

The Iraq Fatality Investigations

In the matter of an investigation into the death of Mr Muhammad Salim

Inspector – Sir George Newman

CORRESPONDENCE WITH PIL SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT

1. I have received correspondence from PIL requesting “clarification” on the meaning of paragraph 6.51 of the Report into the death of Muhammad Abdul Ridha Salim, to which I have made two responses.

2. The most recent correspondence from PIL, by email on 30 March 2016 read as follows:

“...I apologise if our earlier emails were not clear in what precisely we wanted clarification about. Taking on board Sir George’s response, the form of words “...the family did not have the benefit of any measured and balanced legal advice” could be interpreted in numerous different ways: as referring to legal advice provided by PIL (at any point), or legal advice received immediately after the death (from another party), or any other legal advice (from another party). It is these interpretations that we’d like clarification on...”

3. I have today responded to this request for “clarification” to PIL by email as follows:

The paragraph, including the words which you have specifically quoted, comprise findings based on the evidence and findings set out in the Report. The clear and unambiguous findings in the paragraph are:

(1) That the family did not have the benefit of any measured and balanced legal advice;

- (2) *That MZD had no opportunity to consider the documentary record prepared by the military until October 2015 when it was supplied by the IFI;*
- (3) *That had MZD seen the strength of the evidential record, he may have hesitated before he committed himself to the strategy, urged upon him by the Al Bedanys, which was supported by the creation of a false document, to blame the BF.*

Each of the findings is clear and unambiguous. No findings, in addition to those already contained in the Report, will be made. Your latest request and this response will be published on the website for the benefit of the public under the rubric: "Correspondence with PIL since the publication of the Report."

Sir George Newman
1 April 2016