

MOD response to second Panorama letter

Dear Callum

Thank you for your letter of 18 February. There is little for us to add to our earlier response.

Given the sensitivities and the nature of the allegations that you make, we must insist upon the following statements (attributable to an MOD spokesperson) being used in full in your programme.

On 20 May 2004 the Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police (RMP (SIB)) began an investigation into allegations of mistreatment and mutilation during the incident at Vehicle Checkpoint Danny Boy and, following that incident, at Camp Abu Naji. The investigation lasted 10 months and involved the interviewing of over 150 British Personnel and 50 Iraqi nationals.

The RMP SIB has no factual evidence or complaint regarding a 14-year old boy in connection with the incident, which occurred at or near VCP Danny Boy or at Camp Abu Naji. There is no evidence at this time within the original RMP (SIB) investigation to support the allegation that a boy was transported back to Abu Naji.

6 of the 9 detainees were sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment and one was transferred to the juvenile court. At this time the RMP (SIB) are not in possession of any official Iraqi court details pertaining to any challenge to those proceedings.

There is currently no evidence to support claims of alleged mutilation of bodies at or near VCP Danny Boy, or of torture or execution at Camp Abu Naji.

The allegations with regard to Hamid Al Sweady and Haidar Al Lami are part of an ongoing RMP (SIB) investigation and judicial review.

The RMP (SIB) conducted a preliminary review into the allegations contained in the book "Condor Blues". They found no credible evidence of wrongdoing to justify any further investigation.

The RMP is currently looking into new evidence and hopes to interview those who have made the allegations as soon as possible. Once the interviews are complete, the RMP will be in a position to decide whether to reopen their investigation.

MOD Press Office