



Headquarters Multinational Division (South East)  
 Language Support Cell  
 J3 Ops Sp Branch  
 British Forces Post Office 641

I-NET: MND(SE)-DIVHQ-INTERPRETERS OC

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Reference:

Date:03/03/07

Dear Sir

1. I am OC/SO2 Interpreters, HQ MND(SE). I am responsible for the provision of linguistic capability across MND (SE). As part of this responsibility I manage [REDACTED] a Locally Employed Civilian (LEC) Interpreter.
2. [REDACTED] has been working as an interpreter for the British and coalition forces since January 2004 and has held many interpreter/translator posts with deployed British units. He is currently the only LEC interpreter employed in the Divisional Interpreter Pool. This pool is the central resource for interpreting/translating support across the Division and is usually only filled by military personnel and UK contracted, civilian, SC cleared interpreters. It is a measure of [REDACTED]'s reliability, capability and the confidence that I, my colleagues and my predecessors have in [REDACTED] that he is employed here.
3. [REDACTED] s, or [REDACTED] as he is universally known, works on a variety of tasks and projects for the Div Pool. He is a Basrawi by birth and domicile and provides a vital local link into the surrounding society. He is a source of geographical, historical, cultural and contemporary knowledge that is hard to find anywhere else and rarely articulated so well by others. He is man of great humility, politeness, honesty and with a strong dislike of violence. In a society where violence is an everyday occurrence and life relatively cheap I have never once heard him express feelings other than despair at the perpetration of violence.
4. Over the time of his employment [REDACTED] has developed strong relationships, based on mutual trust, with both the British forces he works for and the other LECs he works amongst. He has, due to the confidence placed in him, often been a communication resource between British employer and LEC employees, helping to smooth over difficulties and sort out misunderstandings. It is no coincidence that the COB (British base at Basra Airport) Quarter Master (QM) introduced [REDACTED] to his successor on the occasion of the handover of QM responsibilities, [REDACTED] being a key man in employer/employee dynamics here.
5. The trust placed in [REDACTED] by the fellow LECs has led to him being told a lot of information that has an intelligence value and that would not always reach MNF intelligence collators by other routes. [REDACTED] would not betray a confidence but if an LEC or local gives him any information that they wish to pass on further, then [REDACTED] is trusted to do this. This is especially true when the lives of fellow Iraqis or British forces are at risk. This passage of information places the source and [REDACTED] at great risk and he realises this. This has not stopped him from what he sees as doing his duty by his fellow Iraqis. [REDACTED] has been a long term and continuous source of significant intelligence.

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6. [REDACTED] simply by his employment by MNF has become the target of death threats. He is well known amongst the LECs and we must assume by the wider anti-Multi National Forces (MNF) elements outside of the MNF bases. He has, since Oct 06, been confined on the COB unable to return to his family or risk being seen by anti-MNF elements. His wife and family have had to move house and must maintain a cover story to conceal the reality of [REDACTED]'s absence. [REDACTED] and his family live in constant fear of being targeted by the Militias.

7. It is my opinion that [REDACTED]'s life is in danger and his ability to re-integrate in Iraqi society once the British forces withdraw from Iraq is doubtful. For us, at the point of withdrawal, to abandon [REDACTED] would be, in my opinion, a desertion of our moral responsibility. It is my request that thought be given to a process in which [REDACTED] and his immediate family may be able to take up residence in the UK at a point soonest and prior to the British military withdrawal from Iraq. I am willing to stand as reference or sponsor for [REDACTED].

PAURIC NEWLAND  
Maj  
OC Interpreters/SO2 LSC  
HQ MND(SE)  
BFPO 641



[REDACTED]

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From the Private Secretary

22 June 2007

*Dear Mr. Al-Kinani:*

Thank you for the papers you handed to my colleague, Ruth Turner, during our visit to Basra in May this year, in which you requested asylum in the United Kingdom (UK).

Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks for the valuable and loyal service that you have given to the British Forces in Basra. I am sad to learn about the position in which you and your family find yourselves, threatened by fellow Iraqis for the help you gave to the British Forces.

The UK is a signatory to the 1951 United Nations' Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees ('the Refugee Convention'). The Refugee Convention defines a refugee as someone who amongst other things, is outside their country of nationality. While you are in Iraq, you cannot be a refugee as defined by the Refugee Convention. Furthermore the laws under which someone can apply to come to the UK are contained mainly in the UK's Immigration Rules. There is no scope in the Immigration Rules for accepting and considering asylum applications made from abroad.

If you are intent on leaving Iraq permanently, I would advise you to contact the Embassy of your intended destination-country, for information about entry requirements and visa applications. If you wish to travel to the UK, you can find further information on how to apply for a visa on the website of the UK's entry clearance department: [www.ukvisas.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk). Any application you make for entry to the UK will have to meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules. You may also find it useful to look at the website of the British Embassy in Iraq, which is at: [www.britishembassy.gov.uk/iraq](http://www.britishembassy.gov.uk/iraq).

*Yours,*

*Nick Banner*

NICK BANNER

