

Witness Name: S068
Statement No.: 1
Exhibits: None
Dated: 29 September 2010

THE BAHAMOUS PUBLIC INQUIRY

Witness Statement of S068

I, S068 will say as follows: -

1. I make this statement in response to the Inquiry's Rule 9 Request dated 29 July 2010. 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 the following documents:
 - a. Extracts of evidence provided to the Inquiry by Major Royce (BMI03173 to BMI03175 and BMI Trans. Day 57 pages 57 to 63, 73 to 75 and 122 to 125); and
 - b. Extracts of evidence provided to the Inquiry by SO16 (BMI04538 and BMI Trans. Day 85 pages 96 to 105).
2. I confirm that I have reviewed these extracts and have not seen any other documentation from the Inquiry.

Rank and Role

3. I held the rank of Lieutenant and was serving as OIC of 1 (UK) Armoured Division Field HUMINT Team (FHT) during the period early Feb 2003 – late June/early July 2003. During this period, my role was to command the FHT and its operations. These operations were co-ordinated closely

with the Divisional J2(X), Major S002 , and my own Operations
Warrant Officer, WO1 [REDACTED].

Evidence of Major Royce – 1 QLR Officer

4. The Inquiry has referred me to evidence given by Major Royce, a 1 QLR officer and, in particular, a conversation that he recalls having with a Major Robinson and a member of the FHT. Major Royce suggests in his statement that this individual was the FHT's OIC, although in oral evidence his evidence tended to indicate that it may simply have been the officer in charge of the particular operation that was being discussed. I do not recall ever having met Major Royce and this is the first time I have heard of such a conversation. I do not know when or if the conversation took place but I can confirm that I did not have a conversation with Major Royce or Major Robinson or indeed anyone in theatre about the conditioning of detainees. When I speak of "conditioning of detainees", an expression that is described in the Inquiry's letter as including hooding and stress positions. I did not speak to anyone in theatre about the use of these techniques. For the avoidance of doubt, I can confirm having met Major Robinson at around the time of his arrival and my departure from theatre in June/July 2003 although as stated above, I did not have a conversation with him in relation to the conditioning of detainees.

5. The Inquiry has also indicated that another witness, SO16 provided a list of names of individuals who, if the conversation mentioned in paragraph 3 did take place, may be able to assist the Inquiry with the identity of the FHT member concerned. I have not seen this list but the Deputy Solicitor to the Inquiry has confirmed that my name appears on it. I can confirm that I do not know which FHT operator Major Royce is referring to as being present at the time of the aforementioned conversation with Major Robinson but can say without any hesitation, that the conversation was not with me. As mentioned above, I do not know nor, to the best of my recollection, have I ever met Major Royce

Discussions involving hooding, stress positions, sleep deprivation, or other aspects of the physical handling of prisoners in Iraq during Op Telic 1

6. In late 2002, I attended a Prisoner Handling & Tactical Questioning (PHTQ) training course in the UK at DISC in Chicksands prior to my deployment. During this course, I recall being advised that blindfolds should be used where necessary for security reasons to transfer a detainee from an Internment Facility to a Debriefing Centre. I also recall a discussion about whether, in the absence of issued blindfolds, other improvised means of obscuring vision (e.g. a sandbag) could be used. I cannot recall who was present when this discussion took place, but it was part of a general group discussion involving the attendees and directing staff of the course. At the end of this discussion, I was left with the impression that improvised alternatives could be used to temporarily obscure vision in instances of detainee transfer where security considerations required it and when issued blindfolds were not available.
7. I recall only one occasion when I witnessed hooding. This was in about April 2003 during the transfer of two senior Iraqi military detainees from a Temporary Internment Facility to the Debriefing Centre at Brigade HQ near Shaibah. On this occasion, an alternative blindfold (i.e. a sandbag) was used to temporarily obscure the detainees' vision during transit. I did not become aware of a prohibition on the use of hoods during my deployment to Iraq.
8. I was not involved in any discussions, nor did I witness any instances of the use of stress positions, sleep deprivation or any other such methods in respect to the physical handling of detainees in Iraq during Op Telic.

Media/Press accounts

9. I have not given any account of matters relevant to the Inquiry's terms of reference to the press or media, nor have I given an account of events relevant to the Inquiry on any other occasion.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area. A horizontal line extends from the right side of the box.

Dated

29 September 2010