received any compensation.

9. I now wish my solicitor, Phil Shiner of Public Interest Lawyers, to pursue a claim from the British Courts for compensation and an inquiry into the circumstance of this killing. I want the inquiry to establish why this raid took place and why the British soldiers were in Iraq in the first place. My family and I want to establish the truth about this killing so we can better understand why my husband was killed and thus be in a better position to come to terms with his death.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

FATIMA ZABUN DAHESH

Dated

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ADMINISTRATIVE COURT OFFICE
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BETWEEN:

THE QUEEN

On the application of
MAZIN JUM'AA GATTEH AL-SKEINI
GATTEH and others

And

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT
of
FATIMA ZABUN DAHESH

Filed on behalf of the Claimant
Deponent: Fatima Zabun Dahesh
1st Witness Statement of Deponent
Exhibits: "FZD1"
Dated: 23.02.2004

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ACO Ref:

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BETWEEN:

THE QUEEN (ON THE APPLICATION OF MAZIN JUM'AA GATTEH AL-SKEINI) AND OTHERS

and

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

EXHIBIT FZD1

**THIS IS THE EXHIBIT MARKED "FZD1" REFERRED TO IN THE WITNESS
STATEMENT OF FATIMA ZABUN DAHESH**

Signed

Dated