

**PJHQ-J1-OPS-ME-SO3-S**

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**From:** LA2-S  
**Sent:** 12 May 2004 16:14  
**To:** LA11-S; Hd of MoDLA-S; LA14-AFBT-S  
**Cc:** PJHQ-J9-LA-S  
**Subject:** RE: Iraqi Prisoners: Hooding

Rachel Please be aware that Humphrey does not have a secret brick so cannot access secret drive emails. I have printed this out for him

Vivien

-----Original Message-----

**From:** LA11-S  
**Sent:** 12 May 2004 14:32  
**To:** Hd of MoDLA-S; LA2-S; LA14-AFBT-S  
**Cc:** PJHQ-J9-LA-S  
**Subject:** Iraqi Prisoners: Hooding

Humphrey

Reference our discussion about UK Forces/hooding practice. I have spoken to PJHQ, J2 (intelligence), and they have explained hooding is not permitted per se nor trained upon as an interrogation tactic. All interrogation teams are trained to use blindfolds. However the bad news is that there was some initial confusion in theatre over what type of blind-fold was permitted to be used upon capture. It appears some UK Force in Iraq used sand bags to blind fold some prisoners on capture. This confusion was clarified on CJO's direction - following the death of a prisoner (security internee) in September.

Why do prisoners need to blindfolded?

There are a number of reasons, including the scenario I explained to protect the ID of the HUMINT source. Other reasons include, blindfolding the prisoner on capture to subdue them. It has also been used as a tactic to disorientate the prisoner - it apparently makes them more amenable to interrogation. Although advice was given this method was not permitted, if the intent of the interrogator was to use it as a method of mental cohesion to persuade them to answer questions (this is prohibited under the Geneva Conventions). Once at the detention facility, UK Forces were not permitted to hood/blindfold them.

During transit to the internment camp, prisoners may be blindfolded for operational security reasons or for their own safety (e.g. travelling through a military zone, location of CFs, etc). On the safety issue, the prisoner may be blindfolded to secure him during transit to the prisoner camp.

I've been unable to speak to Neil or Nick to confirm the above - both are currently in theatre. I left messages for them to contact Vivien or myself ASAP

Rachel