

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] LT CG RODGERS, 1 PLATOON, ANZIO, IQLR

I am the above named officer currently serving on Op TELIC II at Camp Stephen in Basra. On 16th September 2003 I was tasked to escort 9 x prisoners from IQLR Main to Umm Qasr for further questioning at JFIT. Upon arrival at JFIT I the prisoners were handed over to Int Corps NCO's under the supervision of Sgt Smith Provost Sergeant IQLR. Myself and my multiple were waiting in the rest room when Sgt Smith informed me that the prisoners had made allegations of being beaten up at the Hotel Haitham where they were arrested. I made my way with Sgt Smith to the detention camp and was present during the medical examinations of all prisoners. 2 of the prisoners were put on IV Drips due to being 'slightly' dehydrated. I was instructed to wait until the drips had been removed before I returned to Basra. After approximately 7 hours a doctor arrived to inspect the two patients with drips in. He found some injuries on the males including severe bruising and a cracked rib on one male and abdominal pains on another. At this point a Lt Cmdr arrived and introduced himself as the 'man running the JFIT'. He spoke to the doctor about the injuries and asked when they were sustained. I recall clearly the doctor saying 'probably within the last week'. At this point the Lt Cmdr got on his phone and started making phone calls to someone he called 'legal'. He then turned to me in front of a full medical tent and accused IQLR of keeping the prisoners an illegal length of time, under the incorrect conditions, and then asked if I was the arresting Officer. When I told him I was he took an aggressive stance and tone using his size to try and intimidate me and said, "I have heard about the fight in the hotel what happened?" I responded "There was no fight in the hotel sir" and went on to describe how the men came to be arrested the way they were detained, and who witnessed the condition they were in upon leaving my custody, including being filmed by associated press walking to the Bedford for transport. He then said "don't lie to me this is very serious you will be dealt with by the highest authority when legal get hold of this". I then responded that I had no problems with legal coming to speak to me and that if he saw the TV footage and got the statements of those present before accusing myself and my soldiers he would realise that there was no fight or heavy handling of prisoners in the hotel. I then went on to tell him that the men were not even plasti-cuffed until they were leaving the building and that they were given water and the two older men were sat up instead of lying face down. He then said that he had seen the baton on the back of my Bedford. To which I responded 'that is because there are 9 prisoners who have already tried to escape twice and only two soldiers guarding them and that the baton would be a much better method of trying to control a prisoner than shooting them. The Lt Cmdr then walked away and made another phone call before returning and telling me my multiple could leave and that the Americans would take over guarding the prisoners. Throughout the duration of the accusations by the commander JFIT the Int Corps NCO's and a police officer from Scotland Yard were present all of whom told me to report the Lt Cmdr for the accusations he had just made. The above statement is a true and correct recollection of all facts.

[REDACTED]
 CG RODGERS
 Lt
 ANZIO, IQLR

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