

PJHQ/10/5341

20 May 2003

PS/Minister(AF)

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OP TELIC: UPDATE ON THE DEATH OF AN IRAQI CIVILIAN DETAINEE

Reference: D/PJHQ/10/5341 dated 15 May 2003

Issue:

1. Further information on the death of an Iraqi civilian detainee during a routine house search in southern Basra on 12 May 2003.

Recommendation:

2. That Minister(AF) notes that:

- a) one Iraqi civilian died whilst in UK military detention on 8 May 2003 - the SIB is investigating this death;
- b) it is alleged that a second Iraqi civilian died as a result of an assault during a search of his house by members of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch on 12 May 2003;
- c) the allegation was made 36 hours after the search took place, and the civilian's body had already been buried;
- d) there is currently no evidence to link the house search with the death of the second civilian, but the SIB continues to investigate the allegation.

Timing:

3. Routine.

Background:

4. Following my minute at reference, further information has come to light on the incident involving the death of an Iraqi civilian during a routine search of his house. There appears