

- 1) Richard Betteridge
- 2) Statement No: 1
- 3) RB1
- 4) 22 April 2009

THE BAHA MOUSA INQUIRY

Witness Statement of Richard Betteridge

I, Richard Betteridge will say as follows:

1. I make this statement in response to the Inquiry's Rule 9 Request dated 3 March 2009. I have read this Request, and I seek here to cover everything that it raises to the best of my ability and recollection. I have also been shown and read copies of my previous statements to the SIB dated 19 September 2003 (MOD 000084), a further statement dated 16 October 2003 (MOD000725) and oral evidence at court martial proceedings, day 30, on 30 October 2006.

2. On joining the Army in July 1998 I became a member of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery. In around 2002 I was promoted to the rank of Lance Bombardier and held this rank until I left the Army in September 2004. During my Army career I went on tour twice to Cyprus and once to Iraq, spent a month in Texas on exercise and annually went on expedition to the Hebrides. On leaving the Army I moved to Nottingham. I have now retrained as a delivery driver for a large supermarket chain.

3. My regiment was intended to be deployed to Iraq in 2003 to provide air defence during Operation TELIC II. However, on my return from a course, I learned that my regiment was no longer to deploy as it was surplus to requirements. This was because there was no air threat in Iraq at this time.
4. In late June 2003 a request was made to my regiment for two soldiers to volunteer for deployment to Iraq for driving duties with 3 (UK) Mechanised Division Headquarters. I was keen to go to Iraq and volunteered immediately alongside Private Rudd, who was a colleague of mine in 16 Royal Artillery. Private Rudd and I flew out, shortly after our pre-deployment training, from Brize Norton, on the weekend of 5 July 2003.
5. Prior to our deployment, Private Rudd and I were sent to Grantham for the weekend, for our pre-deployment training. With the exception of Private Rudd, the remainder of the attendees were reservists from the Territorial Army. The training was intended to be a "refresher" course – sometimes, if you are away on another course, you may miss out on core training that is why they provide these "refresher" courses.
6. Whilst I was impressed with the range of topics covered during the weekend, I felt the training was of basic quality and not taken seriously by those running it. I was the only permanent soldier attending the course; the others were all members of the TA. The course is similar to the courses attended during basic training and covered all the essential topics. This course is compulsory for every soldier prior to deployment. After the course I was deployed to Iraq and those who attended with me went on for further training. During the course I assisted those providing the training and instructing the other soldiers on the basic weapons handling procedures. In addition, the training repeated much of the training that my regiment had received in its preparation to deploy as air defence.

7. I have no specific recollection of receiving any training, during my pre-deployment training or at any other point, on the handling of detainees or prisoners of war. Presumably there is training on the handling of detainees however, I would not have expected to receive this as I was being deployed to Iraq as a driver and feel it would have been considered irrelevant and inappropriate for my role. We all had different roles within the regiment and it is my understanding that training on treatment of detainees would have been provided to soldiers who were in the Provost section such as Corporal Payne. However, even from my basic training, I understood that we were to treat prisoners in a way that we would have wanted to have been treated ourselves should we have been captured by enemy forces.
8. I had never seen people hooded and cuffed before seeing the detainees at 1 QLR Battle Group Main ("BG Main"). At some point during my career I recall seeing pictures of the correct method for detaining a prisoner of war which did not reflect what I saw at BG Main that day.
9. In Iraq I was a driver for the Media Ops Team of 3 (UK) Mechanised Divisional Headquarters based at Basra Airport. I worked seven days a week driving officers of the Media Ops Team, and escorting journalists, all over Iraq and occasionally into Kuwait. As the Media Ops Team were trying to focus journalists on positive events, such as the Army building schools and providing clean water, rather than negative events, whilst escorting journalists I was to make sure that they were not wandering off unescorted. There were no restrictions imposed by the Army as to where journalists could be taken. Prior to a journalist travelling with us a schedule would be prepared of places to visit and times set for those visits. If a journalist wanted to go to an area that was not in the schedule then the commanding officer travelling in the convoy would decide if a security threat existed for travelling to that area and if there was sufficient time for the visit. If a security threat existed we would not be travelling outside the areas listed on the schedule.

10. I was also responsible for maintaining the vehicles, so that they were available at any moment and, as we had spare drivers, assisting other teams or units with various miscellaneous driving jobs such as picking up soldiers and taking them to the airport or delivering ammunition.
11. It was whilst I was escorting some journalists from GMTV that I saw some of the events preceding Baha Mousa's death in the building where the detainees were held at BG Main at the Temporary Detention Facility ("TDF").
12. The Media Ops Team was a multinational team, led by Major Mayo, and included journalists and photographers from the US Military and photographers from the British Navy, RAF and British Army. The unit also included several drivers which included, alongside myself, Lance Corporal Riley, SAC Hughes, Private Rudd and a Royal Marine Commando and Corporal, also from the Artillery, whose names I unable to recall.
13. We used to visit so many camps that I am surprised that I remember anything about my visit to BG Main. However, I do recall visiting BG Main in September 2003 in my capacity as a driver for the Media Ops Team.
14. Whilst I cannot recall much of my visit, or the exact date of my visit, I remember Lance Corporal Riley and I were acting as drivers to escort a television crew from GMTV to the Camp, which was the old Ba'ath Party Headquarters. Both myself and Lance Corporal Riley were driving Snatch (Land Rover) vehicles and at that time we were not allowed to drive unless we could provide ourselves with our own armed security, otherwise know as "top cover"; so that day SAC Hughes provided "top cover" from Lance Corporal Riley's vehicle. I cannot remember what the GMTV crew were reporting on at the time as I talked to so many journalists around that time. I do not recall the names of the GMTV crew. In addition to Lance Corporal

Riley, SAC Hughes and the GMTV crew, Major Greenwood also accompanied us.

15. On driving through the gates of BG Main and around the track we parked the vehicles across from the TDF. Once we had parked, the GMTV crew were escorted from the vehicle by Major Greenwood. Lance Corporal Riley, SAC Hughes and I were the only people that remained behind with the vehicles. I remember that we got out of the vehicles as it was an incredibly hot day and they had no ventilation. Having got out of the vehicles, there were no standard procedures to be followed. We were there specifically to do the job of picking up journalists, driving them to locations and waiting for them to return. However, whilst waiting for the journalists to return we would usually check the vehicles over as Lance Corporal Riley and I were in charge of them and would have been responsible for ensuring that they were maintained and in good working order.
16. Whilst we were stood at the vehicles, I could hear shouting and raised voices. The noises were not constant but occasional. I was not sure what was being shouted or why people were shouting. They did not sound like shouts of pain and, at the time, I thought that it might have been soldiers joking about.
17. SAC Hughes wanted to unload his weapon in an unloading bay, this was probably because his weapon would have been "made ready", i.e. it had a round in the breech as opposed to just loaded in the magazine and so was ready to fire because he was "top cover" for Lance Corporal Riley's vehicle and would have needed to be ready to open fire immediately in an emergency. There was no strict procedure for unloading your weapon save that it should be done on return. Usually another soldier would accompany you and you might choose to find an unloading bay if your weapon was "made ready". I let him go and unload his weapon on his own. I should probably not have allowed SAC Hughes to unload his weapon on his own as

he was only the equivalent of a Private and myself and Lance Corporal Riley were non-commissioned officers. However, I believed that you needed to have a certain amount of trust in people in carrying out basic procedures such as unloading.

18. I also needed to unload my weapon. However, as my weapon was not "made ready", I did not therefore need an unloading bay and unloaded my weapon, next to the vehicle simply by removing the magazine. Lance Corporal Riley then checked the weapon for me. I cannot remember whether Lance Corporal Riley unloaded his weapon – as he was driving, his weapon would not have been "made ready" either.
19. Unloading your weapon should be a quick process and I noted that SAC Hughes had been away for longer than I would have expected. Approximately five to ten minutes after going to unload his weapon, he returned to the vehicles, with his weapon unloaded. I recall him telling us to come and see what was happening at the TDF. On reflection, I wonder if SAC Hughes had visited the TDF the day before and perhaps knew there were some detainees there. Lance Corporal Riley and I thought that SAC Hughes might be telling us another of his exaggerated stories so, out of interest and as I needed to find a toilet, I decided to follow him. I then followed SAC Hughes.
20. I have been asked what I mean when I refer to SAC Hughes' exaggerated stories. He was larger than life and talked a lot. He always had a story and for everything and anything you had done, he had done it ten times better.
21. I seem to remember that initially Lance Corporal Riley opted to remain behind with the vehicles and joined us later at the TDF. I think that perhaps Lance Corporal Riley had seen the detainees the day before. I do know that Private Rudd had seen the detainees the day before because he mentioned it although I cannot now remember the specifics of the conversation. He had

been ferrying reporters to BG Main. I do not think that he saw the same treatment that I witnessed. I do not think that Private Rudd made a statement to the RMP.

22. On approaching the TDF I saw that the doors of the building were set back underneath a slanted roof. I could not see in as the windows were covered up and recall that to see into the TDF itself you would have had to stand at the doorframe and look inwards. There were also some portable toilets just outside the building and I recall that there was a soldier sat just outside the TDF reading a book, I may possibly have passed the time of day with him however, I would not have engaged him in conversation, as I could see he was occupied reading.
23. Outside the TDF I met a soldier, who later introduced himself to me as "Corporal Payne". He was wearing a t-shirt with "Provost" on it and I recall he had something in his hand but I now struggle to remember exactly what it was – I believe it may have been a Swiss Army Knife or a Leatherman. I would not be able to identify Corporal Payne if I saw him again. Whilst I mainly spoke with Corporal Payne, there were a couple of other soldiers there with whom I would have passed the time of day. I started talking to Corporal Payne and asking him some general questions. It was quite a light-hearted conversation at first, essentially to pass the time of day. I would describe him as a chatty soldier and very easy to talk to.
24. Whilst I was talking to Corporal Payne, I recall seeing a detainee being escorted to the portable toilets just outside the TDF by a soldier. I remember the detainee that was taken to the toilet had no sandbag on his head and he may have worn a black shirt. I think he came from the left hand room of the TDF. I had asked Corporal Payne if I could use the portable toilets and he advised me not to as the detainees had been using it and said that the detainees were diseased. Whilst the detainee was in the toilet I remember the

soldier shouting at him to get out. The detainee was only in the toilet for a couple of minutes and banged on the door when he had finished. The soldier escorting him then helped the detainee to stand up and escorted him back inside the TDF. I considered at the time that it must have been very degrading for the detainee to be escorted to the toilet and having to have his trousers pulled down and up for him – I think his trousers were pulled down and up because his hands were cuffed. I think that his hands were cuffed to the front. I felt at the time that the detainee escorted to the toilet was scared. There was something about his demeanour that suggested this to me, although I am not sure what. Having seen the detainee I asked Corporal Payne about what was happening inside the TDF.

25. I have now been referred to my witness statement dated 19 September 2003 which I provided to the RMP, a copy of this statement is exhibited with this statement at **Exhibit RB1**. I have been directed to paragraph three on page three where I stated "*as I walked around the corner of the building the Provost Cpl shouted towards the closed door of the portaloos, things like, "Come on, hurry up, get out of the toilet."*"
26. I have also been shown the fourth and fifth paragraphs of the same page in which the sequence of events differs from my recollection above. In my previous statement I stated that after SAC Hughes went off to unload his weapon, I asked Lance Corporal Riley if there were any toilets nearby and he directed me towards the TDF. I then went to find the toilets and noted the portable toilets outside the TDF. It was then that I saw Corporal Payne standing outside the toilets shouting at someone to finish. I then stated that I asked Corporal Payne if I could use the toilets and he told me to use the next toilet along as the one he was stood outside was occupied by a prisoner. This is different to my recollection above and I cannot now recall the events that are described in **Exhibit RB1**. I do remember Corporal Payne messing around with either Swiss Army Knife or a Leatherman in his hands and I

remember him flicking the blade of it - perhaps to cut the detainees' plastic cuffs. However, I also remember the detainee's trousers being pulled up so perhaps the cuffs were not cut - I am unable to recollect this clearly.

27. In paragraph four, page three of **Exhibit RB1**, I went on to explain that as I entered the toilet I saw a male exit the first portable toilet. He was wearing a green checked shirt and he had a sandbag over his head. After I had finished in the toilet I came out and then asked Corporal Payne what was happening, he then explained to me about the detainees that had been arrested. I now believe that I went to use the portable toilet first and that at some point, which is unclear to me, SAC Hughes asked me to come and look at what he had seen. I cannot remember if this was before or after I had used the portable toilet. I also believe that the detainee I refer to in paragraph 24 above, who was wearing a black shirt, was the same detainee I referred to in **Exhibit RB1**, although I can no longer recall if he wore a sandbag over his head or not. I believe that the soldier taking the detainee to the toilet was Corporal Payne.
28. I recollect Corporal Payne telling me that there were some detainees being held who had been arrested at a hotel in Basra following 1 QLR finding "hate" DVDs (by which I mean propaganda for insurgents) in their possession at the hotel. I remember Corporal Payne telling me that they would be going to court in Basra.
29. I then went to look at the detainees. I looked through a door of the TDF into the room on the left hand side of the building, this was the room that I spent the majority of my time looking into whilst I was at the TDF. I remember that there were two rooms in the TDF and that you could walk from the left hand room to the right hand room through a small walkway. The room I looked into was bare and there was nothing inside it apart from some detainees and soldiers. I did not enter the room but remained looking through the door and

talking to Corporal Payne for around 15 – 20 minutes (as detailed elsewhere in this statement, we were in the camp for about an hour in total, of which 15 - 20 minutes was spent talking to Corporal Payne at the TDF). I vaguely recall that at one point during my visit Corporal Payne was stood at the bottom of the left hand room – this may have been during the “choir” (which I describe at paragraph 34 below) but I am unable to recall exactly when it was.

30. The room was hot and sweaty and stank. It was unhygienic. The detainees obviously hadn't had chance to have a shower for a couple of days. Everywhere was hot in Iraq and this was the same as any other room without air conditioning.
31. I seem to remember that in total there were around five or six soldiers at the TDF – I did not really pay much attention to them. I know that the soldiers who were present were wearing uniform; they were wearing berets, combat shirts and trousers, but no body armour and no helmet. Whilst I do not feel that I would be able to identify these soldiers should I see them again, I do recall that they were of junior rank.
32. I recall that SAC Hughes kept going to the door of the right hand room of the TDF and looking through it. I further remember him talking to the soldier who was reading a book sat outside the TDF. I only briefly looked into this right hand room which I noted was a mirror image of the left hand room, and when I did, I saw a man standing against the wall who may have had a sandbag over his head.. I vaguely recall that there were about ten people in the right hand room and about six people in the left hand room. Having referred again to **Exhibit RB1**, I believe that there may have been fewer prisoners – my recollection is unclear.
33. When I looked into the left hand room I saw some detainees with hessian sandbags over their heads. I could not tell if the detainees had one or two

sandbags over their heads. I do not think that all of the detainees were wearing sandbags over their heads. however, I am unable to recall this clearly. I remember that their hands were cuffed in front of them, they were sat with their backs against the wall and their knees bent with their arms held out in front of them. I would describe such a position as a "stress position". I have experienced sitting like this in training and found it to be very difficult and uncomfortable. During basic training stress positions are used to instill discipline. I recall that we were never placed in a stress position for a long time. We did not receive training about stress positions, the only reason we knew what it was is because we were placed in such positions when we were for example late for parade as a form of reprimand. I recall feeling that having to stay in such a position, with a sandbag over your head and in the heat would have been very unpleasant. I remember roughly what three of the detainees were wearing: one a black shirt, one a cream shirt and one a blue checked shirt. I did not know any of the detainees' names.

34. Occasionally, Corporal Payne would shout at the detainees. For one of the detainees he used a nickname, I believe that the nickname was "granddad" and that Corporal Payne would shout "get up granddad" to one of the detainees. I also recall either Corporal Payne or one of the other soldiers saying "keep your fucking arms up granddad". This is the only nickname that I can remember being used. I do remember other guards shouting while I was outside the building and would not be able to identify them.
35. In addition, every time the detainees started to slouch or their arms started to fall or they began to squat, Corporal Payne would kick or shove them in the back. Judging by how quickly the detainees' arms fell, they must have had them in that position for a few hours. From my recollection I do not consider the kicks to the detainees to be hard. When Corporal Payne was kicking the detainees, it was not with his leg drawn back but the kick was to the soft area of the back for example, where the kidneys were. The detainees did not

seem hurt by the kicks, more surprised. However, I felt what he was doing was wrong.

36. At one point I recall a Sergeant Major came out of a nearby building, from around our vehicles and from the direction that the GMTV crew had been escorted in and asked the soldiers to keep quiet because he did not want the journalists to hear. I remember him saying words to the effect of "keep the noise down" and that the GMTV crew were in the camp. He was casual and calm and did not stick around. I am unable to remember the Sergeant Major's name or physical appearance although I remember he was wearing combat trousers and a T Shirt. I think he also had a weapon strapped to him, although I cannot be sure. However, I do remember from his rank slide that he was a Warrant Officer Second Class and not an RSM. . I was not part of 1 QLR and did not know the personalities at BG Main.

37. I had been speaking to Corporal Payne for about ten minutes when he asked if I wanted to see the "choir". I said yes, because I did not know what he meant by referring to the "choir". I then recall seeing all of the detainees in the left hand room being lined up and Corporal Payne walked past each of the detainees and kicked/hit each of them so that they would make a different noise such as "oooo" or "aaah". The other soldiers present were laughing a lot at the "choir". I did not think it was funny. At the time, I may have been laughing but in an uncomfortable way. I thought it was pathetic and akin to bullying. In my opinion the only reason that the soldiers were doing this was because they could – they were in a position of power. I only saw the "choir" in the left hand room. Although I was shocked by what I saw I did not say to Corporal Payne that I disapproved of what he was doing. I don't know why I did not say anything but I do recall thinking that those with higher ranks in the camp must be aware of what was happening and they should do something to stop it.

38. Whilst I was looking at the detainees I remember that Lance Corporal Riley also came to look at them and think that he may have also talked to Corporal Payne with me. However, I am unable to recall if he saw the "choir" or looked in the right hand room. I had heard in passing that Lance Corporal Riley may have been to the TDF the day before.
39. The last thing I saw at the TDF was the "choir" and I left immediately afterwards. I would not have stayed talking to Corporal Payne if I had seen the "choir" first. I think Lance Corporal Riley may have seen the "choir" with me and possibly SAC Hughes. I cannot remember their reactions.
40. With the exception of the kicks, administered by Corporal Payne to the detainees when they slouched, or the "choir", I cannot remember any of the detainees being hit or beaten. I felt the detainees should have been detained properly. I think that I was at the TDF for around 15 – 20 minutes and do not think it could have been much longer as the GMTV crew knew where our vehicle was so if we were not there they would have gone looking for us. I would not have wanted them to see the TDF and the detainees.
41. I have been asked about the condition of the detainees. They were wearing normal clothes, sandbags on their heads and tie wraps. Some had shoes and some did not. I did not see any injuries and I did not see any of them receiving any first aid or medical treatment. Although the windows were blackened out, there was plenty of daylight to see by.
42. I had also seen detainees in the custody of another Regiment, the Royal Anglians, they were treated very differently. They were based at Basra Airport. Whether this was before or after the death of Baha Mousa, I can't be sure but I think it was afterwards. For example they had mattress beds, their hands were tied in front of them and they had no sandbags over their heads. They were not kept in stress positions, their tie wraps were removed after

they'd entered the building, they were able to talk to each other and were not shouted at. I thought that the detainees that I saw that day held by 1 QLR must have done something very bad to receive the treatment I witnessed. However, I did not feel confident to judge as I was not qualified in detaining prisoners. That is the reason that I did not interrupt, I could not be sure that what they were doing was procedurally wrong. We are trained to do our jobs as drivers and they were trained to do this job, but I did know that what I saw was wrong. Although I was uncomfortable at what I saw and thought it was morally wrong, I felt that the officers in the camp knew how the detainees were being treated and it was up to them to stop it. I also thought that the Sergeant Major knew what was happening when he came over to tell the soldiers to keep the noise down. In hindsight, however, it was wrong of me not to have said anything.

43. If the detainees had committed a crime, I felt strongly that the soldiers should have let the detainees be dealt with by the Court system, rather than interfere by treating the detainees in the manner which I witnessed.

44. Having decided that I had seen enough of the treatment of the detainees I walked back to the vehicles. I recall that Lance Corporal Riley came with me and seem to think that we also took SAC Hughes back to the vehicles with us. However, SAC Hughes may have remained behind at the TDF for a couple of minutes longer. I wanted to return to the vehicles as I did not know how long the GMTV crew would take. I recall thinking it was intended that their visit last about an hour and I wanted to make sure that the GMTV crew did not see anything that was happening at the TDF and also that we were ready leave. I thought that if the GMTV crew saw what was happening a negative report would be published that would damage all the good work we had been doing in Iraq like the building of schools, training police officers and fire-fighters or handing out money.

45. On reaching my vehicle I opened the back doors and had a drink and some food. I was back at the vehicle for around 20 – 30 minutes before the GMTV crew returned. I certainly know that it was enough time to eat something, have a drink and possibly smoke a couple of cigarettes.
46. I believe that Major Greenwood came to let us know that the GMTV crew were ready to leave and that we drove back around in the vehicles to pick them up. I think Major Greenwood may have had a couple of other officers with him including, possibly, Captain Halawi, an Arabic speaker who was also a paratrooper, and I thought he was decent person. Captain Halawi would have stopped any mistreatment if he had seen the treatment of the detainees at the TDF. I also remember there being a lady with us, a Flight Lieutenant from the RAF. Major Greenwood, Captain Halawi and the Flight Lieutenant did not see what was happening at the TDF. Captain Halawi was travelling in my vehicle and I did not speak to the Captain about what I saw because the journalists were in the vehicle with us. There were also a couple of photographic reporters.
47. I think there may have been a discussion between myself, Lance Corporal Riley and SAC Hughes at some point about what we had seen but I cannot remember anything specific. I knew that I just wanted to leave BG Main. I am relatively sure that Lance Corporal Riley and I would have discussed what we had seen as we got on well but I am unable to remember anything. I may have said something in passing to Captain Halawi when we got out of our vehicle on arriving at Divisional Headquarters, but I can not remember what was said. However, I would not have said anything in front of the GMTV crew as I would not have wanted them to pick up on what I had seen.
48. Usually we would have shown the journalists we were escorting further around BG Main or other situations that may be of interest to them, such as the British Army handing out money to Iraqi workers for wages. We did not

have any instructions on what journalists were allowed to see but after seeing the treatment of the detainees I was keen to leave as soon as possible. I was aware that if the journalists saw how the detainees were treated the negative reports would damage the good work we were doing. Once we picked up the GMTV crew we left BG Main straightaway. I think we dropped them back at Hotel Mirabad in Basra.

49. Later that day I seem to recall, although I cannot be sure, that I drove some of the Media Ops Team to the Palace in Basra. I think this would have been because this was where the daily briefings were held which officers from the Media Ops Team would have attended. We returned to Divisional Headquarters that night. I recall that we parked the vehicles and SAC Hughes, Lance Corporal Riley and I had a brief chat about what we had seen that day. After they went to the bar I stayed outside to smoke a cigarette and then went to speak to Sergeant Major Watson and reported what I had seen at the TDF that day. Sergeant Major Watson thanked me for telling him. I was also present when SAC Hughes and Lance Corporal Riley reported what they had seen at the TDF to Sergeant Major Watson on the same evening.
50. The next day I remember as being a routine day and vaguely recall driving some officers to either Umm Qasr or Al Almarah. I think I would have been distributing the wages for Iraqi workers with the Royal Marines Commando who were also part of the Media Ops Team. I returned to the Divisional Headquarters late that night. I recall it was pitch black and it took a long time for nightfall in Iraq in the summer months. I remember walking into the Media Ops Office and myself and Lance Corporal Riley being pulled aside by the Sergeant Major who was in charge of us, Sergeant Major Watson. At this stage I was not aware that Baha Mousa had died. I remember being sat down and told that Baha Mousa had died. I remember feeling shocked especially if this had resulted from the manner in which I had witnessed the detainees being treated. That same evening I was seen by the RMP and they

asked me if I was willing to give a statement about what I had seen during the time I was at the TDF, to which I said yes and subsequently gave a statement. I wished I had said something about what I had seen earlier than the previous evening when I had told Sergeant Major Watson. It greatly concerns me that Baha Mousa died that night after I had seen the treatment of the detainees. As an NCO, I consider that I should have had the integrity to turn around and say something to someone about what I had witnessed.

51. Sergeant Major Watson then explained that someone from the RMP was here to talk to me, Lance Corporal Riley and SAC Hughes. At the time I did not know who had reported that I had witnessed the events at the TDF to the RMP, but they must have done so straightaway, as it felt very soon after the incident that the RMP came to speak to us. I now understand that Lance Corporal Riley and SAC Hughes had been to speak with Sergeant Major Watson in relation to what they had seen at BG Main and I presume he must have approached the RMP.
52. I consequently met with a member of the RMP who explained that they knew that I had nothing to do with the events at the TDF but wanted to know if I would speak about what I had seen at BG Main the day before. They further explained that my choice to give a statement was voluntary. I felt strongly that if someone had died, I should speak up so I said that I wanted to make a statement. Apart from talking to the RMP, I do not remember talking to anyone else around the time.
53. I remained in theatre until 14 January 2004. I was trying to keep my mind on the job in hand as I was very busy. I therefore struggled to remember the exact circumstances surrounding Baha Mousa's death.
54. I have considered **Exhibit RB1**. That statement does not really jog my memory to remember any more detail than I have recalled above. I do not

disagree with anything I put in my previous statement; I just struggle to recollect precisely what happened that day. My only relatively clear recollection is of the "choir". It plays on my mind, especially when I believe that one of the people in the "choir" was Baha Mousa.

- 55. At page three of **Exhibit RB1** in the penultimate paragraph, I state that someone in the first room was broadly built and singing. I recall this. On reflection, I believe he could have been praying.

- 56. At page four, third paragraph, I refer to the fact that another soldier joins, who was 5ft 6ins and skinny. I state that he is just wearing shorts and a T-shirt. I think he was checking that Corporal Payne was alright. I cannot recall any detail about the other soldiers. I can only remember detail about Corporal Payne.

- 57. I have been asked whether I was issued with sandbags while in Iraq. When I refer to a sandbag, I mean a brown hessian bag that is filled with sand. There were millions of them in Iraq, used for sentry posts etc. However, I was never issued with sandbags and I would not have been anyway given my job as a driver.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed ... 

Richard Betteridge

Dated: ... 22-4-09