

**MEDICAL REPORT**

**CASE INFORMATION**

BILAG	87
CHRISTIAN HARLANG	

**Date of exam:** 30 September and 1 October 2014

**Place of exam:** Restart Center for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-12-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 2 hours, 25 minutes

Physical: 1 hour 15 minutes

**Subject's birth date and birth place:** 01.07.1951, Fao in Basra, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:** , Male, passport number

**Interpreter name:** Hala Naffah (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):** -

**CLINICIANS' QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. Dr Raghda Sleit. Dr. Raghda Sleit graduated from faculty of medicine Ain Sham university in 2008 after that she worked as a resident in Ain Shams Institute of Psychiatry and then she completed her master's degree in neuropsychiatry from Ain Shams University in 2012, she has been working in Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims since then. The activities of Al Nadeem Center include: psychiatric management, documentation, legal aid and campaign. It is the only Non-Governmental Organization in Egypt that involved psychiatric medical doctors and the professionals there worked as both trainers and trainees themselves in this specific field for several years. The center organized training activities with lawyers and physicians on the documentation of torture cases according to the Istanbul protocol.
- B. Dr. Sana Hamzeh. Dr. Sana Hamzeh is currently a Doctorate in Counseling of Grief and Trauma in Breyer State University, USA. Holding a BS degree in clinical psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology from the Lebanese University, Dr. Hamzeh founded (along with other mental health professionals

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**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-12-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 2 hours, 25 minutes

Physical: 1 hour 15 minutes

**Subject's birth date and births place:** 01.07.1951, Fao in Basra, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:** , Male, passport number

**Interpreter name:** Hala Naffah (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):** -

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- A. Dr Raghda Sleit. Dr. Raghda Sleit graduated from faculty of medicine Ain Sham university in 2008 after that she worked as a resident in Ain Shams Institute of Psychiatry and then she completed her master's degree in neuropsychiatry from Ain Shams University in 2012, she has been working in Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims since then. The activities of Al Nadeem Center include: psychiatric management, documentation, legal aid and campaign. It is the only Non-Governmental Organization in Egypt that involved psychiatric medical doctors and the professionals there worked as both trainers and trainees themselves in this specific field for several years. The center organized training activities with lawyers and physicians on the documentation of torture cases according to the Istanbul protocol.
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in Lebanon) *Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture* (1996). Nominated **Head of the Rehabilitation Unit** at Restart center (which is accredited by IRCT since 2001). Dr Hamzeh holds 19 years of experience as psychotherapist working with victims of torture and her mains include "*clinical individual supervision*" and "*peer supervision*", for which she is also certified to train. She is an international expert in Istanbul Protocol for documentation on the mental health level. Her reputation is also well appreciated on the international level, being elected as member of the *International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)* during a three-year mandate and as one of the founders of the *Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP)*.

- C. Senior Lecturer Peter Mygind Leth, physician, board certified specialist in forensic medicine, University of Southern Denmark. Many years of experience in the evaluation of alleged torture victims. Publications on medico-legal issues, including torture.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **General information**

#### **Past medical history**

The patient has a bad hearing and has been investigated by a specialist at the Subair Hospital. He has no hearing aid. He has been suffering from periodic headache since his detention in 2004. He was admitted to Subair Hospital in Basra august 2014 because of headache and low blood pressure, but received no specific diagnosis. He is treated with Concavit capsules (vitamins).

#### **Past psychiatric history**

No previous psychiatric history.

## **ALLERGATIONS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT**

### **Summary of detention and abuse**

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ was arrested on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Al-Zubayr region by the Danish, British and Iraqi forces. During his arrest he was subjected to different form of ill treatment. His arrest was allegedly not based on a particular charge, but rather on a religious background. He remained detained for two weeks.

### **Narrative account of ill-treatment and torture by examinee's own words**

I was at home, people called me and told me what happened, so I took a taxi and went quickly to the Takia. There, I found Danish troops and Iraqi marked militias surrounding the Takia, I tried to enter to find out what is going on, the Takia was messy and allot of things were broken. One of the militants approached me and asked about my I.D., I told him "I'm the owner of this place" after hearing this they handcuffed me, blindfolded me and dragged me to the car with my other Takia mates. In our way to the car, they were insulting me, my mother, and my sisters and accusing me of being a terrorist, at this time the word terrorist meant death.

They continued insulting us all the way till the car stopped.

When the car stopped at what they call "al shaiba camp" they took off my cuffs and fold and delivered my mates and me to the Danish troops. The Danish troops made us walk in a row then, forced us to sit on the sand for two hours or more. Danish soldiers holding two scary dogs were watching us. I remember that I peed on himself. After that they took us one by one to a small interrogation tent, with two Danish interrogators and an Iraqi interpreter inside it, they searched my clothes but without touching they took my belongings and put it in a bag and told me "we are going to give you back your belongings once the interrogation ends" but they never returned my belongings back. After that I was put in a larger tent till before sunset. After that they handed us over to the Iraqi militants. The Iraqis handcuffed and blindfolded me then put us in a car.

I was fasting that day, so I got dizzy and slept all the way from al Shaeba camp to our next destination "I knew later that our next destination was called Al Jammiat security (internal affairs) office"

The car stopped I was forced out of the car, forced to lean forward and enter a building. I tried to tell them "I'm fasting, I need to break my fast" they didn't listen. I was forced to sit facing the wall in a corridor inside this building. After that they began beating me, on my back, on my face, on my neck, on my hands, and on my arms. At 12 am we were taken one by one to an interrogation room. When I entered I told them I'm fasting, they didn't listen then began ordering me to confess my crimes, I told them "I'm a peaceful person I did nothing" so they threatened "do you want us to bring your wife and daughters and force you to confess?" they beat me with a stick over my head and my hands, then they threatened to electrocute me, I told them "I'm not afraid bring the electrodes" so they electrocuted me twice, they continued hitting and insulting me for a very long time, may be more than two hours. After that they forced me to sign a paper that contained confessions, they took off my folds and cuffs then photographed me and dragged me to a large room with other prisoners. The room was dim, there were allot of prisoners, the room smelled terrible and I couldn't eat till the next day. I spent ten days there, may be less may be more, I cannot remember.

After that I was blindfolded and handcuffed again, then put in a car. Two hours later the car was stopped and I was put in a large cell (without my Takia mates) in a prison they call Al Maaqal along with convicted criminals. I remained there for nine days then I was taken to the court "the court is at Al Maaqal" I was handcuffed and blindfolded then taken to a judge, he asked me about my name and my job then I was dismissed. I went back to the prison, and two days later I was released. My family were waiting for me and took me back home.

I was released but I don't feel good since then.

#### **Review of abuse and ill-treatment**

- Beating
- Kicking
- Blindfolding
- Deprivation of food and water
- Death threats
- Electrocution
- Listening to the torture of others
- False accusations

## PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISABILITIES

When he was beaten and kicked, he felt pain. The lesion consisted of bruises and abrasions that healed without complications. He lost a tooth (incisor) in the upper mouth. He suffers from pain in the back of his neck. He does not suffer from any serious disease.

## PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The patient was an elderly underweight man. He participated well in the examination. He was composed and tried to answer the question as well as possible. There were no signs of disease. Head and face: unremarkable. Dental status is bad with several teeth missing. Thorax and abdomen: Unremarkable. Arms and legs: There was a 1x1 cm scar on the right upper arm, allegedly unrelated to his imprisonment. He complained of pain in the right shoulder, allegedly unrelated to his imprisonment. The foot soles were unremarkable.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY/EXAMINATION

### 1. Methods of assessment

Two sessions with clinical interviews, the first one was held by Dr Raghda Sleit on 30/10/2014 and lasted for 1 hour 45 minutes and the second session was on 1/10/2014 and lasted for 40 minutes where Dr. Sana joined Dr. Raghda for a second opinion.

Harvard trauma questionnaire, Hopkins scale for anxiety and Hopkins scale for depression were also done by Dr. Raghda Sleit, the results were 2.6(moderate), 3(high) and 3.1(high), respectively.

### 2. Current psychological complaints

It was difficult for us to extract psychological complains from him, as he said "I'm a very religious man, Allah is with me, I can never be ill" yet he described:

- ▣ Non refreshing sleep with difficulty in initiation
- ▣ Anxiety and fear
- ▣ Irritability "after the trauma he had problems with his wife and children"
- ▣ Flash backs
- ▣ Decreased concentration and forgetfulness
- ▣ Death wishes
- ▣ Frustration and hopelessness

### 3. Mental status examination

General appearance and behaviour: old aged male, average build, fair self-hygiene and grooming, he is calm cooperative.

Conscious, attentive, oriented to time place and person

Speech: coherent to the point average amount volume and stream.

**Affect:** Anxious

**Thinking:**

- Stream: Average
- Form: No formal thought disorder was detected.
- Content: He has no delusions but preoccupied by how his anxiety is slowing him down
- Thought control: No abnormality detected

**Perception:** He has neither illusions, nor hallucinations, only flashbacks.

**4. Assessment of social functioning**

He became isolated more than before, his irritability and isolation affected his relations with others.

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The testimony by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is very similar to other victims' testimonies. His claims of ill treatment are fully consistent with his signs and symptoms.
2. The described humiliations and physical abuse amount to serious maltreatment, and torture may well be the most appropriate term to use.
3. After the two clinical sessions and with the help of Harvard and Hopkins diagnostic tools he was found to suffer from: **Moderate depressive disorder.**
4. Mr \_\_\_\_\_ should undergo psychiatric management and psychotherapy

I personally know the facts stated below, except those stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true. I would be prepared to testify to the above statements based on my personal knowledge and belief.

**EXPERT PSYCHOTHERAPIST**

Psychotherapist, Dr. Sana Hamzeh

Signature



**PSYCHIATRIST**

Psychiatrist, Dr. Raghda Sleit

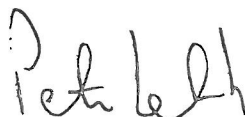
Signature



**FORENSIC DOCTOR**

Senior lecturer, MD; Ph.D. Peter Mygind Leth

Signature



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**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-13-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 2 hours 35 minutes

Physical: 1 hour 10 minutes

**Subject's birth date and births place:** 01.07.1960, Deqar, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:** , Male, passport-number

**Interpreter name:** Bassim Alsadoon (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):** -

**CLINICIANS' QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. Sana Hamzeh: Dr. Sana Hamzeh is currently a Doctorate in Counseling of Grief and Trauma in Breyer State University, USA. Holding a BS degree in clinical psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology from the Lebanese University, Dr. Hamzeh founded (along with other mental health professionals in Lebanon) *Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture* (1996). Nominated **Head of the Rehabilitation Unit** at Restart center (which is accredited by IRCT since 2001). Dr Hamzeh holds 19 years of experience as psychotherapist working with victims of torture and her mains include "*clinical individual supervision*" and "*peer supervision*", for which she is also certified to train. She is an international expert in Istanbul Protocol for documentation on the mental health level. Her reputation is also well appreciated on the international level, being elected as member of the *International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)* during a three-year mandate and as one of the founders of the *Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP)*.

- B. Dr Raghda Sleit. Dr. Raghda Sleit graduated from faculty of medicine Ain Sham university in 2008 after that she worked as a resident in Ain Shams Institute of Psychiatry and then she completed her master's degree in neuropsychiatry from Ain Shams University in 2012, she has been working in Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims since then. The activities of Al Nadeem Center include: psychiatric management, documentation, legal aid and campaign. It is the only Non-Governmental Organization in Egypt that involved psychiatric medical doctors and the professionals there worked as both trainers and trainees themselves in this specific field for several years. The center organized training activities with lawyers and physicians on the documentation of torture cases according to the Istanbul protocol.
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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### General information

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is married; he has one son and three girls. He works as a teacher in a school. *"My life was beautiful, I was a poet. And I still write. The singer \_\_\_\_\_ sings my lyrics, my poem. I used to travel with my friends."*

### Past medical history

The patient has for some years suffered from chronic stomach ulcer. He has a bad vision and suffers from periodic headache. Last year he fell down from a roof and broke both wrists. He has still problems writing because of reduced mobility of his wrist. He is treated with Tagamet tablets for stomach ulcer.

### Past psychiatric history

No past psychiatric history.

## V. ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

### Summary of detention and abuse

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ was arrested on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Al-Zubayr region by the Danish, British and Iraqi forces. During his arrest he was subjected to different form of ill treatment. His arrest was allegedly not based on a particular charge, but rather on a religious background. *"My uncles from the paternal side are communists, and my uncles from the maternal side are baathist. They were in prison. My mother took me to her brother in jail. My uncle in prison named me \_\_\_\_\_ my name before that was*

, the name caused me problems." He remained detained for two weeks.

### **Narrative account of ill-treatment and torture**

At November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004, drove him near the *taquie*, early in the morning; he was arrested by local forces, under the presence of the Danish planes, a Danish soldier at the mosque, the "*taquie*". *"It was the first time that I feel humiliated in front of my students, in the street. Everyone saw us."* He was handed over to the Iraqi militia. He was handcuffed with his hand tied together by plastic strips and blindfolded, and transported to the Shaibah base, a Danish and British military base, in an armoured vehicle. During the transportation, he was able to see through the bandage. The Danish and the Iraqi militias started kicking him and beating him with their fists.

After arrival he was ordered to sit down outside with other prisoners in rows. *"We stayed from the morning till the sunset in the military base. We were blindfolded. One police dog searched us. They took us in photo, without being blindfolded."* Some Danish soldiers with police dogs were present, and they allowed the dogs to come very near. They were given food. He was then moved to a tent and searched. His ID card, a gold bracelet (the gold necklace of his wife), a gold ring, his mobile phone, a book and 2 100 US dollars, in addition to Iraqi money (his salary) that makes around 800\$, were put in a paper bag and they were never given back to him by the Danish. A Danish soldier inserted a finger in his anal channel *"the Danish introduced wore a medical glove and introduced his finger"*, and the Danish soldiers laughed. *"I felt that I was dead"*. He sweated, he felt a lot of shyness and he trembled.

He was handed over to the Iraqi militia and transported to the serious crime unit at Al Jamiyat in Basra. He and other prisoners were forced to sit down on the floor with their heads facing toward the wall. He was kicked and beaten with fists and a baton on the back and on the back of his head. The prisoners were called by name, one after the other. He could hear other prisoners scream from the adjoining room. When it was his turn, he was lead to another room. There he was beaten. *"The one who was most tortured in the group was me"*

Electrodes were attached to his ears, nose, nipples, penis and anus, and he was electrocuted at least three times. He passed out, and when he woke up he was bleeding from his nose. His nose was broken, he was punched in his eyes.

He was then transferred to a big hall in the same area. Many other prisoners were present in the hall, probably 35-40. He stayed 7-8 days in this room (in al shou'oun). He was taken out for interrogation three times. Each time lasted about 3.5 hours. He was electrocuted each time. It was very cold in the hall. He slept on the floor on his jacket. Some of the other prisoners had blankets. He got no food for the first two days. Then he got some food that his family brought. He received no food from the warders. He was then sent to a court/prison at Al Maagal or Al Tasfiraat in Basra where he stayed two days. He was blindfolded while speaking to a judge. He was then released on bail. Before being released he was blackmailed for 7.600 US dollars.



*"Even when I was in prison, masked men went to my house and knocked the door on my wife, asking her when I would go out of prison. She was very scared, she was pregnant and she had a miscarriage 5 days after that."*

### 3. Review of present abuse and ill-treatment

#### Physical forms

- Beating and kicking
- Electrocution (they asked him to walk with his feet naked in water and electricity) – *"after the detention, I wasn't able to have children anymore because of the sexual electrocution torture."*
- Sexual (anal exploration)
- Sensory deprivation (blindfolding)
- Deprivation of food and water

#### Psychological forms

- Humiliation
- Threatening
- Insults
- Listening to others being beaten

### PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISABILITIES

When he was beaten and kicked, he felt pain. The lesion consisted of bruises and abrasions that healed without complications. When electrocuted he felt pain and passed out.

### PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The patient was an 54-year old normal weight man. He participated well in the examination. He was composed and tried to answer the question as well as possible. There were no signs of disease. Head and face: unremarkable. Thorax and abdomen: Unremarkable. Arms and legs: There was a palpable swelling of the right wrist and reduced mobility caused by a fall, unrelated to his imprisonment. There was a 1x0.5 cm and a 1x1 cm scar anteriorly on the right shin, unrelated to his imprisonment. He complained of pain in the back, unrelated to his imprisonment. Penis and scrotum was unremarkable. The foot soles were unremarkable.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY/EXAMINATION

#### 1. Methods of assessment

Two sessions with clinical interviews, the first one was held by Dr. Sana Hamzeh and Ms. Line Abou Zaki on 30/09/2014 and lasted for 1 hour 45 minutes. The second



session was on 1/10/2014 and lasted for 50 minutes, in the presence of Dr. Ragda Sleit and Dr. Sana Hamzeh. He drew to us the places of the detention while narrating his story to us.

Harvard trauma questionnaire, Hopkins scale for anxiety and Hopkins scale for depression, as screening measures, were also done by Ms. Line Abou Zaki, the results were 3.9, 3.9 and 3.9, respectively.

## 2. Current psychological complaints

Up to date, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ suffers from the following psychological sequelae:

- **Psychosomatic symptoms** (ulcer since he went out of prison)
- **Stigmatization** (he worries about what people will say about him)
- **Cautiousness** (when he is teaching: *"I am scared to say words in relation to politics"*)
- **Hypervigilance**
- **Crying easily**
- **Suffocation feelings**
- **Self blame**
- **Guilt feelings** (*"If I had not been to the taqie, they would not have arrested me."*)
- **Ambivalence feeling** (regret feeling versus anxiety)
- **Hopelessness, despair**
- **Recurrent thoughts and memories of the event**
- **Feeling as though the event is happening again**
- **Avoidance of activities, thoughts, feelings, that reminds him of the detention** (he avoids to leave home, he only goes out when he has crucial issues; *"during six months, I did not go out of home, only to go to school, and I used to leave school in the middle of the day."*)
- **Inability to remember part of the traumatic events**
- **Low energy, feeling blue**
- **Loss of sexual interest/pleasure, and sexual disorder** (two years after prison, he started having erection problems)
- **Poor appetite** (he lost weight)
- **Tendency to isolation**
- **Shyness**
- **Poor memory**
- **Lack of concentration**
- **Hyper arousal** (tachychardia, fainting attack (he fainted when he went to the army in Beirut; fear when he passes next to a military checkpoint)
- **Sleeplessness**
- **Intrusive thoughts**

- **Flashbacks** (each time he goes to the toilet, he remembers when the Danish soldier inserted a finger in his anal channel; and during his stay in Beirut, there was a memorization of his previous arrest *"the memories came back"*. *"When the army took me, I started trembling and sweating"*, he was scared. The army, in Beirut, took him and others from the group because one man of the group took a picture of a military place. He had bad expectations. He was worried that they don't let them out; *"I hate all police centers"*)
- **Recurrent nightmares**
- **Persecution feelings**
- **Exaggerated startle response**
- **Sudden emotional/physical reaction when reminded of the trauma**
- **Feeling detached from people**
- **Feeling lonely**
- **Emotional numbness**
- **Diminished interest in daily activities**
- **Suicidal ideation**
- **Feeling of being trapped**
- **Worry too much about things** (worries about his wife and kids)
- **Feeling of worthlessness**
- **Feeling tense**
- **Nervousness**
- **Headaches**
- **Feeling fearful**
- **Heart pounding/racing**
- **Trembling (legs and hands)**
- **Feeling restless**
- **Dizziness**

### **3. Mental status examination**

**General appearance and behaviour:** middle aged male, average build, fair self-hygiene, he is calm and cooperative.

Conscious, attentive, oriented to time place and person.

**Speech:** coherent to the point average amount volume and stream.

**Affect:** sad.

**Thinking:**

- Content: He has no delusions, but he is preoccupied by the stigmatization that he has since the traumatic events.

- Thought control: No abnormality detected.

Perception: No delusions. Conscious.

Insight: He is aware of his psychological situation.

#### 4. Assessment of social functioning

Mr. , as a consequence of the physical torture, was not able to have children anymore after he was released from prison. He still works as a teacher, but with a lot of fears and cautiousness. He also has a poor social life, and is scared of going out frequently.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The testimony by Mr. is very similar to other victims' testimonies. His claims of ill treatment are fully consistent with his signs and symptoms.
2. The described humiliations and physical abuse amount to serious maltreatment, and torture may well be the most appropriate term to use.
3. After the two clinical sessions and with the help of Harvard and Hopkins diagnostic tools he may be suffering severely from: **Post-traumatic Stress Disorder with comorbid Depression and Anxiety disorder.**
4. Mr. should undergo psychiatric management and psychotherapy

I personally know the facts stated below, except those stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true. I would be prepared to testify to the above statements based on my personal knowledge and belief.

#### EXPERT PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Psychotherapist, Dr. Sana Hamzeh


Signature



#### PSYCHIATRIST

Psychiatrist, Dr. Raghda Sleit

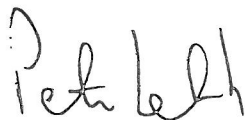
Signature



#### FORENSIC DOCTOR

Senior lecturer, MD; Ph.D. Peter Mygind Leth

Signature



**MEDICAL REPORT**

**CASE INFORMATION**

BILAG	89
CHRISTIAN HARLANG	

**Date of exam:** 30 September and 1 October 2014

**Place of exam:** Restart Center for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-14-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 3 hours

Physical: 1 hour 15 minutes

**Subject's birth date and birth place:** 10.06.1977, Zi Qar, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:** , Male, passport number

**Interpreter name:** Hala Naffah (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):** -

**CLINICIANS' QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. Sana Hamzeh: Dr. Sana Hamzeh is currently a Doctorate in Counseling of Grief and Trauma in Breyer State University, USA. Holding a BS degree in clinical psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology from the Lebanese University, Dr. Hamzeh founded (along with other mental health professionals in Lebanon) *Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture* (1996). Nominated **Head of the Rehabilitation Unit** at Restart center (which is accredited by IRCT since 2001). Dr Hamzeh holds 19 years of experience as psychotherapist working with victims of torture and her mains include "*clinical individual supervision*" and "*peer supervision*", for which she is also certified to train. She is an international expert in Istanbul Protocol for documentation on the mental health level. Her reputation is also well appreciated on the international level, being elected as member of the *International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)* during a three-year mandate and as one of the founders of the *Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP)*.

- B. Dr Raghda Sleit. Dr. Raghda Sleit graduated from faculty of medicine Ain Sham university in 2008 after that she worked as a resident in Ain Shams Institute of Psychiatry and then she completed her master's degree in neuropsychiatry from Ain Shams University in 2012, she has been working in Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims since then. The activities of Al Nadeem Center include: psychiatric management, documentation, legal aid and campaign. It is the only Non-Governmental Organization in Egypt that involved psychiatric medical doctors and the professionals there worked as both trainers and trainees themselves in this specific field for several years. The center organized training activities with lawyers and physicians on the documentation of torture cases according to the Istanbul protocol.
- C. Senior Lecturer Peter Mygind Leth, physician, board certified specialist in forensic medicine, University of Southern Denmark. Many years of experience in the evaluation of alleged torture victims. Publications on medico-legal issues, including torture.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **General information**

Mr. [redacted] was born in 1977 in Zi Qar "a state near to Al Basra" and he is living there till now, he graduated from faculty of education geography section, currently he is unemployed, he is married with five children the youngest is four years old.

### **Past medical history**

The patient suffers high blood pressure. He also has a disk herniation with radiation of pain to the right leg. His condition has been evaluated at the Thaygar Hospital and treated conservatively. He has never been operated and receives no medication.

### **Past psychiatric history**

No past psychiatric history.

## **V. ALLERGATIONS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT**

### **1. Summary of detention and abuse**

Mr. [redacted] was arrested on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Al-Zubayr region by the Danish, British and Iraqi forces. During his arrest he was subjected to different form of ill treatment. His arrest was allegedly not based on a particular charge, but rather on a religious background. He remained detained for two weeks.

### **2. Narrative account of ill-treatment and torture by examinee's own words**

I was a student in Al Basra University and since my home was in Zi Qar, I used to spend most of my nights sleeping in the Takia "where you have a shelter with a good company and you serve Allah".

That day I came late, I was sleeping up stairs and waked up on the voice of people yelling and cursing by a foreign language and Arabic, I also heard sounds of tanks and helicopters, I waked up and ran down stairs while wearing my light pyjama and barefooted, I found Danish soldiers and Iraqi masked militia men yelling and cursing, I

tried to ask the Danish soldiers in English "what is going on? Please don't do this", while talking, two or three Danish soldiers grabbed my shoulders and forced me to flex my knees and take a prostration position, then kicked my back and the back of my head several time, until this moment I felt like I was still asleep and all what was happening was a dream, a nightmare and I'm going to wake up soon, after the beating I expected death. Five minutes later I was dragged and then thrown outside the Takia, after that the Iraqis began beating me, pressing with their boots over my hands, the back of my neck and my back "the floor outside the Takia consisted from small rocks and rough sand". They were swearing and cursing, calling my Takia mates and me terrorists and calling our sisters and mothers prostitutes.

After an hour or so "it is really hard for me to remember" one of the Iraqis grabbed my shirt's collar from the back and forced me to stand up, put a shirt over my face then handcuffed me with plastic handcuffs and took me to a car we call it costa with others who were in the Takia "the costa is a microbus that can hold 21 passengers", all in front of the Danish soldiers who were laughing and cursing "I remember hearing the word (fuck)"

during the car ride, the shirt was on my face, the car windows were darkened so I barely saw anything, I only heard cursing, they cursed our mothers, sisters and called us terrorists; insulting my mother and my sisters was hurting me, we are southern Iraqis we are tribal people, we are conservative, calling our mothers and sisters prostitutes is not acceptable, The word terrorist scared me too "at this time anybody who was taken by the militias with the accusation of being terrorist had one fate; death". One of the Iraqis beat me on my face so the shirt was slightly removed and I was a little bit able to see; I saw some of my Takia mates, three Iraqi masked militias holding their weapons and one of them holding a large knife which scared me the most "we are going to be slaughtered!".

After less than an hour, we got out of the car in front of al Shaeba Camp "a camp for the Danish and English troops" our cuffs were unbound, the Danish received us they made us walk in a line, it was really cold and I had to pee so I begged the Danish soldiers to allow me to pee, they accepted and allowed me to go to the bathroom but after resistance, of course I was accompanied with a Danish soldier and a dog till the bathroom door "I spent like five minutes trying to pee from fear", after that I was forced to sit on the sand with the others, it was really cold, we were surrounded by Danish soldiers and two scary dog, after two or three hours I don't remember, I was taken to an interrogation tent where, I was subjected to a pat-down search, they only searched over my clothes but they touched me in a way that felt uncomfortable, after that there was a Danish interrogator and an Iraqi interpreter, they asked about my name, residence and work then I was taken to a larger tent with other Takia mates "I remember seeing a Danish soldier with a large bruise under one of his eyes, he looked angry".

After that, the Danish took us out of the tent and delivered us back to the Iraqi militias, the Iraqis handcuffed us with plastic handcuffs and put a plastic bag over my face then forced me in the car "a costa like car". We went to an unknown place "I knew its name later when I was released". One of the Iraqis grabbed my collar then threw me out of the car, I remember hitting the wall, after that I was taken to a place, I was forced to sit down, my hands handcuffed behind my back and my face facing a wall, while sitting

there I was kicked by legs and beaten with hands frequently on my back, on my face, and on the back of my neck.

After that they took us one by one to the interrogation room. When I entered the room they swayed me from a side of the room till my head banged the wall then swayed me to the other side several times then they began asking "why do you kill shiits? Why are you a terrorist? Where is the money you receive to kill people?" from their accents and the way the interrogators were addressing each other I interpreted they were Iranians "they called each other Mister so and the father of so, not as Iraqi officers call each other". After that they put me on prostration position and kicked my back with their legs, I was begging "for the love Ali! For the love of Al Zahra! Let me speak! I'm a college student, my parents are wealthy, I don't need money, and I'm not a terrorist! For the love of Ali leave me!", they didn't stop, they beat me with something very heavy over my back, it made me lose my balance, I felt that my back was split into halved. After this one of the interrogators told the others to stop so they grabbed my collar to stand up, banged my head to the door, opened the door and took me to back to where I was sitting before the interrogation "I was hearing some of my Takia mates screaming and begging the militants to stop beating them". At 2:30 am they took my pictures and my finger prints after that I was taken to a large room, the room was dim, contained plenty of other prisoners "they were sympathetic with us", the water was very cold to me and the room smelled terrible, there was only one toilet that served all of us, the toilet was plugged, I still remember the smell of the room. It was really cold and it was very difficult for me to sleep; my pajama was too light for such weather, I also woke up panicking every time I heard the door open, I used to hear the screams from others being tortured outside the room. Some of the prisoners had money and managed to buy biscuits and cigarettes.

I spent thirteen days there "maybe more maybe less as we didn't know day from night" one day or two before the end of my detention, the room was opened they called my name; I was blindfolded and handcuffed again then taken to what they call a court. First I was put in a room with others waiting for my turn, then I was taken to the judge, I stood before whom they call a judge while blindfolded and handcuffed, he asked about my name my work, whether I am a terrorist or not, I asked him to allow me to talk I told him "I am a student I did nothing", he replied "well! Sorry the fire eats everything and everybody!". After that half of us went back to the same place we were detained in, all of them were released when we reached this place except me and

so I gave my father's number to one of them in order to let him know about my condition and bail and I " " was mentally disabled and his guardian was detained with us". I was released the next day to find my father waiting for me, when I saw him I cried and almost fainted.

One of the Iraqi T.V. channels talked to me and photographed my injuries especially my back injuries, I went to the hospital done some investigations and turned out to have disc protrusion between L3 & L4 due to the beating.

One last thing, I had belongings and money in the Takia one of the belongings was Canon camera that I saved alot of money to buy and contained many photos with great memories in college; I want this camera back.

### 3. Review of present abuse and ill-treatment

- Beating
- Kicking



## Report Beirut-14-2014

- Blindfolding
- Deprivation of food and water
- Inappropriate frisking
- Mocking
- Insulting
- Positioning
- Listening to the torture of others
- False accusations

## PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISABILITIES

When he was beaten and kicked, he felt pain. The lesion consisted of bruises and abrasions that healed without complications.

## PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The patient was a middle-aged, normal weight man. He participated well in the examination. He was composed and tried to answer the question as well as possible. There were no signs of disease. Head and face: unremarkable. Dental status was bad. Thorax and abdomen: Unremarkable. Arms and legs: There is a feeling of numbness in the right leg corresponding to an S1 disc herniation. There is a normal patella- and plantar reflex. No drop foot. No muscular atrophy. The foot soles were unremarkable.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY/EXAMINATION

### 1. Methods of assessment

Two sessions with clinical interviews, the first one was held by Dr Raghda Sleit on 29/10/2014 and lasted for two and half hours and The second session was on 1/10/2014 and lasted for 30 minutes where Dr. Sana joined Dr. Raghda for a second opinion.

Harvard trauma questionnaire, Hopkins scale for anxiety and Hopkins scale for depression were also done by Dr. Raghda Sleit in another session on 30/10/2014, it lasted for thirty minutes, the results were 3.125(high), 3.2(high) and 2.7(moderate), respectively.

### 2. Current psychological complaints:

#### More than two years of

- Difficulty in initiation of sleep with frequent interruptions
- Night mares "about the trauma but also every day he dreams of people chasing him trying to kill him"
- Flash backs
- Persistent avoidance of cues
- Hyper-arousal symptoms



- Numbness of feelings "unable to feel anything, things that used to make him happy don't anymore"
- Always on guard and fearful "he sometimes avoid going out from home"
- Sad mood
- Irritability "he always quarrel with his wife for trivial reasons, something he didn't do before trauma"
- Decreased interest "stopped enjoying any pleasurable activity including his relation with his wife and playing with his kids"
- Prefers to be isolated "he only attends social gatherings because he is obliged to"
- Frustration and hopelessness
- Fatigability
- Suicidal ideations and attempts "he attempted suicide two times but refused to talk about them, now he only has death wishes"

### 3. Mental status examination

**General appearance and behaviour:** middle aged male average build, fair self-hygiene and grooming, patient is calm cooperative.

Conscious, attentive, oriented to time place and person

**Speech:** coherent to the point average amount volume and stream.

**Affect:** Sad and anxious "cried at the end of the interview"

**Thinking:**

- Stream: Average

- Form: No formal thought disorder was detected.

- Content: He has no delusions but preoccupied by the effect of the traumatic event and his current social and occupational dysfunction,

- Thought control: No abnormality detected

**Perception:** He has neither illusions, nor hallucinations, only flashbacks.

**Insight:** He has insight for his symptoms but he is insightless to the need of treatment, he is afraid drugs may be addictive and turn him crazy, also he is afraid of the stigma of mental illness in the Iraqi society.

### 4. Assessment of social functioning

He managed to finish his college yet he was unable to maintain working in any job. He was married before the trauma (in 2000), his wife is responsible for the house hold and they are financially dependable on his father.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The testimony by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is very similar to other victims' testimonies. His claims of ill treatment are fully consistent with his signs and symptoms.
2. The described humiliations and physical abuse amount to serious maltreatment, and torture may well be the most appropriate term to use.

3. After the two clinical sessions and with the help of Harvard and Hopkins diagnostic tools he was found to suffer from: **post-traumatic stress disorder with comorbid dysthymic disorder.**
4. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ should undergo psychiatric management and psychotherapy

I personally know the facts stated below, except those stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true. I would be prepared to testify to the above statements based on my personal knowledge and belief.

**EXPERT PSYCHOTHERAPIST**

Psychotherapist, Dr. Sana Hamzeh

Signature



**PSYCHIATRIST**

Psychiatrist, Dr. Raghda Sleit

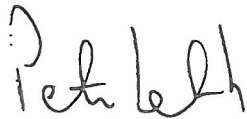
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**FORENSIC DOCTOR**

Senior lecturer, MD; Ph.D. Peter Mygind Leth

Signature



**MEDICAL REPORT**

**CASE INFORMATION**

BILAG	90
CHRISTIAN HARLANG	

**Date of exam:** 29 September and 1 October 2014

**Place of exam:** Restart Center for the rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-15-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 3 hours and 30 minutes

Physical: 1 hour 56 minutes

**Subject's birth date, births place:** 01.01.1968, Basra, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:**  
number

Male, passport

**Interpreter name:** Hala Naffah (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):** -

**CLINICIANS' QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. Sana Hamzeh: Dr. Sana Hamzeh is currently a Doctorate in Counseling of Grief and Trauma in Breyer State University, USA. Holding a BS degree in clinical psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology from the Lebanese University, Dr. Hamzeh founded (along with other mental health professionals in Lebanon) *Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture* (1996). Nominated **Head of the Rehabilitation Unit** at Restart center (which is accredited by IRCT since 2001). Dr Hamzeh holds 19 years of experience as psychotherapist working with victims of torture and her mains include "*clinical individual supervision*" and "*peer supervision*", for which she is also certified to train. She is an international expert in Istanbul Protocol for documentation on the mental health level. Her reputation is also well appreciated on the international level, being elected as member of the *International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)* during a three-year mandate and as one of the founders of the *Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP)*.

- B. Dr Raghda Sleit. Dr. Raghda Sleit graduated from faculty of medicine Ain Sham university in 2008 after that she worked as a resident in Ain Shams Institute of Psychiatry and then she completed her master's degree in neuropsychiatry from Ain Shams University in 2012, she has been working in Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims since then. The activities of Al Nadeem Center include: psychiatric management, documentation, legal aid and campaign. It is the only Non-Governmental Organization in Egypt that involved psychiatric medical doctors and the professionals there worked as both trainers and trainees themselves in this specific field for several years. The center organized training activities with lawyers and physicians on the documentation of torture cases according to the Istanbul protocol.
- C. Senior Lecturer Peter Mygind Leth, physician, board certified specialist in forensic medicine, University of Southern Denmark. Many years of experience in the evaluation of alleged torture victims. Publications on medico-legal issues, including torture.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **General information**

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ was born in 1968. He is married and he has 3 daughters and 3 sons. He works as a nurse in a health centre.

### **Past medical history**

He has been hospitalized twice: 2005 at Basra General Hospital for kidney stone and 2013 Zonbeir Hospital for high blood pressure. He receives medication for high blood pressure (type unknown) and statin for high blood cholesterol.

### **Past psychiatric history**

No past psychiatric history.

## **ALLERGATIONS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT**

### **Summary of detention and abuse**

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ was arrested on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Al-Zubayr region by the Danish, British and Iraqi forces. During his arrest he was subjected to different form of ill treatment. His arrest was allegedly not based on a particular charge, but rather on a religious background. He remained detained for two weeks.

### **Narrative account of ill-treatment and torture**

On November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004, at 7:30 he was driving a motorbike on his way from home. He took \_\_\_\_\_ with him to the "taquie", and then went to his work as male nurse in a local health centre (his home and his work are close to each others). There was a total lack of medication. He was used to get biscuits, food from the British centres, to distribute them to people in need. He was offered the motorbike by the director of his

centre before the colonization. He found that soldiers and police had surrounded the area. He was stopped by Danish armed forces and asked to show legitimation, which he did. The Danish man, who had a translator with him, ordered the policemen to arrest and take [redacted] tried to discuss with the policemen the reason of his arrest, especially that he had shown his papers. He was hit with a slap on his face, which caused a lot of pain on his ear. They ordered him to walk by himself, threatening him to cover his head with his sweater. He noticed that the Iraqi policeman was video recording the events. [redacted] told him *"I'm not a terrorist so that you film me this way"*. They asked him to shut up, they beat him. He was handed over to Iraqi militia and taken on an armoured pickup (it was between 8 and 8:30 in the morning), the *"costa"*, which holds place for 21 passengers, to the Shaibah base. During transportation he was handcuffed with his hand on the back, tied together by plastic strips and blindfolded. He had an argument with a policeman, and received an open hand slap in the face and threatened with a riffle. There were 11 persons held from the *"taquie"*, after the dawn prayer, in the pickup before that [redacted] got in it. He was offered water that he refused. A man got in the bus after him. The pickup was followed by a foreign escort. They blindfolded him right before the pickup moves. He couldn't see.

He arrived in to the base at about 8.30 – 9.00, and was ordered to sit down outside with other prisoners in three rows. They were in Al Zubayr, in the region of the military street. They removed them their bandage. *"We didn't know where they were taking us. It was written "Danish forces". They let us sit in three rows. There was the Danish and the translator." "Do not talk"*. Each time a man was passing, he received a kick in his back, on his head, on his shoulder, and slaps. *"I heard voices of someone shouting, I was afraid."* A lot of anxiety came up at this moment. *"Are they going to disfigure me? Are they going to torture me with electricity?"*

At about 12.00 he was called to a tent. Someone asked *"Who is [redacted]?"*, and dragged him to a place. *"I felt that I was taken to a place where someone was going to ask me questions."* A Danish soldier and a translator were present. He was asked about name and occupation. Someone was taking notes.

Around 17.00 he was transported to a building with a wooden floor, perhaps a caravan. He and other prisoners were forced to sit down on the floor with their heads facing toward the wall, blindfolded and handcuffed. He was kicked and beaten with fists on the back and head. The prisoners were called out one by one for interrogation. When it was his turn he received an open handed blow to the left ear. He has since had hearing loss on the left ear. *"I felt air going out of my ear"*. Each answer was accompanied by a blow. *"He did not give me time to talk"*. He was ordered to sleep on his back, he said *"I can't"*, then the person asked another person to lie [redacted] on his back. He hit me with a kind of big wood ruler on my head. He was then laid down on the floor on his back with his legs on a chair. His bare feet were severely beaten with a stick for a long time. It was very painful, but eventually his feet felt numb. He was eventually forced to sign a paper with unknown content and stamp it with his left thumbprint. [redacted] had to put his legs on a chair. He was roughly beaten on his feet with the ruler. *"I felt like nails in my feet, I could not feel my legs anymore."* *"Get up", "I can't get up", I could get up, then sit down, then I said "I can't walk"*. He was then taken to the hall. He went downstairs, with naked feet. Someone burnt the elastic

tying his hand with the lighter, which burnt his hand.                      used the bandage to cover his wrist, he showed us the scar during the session. In the hall, there were persons from different nationalities. *"We spent the whole night in the hall, we could not sleep. At night, they come and scream a name. Then the person called would come back all in pain."* He stayed 7 days in the hall. They called his name during the third day. They blindfold him again, and put the water pipe on his head and on his back. They also tortured him with electricity on his ears and on his nipples. A metal pipe was introduced in his genital parts. *"I lost the notion of time. I just wanted it to end."*

They stopped torturing him after his nephew came to the prison. He was very touched when he saw his nephew. *"I felt a lot of pain in front of my nephew, that he sees me in these conditions."*                      was not wearing his usual clothes, but a flannel and trousers.

The responsible asked the nephew about                      's identity. The nephew explained that his uncle was shia and not sunni. His nephew then started to bring him food to the prison.

*"They took us to an unknown place, we knew afterwards that it was called the shu'oon"*. He asked where he was, and was told that he was at a place for persons accused of serious crimes (Al Shu'oon – the serious crime unit). He was lead out, and found himself in a large hall together with other prisoners. He asked to have the strips around his hands removed. This was done with a lighter, and he thereby got burned. He put some paper on the burn. He stayed 7 days in this room. It was very cold. His family brought him food and drink, which he would not have received otherwise.

He was called out during the nights and received further beatings. They took him by car, on a distance of around 7 to 10 km, to Al Jamiyyat (in the region of Khamsemil). He was eventually sent to a court. He was blindfolded and had his hands tied while speaking to a judge.

He was accused of hiding weapons and cooperating with partisans, and of having signed a paper, which he denied. He was also asked to leave his fingerprint on a document.

He was eventually released on bail.

## **Review of abuse and ill-treatment**

### Physical forms

- Beating and kicking
- Phalanga (beating on foot soles)
- Sensory deprivation (blindfolding)
- Deprivation of food and water
- Electrocution
- Burning

### Psychological forms

- Listening to others being beaten

- Humiliation, insults
- Nakedness
- Bad conditions of the prison: use of electric wires. Oxygen could pass through windows. Light during day and night. Food through his nephew, but before that, no food and no water. Crowdedness.

## **PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISABILITIES**

When he was beaten and kicked, he felt pain. He had a burn on the right lower arm after removal of plastic strips with a lighter. He presently suffers from pain in and swelling of his feet when walking. He suffers from hearing loss since he received an open hand slap to the left ear.

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

The patient was a slightly overweight, healthy looking middle-aged man. He participated well in the examination and tried to answer the question as well as possible. He burst in tears in the beginning of the interview, but was otherwise composed.

There were no signs of disease. Head and face were unremarkable. A 2.5 x 1 cm large scar was found on the inside of the lower arm, which allegedly was caused by a lighter during removal of the strips that served as handcuffs. He had a scar in his right palm allegedly caused by burns by a fire cracker in childhood and three scar on his left upper arm allegedly caused by a dog bite in childhood. His foot soles were flatted and slightly painful. He had walking difficulties, was walking slowly with small steps. Thorax and abdomen were unremarkable. An investigation of the alleged hearing loss was not possible.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY/EXAMINATION**

### **1. Methods of assessment**

Two sessions with clinical interviews, the first one was held by Dr. Sana Hamzeh and Ms. Line Abou Zaki on 30/09/2014 and lasted for 2 hours 55 minutes, and the second one lasted was held on 1/10/2014 and lasted for 35 minutes, in the presence of Dr. Ragda Sleit and Dr. Sana Hamzeh.

Harvard trauma questionnaire, Hopkins scale for anxiety and Hopkins scale for depression, as screening measures, were also done by Ms. Line Abou Zaki, the results were 3.7, 3.5 and 3.5, respectively.

### **2. Current psychological complaints**

Up to date, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ suffers from the following psychological sequelae:

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- **A lot of distrust**
- **Psychosomatic symptoms** (high blood pressure when he has negative thoughts)
- **Stigmatization** (he is stigmatized, even at his workplace, some persons say about him "*he's a terrorist*").
- **Hypervigilance**
- **Crying easily** crying when talking about his nephew visit to the prison)
- **Irritability**
- **Hopelessness** (he only has hope for his children future, but not for himself)
- **Recurrent thoughts and memories of the event**
- **Feeling as though the event is happening again**
- **Avoidance of activities, thoughts, feelings, that reminds him of the detention** (he avoids going out from home)
- **Inability to remember part of the traumatic events**
- **Low energy, feeling blue**
- **Loss of sexual interest/pleasure** (in a little amount)
- **Self blame**
- **Poor appetite**
- **Tendency to isolation** (he only goes out to work)
- **Poor memory**
- **Lack of concentration**
- **Sleeplessness, insomnia** (he was used to take valium injections to be able to sleep till 2013)
- **Flashbacks** (when he sees policemen and when he hears knocking on the door; each time he changes his clothes, he remembers the torture that happened in the prison)
- **Recurrent nightmares**
- **Persecution feelings** (fear of being arrested again)
- **Exaggerated startle response**
- **Sudden emotional/physical reaction when reminded of the trauma**
- **Feeling detached from people**
- **Feeling lonely**
- **Emotional numbness** (in a little amount)
- **Diminished interest in daily activities**
- **Feeling of being trapped**
- **Worry too much about things**
- **Feeling everything is an effort**
- **Feeling of worthlessness**
- **Headaches**
- **Feeling fearful**
- **Heart pounding/racing**
- **Trembling**



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- Faintness, dizziness
- Nervousness
- Feeling tense
- Feeling restless

### 3. Mental status examination

**General appearance and behaviour:** middle aged male, average build, fair self-hygiene, he is calm and very cooperative.

Conscious, attentive, oriented to time place and person.

**Speech:** coherent to the point average amount volume and stream.

**Affect:** Anxious

**Thinking:**

- Content: He has no delusions, but he is preoccupied by the stigmatization that he has since the traumatic events.

- Thought control: No abnormality detected.

**Perception:** No delusions. Conscious.

**Insight:** He is aware of his psychological situation.

### 4. Assessment of social functioning

Mr. [redacted] currently works as a nurse, as before the detention. The trauma impacted him on being isolated and having less friends than before. He was refused to work in another new place, he is under surveillance. They showed them on television. This had an impact on his daughter's school results. He sent his daughter out of Iraq so that she does not become depressed.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The testimony by Mr. [redacted] is very similar to other victims' testimonies. His claims of ill treatment are fully consistent with his signs and symptoms.
2. The described humiliations and physical abuse amount to serious maltreatment, and torture may well be the most appropriate term to use.
3. After the two clinical sessions and with the help of Harvard and Hopkins diagnostic tools he was found to suffer from: **post-traumatic stress disorder with comorbid dysthymic disorder.**

4. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
management and psychotherapy

should undergo psychiatric

I personally know the facts stated below, except those stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true. I would be prepared to testify to the above statements based on my personal knowledge and belief.

**EXPERT PSYCHOTHERAPIST**

Psychotherapist, Dr. Sana Hamzeh

Signature



**PSYCHIATRIST**

Psychiatrist, Dr. Raghda Sleit

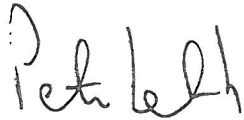
Signature



**FORENSIC DOCTOR**

Senior lecturer, MD; Ph.D. Peter Mygind Leth

Signature



**MEDICAL REPORT**

**CASE INFORMATION**

BILAG	91
CHRISTIAN HARLANG	

**Date of exam:** 29 September and 1 October 2014

**Place of exam:** Restart Center for the rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-16-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 2 hours 45 minutes

Physical: 1 hour 15 minutes

**Subject's birth date, births place:** 05.09.1978, Basra – Al Faou, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:** , Male, passport number

**Interpreter name:** Rossana Abdel Khalek (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):** -

**CLINICIANS' QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. Sana Hamzeh: Dr. Sana Hamzeh is currently a Doctorate in Counseling of Grief and Trauma in Breyer State University, USA. Holding a BS degree in clinical psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology from the Lebanese University, Dr. Hamzeh founded (along with other mental health professionals in Lebanon) *Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture* (1996). Nominated **Head of the Rehabilitation Unit** at Restart center (which is accredited by IRCT since 2001). Dr Hamzeh holds 19 years of experience as psychotherapist working with victims of torture and her mains include "*clinical individual supervision*" and "*peer supervision*", for which she is also certified to train. She is an international expert in Istanbul Protocol for documentation on the mental health level. Her reputation is also well appreciated on the international level, being elected as member of the *International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)* during a three-year mandate and as one of the founders of the *Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP)*.

*operation was the presence of the Danish occupation forces. The Danish were only supervising and supporting the Iraqi militias".*

He was then pulled over and dragged along the floor and down the stairs. *"They beat us with their rifle. When I got down, I saw my colleagues. They were letting them sleep on their faces."* The soldiers were shouting and swearing. The soldiers were beating them and he noticed some soldiers from the Danish armed forces who were laughing at him and his friends. He was blindfolded. He was taken on an armoured pickup to the Shaibah base. During transportation he was handcuffed with his hand on the back, tied together by plastic strips and blindfolded. *"We didn't know what we were accused of. They took us in a big "costa" – a special bus for prisoners which can contain more than 20 persons". "We the souffiyye, are from different religions, we're pacifist people. They started the communitarian insults."* *"They took us from Al Zubair, Al Cheiba, the place of the siege of occupation forces, with presence of British and Danish."* He was not beaten during transport.

*"The Iraqis did to us a play of mockery and insults."* They took them to a hall. *"I knew it was a hall because my face was against the wall. We stayed long hours until the night fell"*. He was ordered to sit down outside with other prisoners in rows. Some Danish soldiers with dogs were present, probably to search for explosives. *"I don't remember when they opened my eyes, but I remember that there were dogs that searched us. I heard the voices of the occupation forces and I heard noise."* Someone told him *"Come you"*. He was taken to a tent for visitation. A Danish soldier inserted a finger in his anal canal, which he found extremely humiliating. *"I'm not a criminal to be treated this way. As an Iraqi, I felt humiliated, I'm not a criminal. The anal part is a hard place. I felt in that moment a bad feeling and pain."* *"We were feeling fear and terror". "When we heard this voice, when I heard that it was the occupation forces, I concluded that we were in big trouble. The occupation forces are those who searched us. They took us to a room, and they searched in all our body parts. They untied our hands and unfolded our eyes. They touched us over the pyjama."* *"They forbid me of smoking."*

He was then taken to a larger tent where a translator with Lebanese accent was present. He was not questioned. He was then transported to Al Jamiyat centre in Basra. *"Usually the Red cross visits prisons, but I think that the Red cross did not visit this place. I don't think that they know of this place."*

He and other prisoners were forced to sit down on the floor with their heads facing toward the wall, handcuffed and blindfolded. *"When I raised my head, they started beating us". "He urinated on himself, he was laughing, they were beating him and he was laughing", "I felt hot water and I heard the beating sounds", "I felt pain for him". "He was next to me. When he talked to me, they beat us."* He was kicked and beaten with fists and sticks on the back and the back of his head.

*"I felt the need to wash. They refused. I insisted. They took me to the sink. I tried to get closer to the water to wash, they beat me, they got me back to the hall."* He was not allowed to go to the toilet. He was taken out for interrogation in another room, and was dragged to this room along the floor. There he received several open handed slaps to the face to test if he could see anything despite being blindfolded. As this was found to be the case and he received a barrage of kicks and was beaten with fists. He provoked the interrogators by holding their manhood in doubt. *"They tried to slap me*

*on my face, I startled, and they knew that I could see". "I saw masked men, with more than two persons with them, and beating means" They made a circle around him. "My name is . I got a lot of beats because of my name."* He was accused of murder and of being a terrorist. He had then electrodes attached to his earlobes and received several electric shocks, he do not remember how many.

He was afterwards transferred to a large hall in the same area with many other prisoners. *"They did not know neither why they were in prison."* He stayed 3-4 days in this room. It was very cold. *"They used to give each two of us one blanket"* After some days he got some pillows from other prisoners. The toilet was small and dirty. His shared food and drink with those that had got some from their families. He was eventually sent to a court, probably Al Maagal in Basra. He was blindfolded while speaking to a judge. *"They took me to the second judge, the judge told them to remove the bandage from their eyes."* The judge did not believe the allegedly fabricated accusation of terrorism. He was released after a few days allegedly because he had some influential connections. *"I then went to my mother house, because they accused me of terrorism, I started to fear staying in Zubayr"*

## **Review of abuse and ill-treatment**

### Physical forms

- Beating and kicking
- Electrocution
- Sexual (anal exploration)
- Sensory deprivation (blindfolding)
- Deprivation of food and water

### Psychological forms

- Humiliation
- Mocking
- Insulting
- Listening to others being beaten

## **PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISABILITIES**

When he was beaten and kicked, he felt pain. When he was electrocuted he felt pain and almost passed out. The lesion consisted of bruises and abrasions that healed without complications. When talking about the insertion of a finger in his anus, he became visible embarrassed with redness of the face, no eye contact and a lowered voice. He presently enjoys good health, and do not suffer from any serious disease.

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

The patient was a slightly overweight, healthy looking middle-aged man. He participated well in the examination. He was composed and tried to answer the question as well as possible. There were no signs of disease. Head and face were

unremarkable. There were no scars on the external ears. Thorax and abdomen were unremarkable. Arm and legs were normal.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY/EXAMINATION

### 1. Methods of assessment

Two sessions with clinical interviews, the first one was held by Dr. Sana Hamzeh and Ms. Line Abou Zaki on 29/09/2014 and lasted for 2 hours and 15 minutes. The second session was on 1/10/2014 and lasted for 30 minutes where Dr. Sana Hamzeh joined Dr. Raghda Sleit for a second opinion.

Harvard trauma questionnaire, Hopkins scale for anxiety and Hopkins scale for depression, as screening measures, were also done by Ms. Line Abou Zaki, the results were 2.9, 3.7 and 3.3, respectively.

### 2. Current psychological complaints

Up to date,                      suffers from the following psychological sequelae:

- **Hypersensitivity**
- **Cautiousness** (During the interview, he was afraid, "I felt that there's a conspiracy against me. My mind knows that it's not true, but I can't control it").
- **Hypervigilance**
- **Irritability**
- **Hopelessness**
- **Lack of future** ("I wanted to get married, I can't anymore because of the lack of stability"; he is not able to continue his studies anymore)
- **Fears of reliving the traumatic event** ("Even this time, when coming to Lebanon, we were scared. Because once before, in Amman, they did not let us pass, and they kept us 3 days on the Iraqi borders", fear of being imprisoned again)
- **Recurrent thoughts and memories of the event**
- **Feeling as though the event is happening again**
- **Low energy, feeling blue**
- **Loss of sexual interest/pleasure**
- **Poor appetite**
- **Shame feeling** ("I have the fear that someone learns that I've been arrested as a terrorist, it made me a stigma", fear of meeting again the persons who knew that he was in jail.)

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- **Poor memory** ("After 10 years, I'm not able to remember everything. I may have seen something someone else did not see, maybe someone else saw something that I don't remember"; he is confused about the time, for a moment, during the interview, he thought that we were in year 2015)
- **Lack of concentration**
- **Hyperarousal**
- **Sleeplessness** (he can't sleep before 4 am)
- **Intrusive thoughts**
- **Flashbacks** ("When I see someone with a policeman, when I see two persons fighting, when I watch an action movie happening in jail, or when I'm relaxing, when I am thinking, I remember everything")
- **Nightmares related to arrestation** ("I'm at home, and the police knocks on the door")
- **Exaggerated startle response** (During the interview, when the crutch of the psychotherapist fell on the floor, he startled)
- **Feeling detached from people**
- **Emotional numbness**
- **Diminished interest in daily activities**
- **Suicidal ideation in a small amount**
- **Feeling of being trapped**
- **Worry too much about things**
- **Feeling of worthlessness**
- **Headaches**
- **Feeling fearful**
- **Heart pounding/racing**
- **Trembling**
- **Feeling restless**

### 3. Mental status examination

**General appearance and behaviour:** middle aged male, average build, fair self-hygiene, he is calm cooperative.

Conscious, attentive, oriented to time place and person.

**Speech:** coherent to the point average amount volume and stream.

**Affect:** Anxious.

**Thinking:**

- Form: No formal thought disorder was detected.

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- Content: He has no delusions, but he is preoccupied by the stigmatization that he has since the traumatic events.

- Thought control: No abnormality detected.

Perception: He has neither illusions, nor hallucinations, only flashbacks.

Insight: He has insight for his symptoms.

#### 4. Assessment of social functioning

Mr.            used to be ambitious and he was willing to do Islamic studies. The trauma had a huge impact on his life: he did not get married and did not continue his studies, his social life diminished remarkably.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The testimony by Mr.            is very similar to other victims' testimonies. His claims of ill treatment are fully consistent with his signs and symptoms.
2. The described humiliations and physical abuse amount to serious maltreatment, and torture may well be the most appropriate term to use.
3. After the two clinical sessions and with the help of Harvard and Hopkins diagnostic tools he may suffer from: **Post-traumatic Stress Disorder with comorbid Depression and Anxiety Disorder.**
4. Mr.            should undergo psychiatric management and psychotherapy

I personally know the facts stated below, except those stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true. I would be prepared to testify to the above statements based on my personal knowledge and belief.

#### EXPERT PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Psychotherapist, Dr. Sana Hamzeh


Signature



#### PSYCHIATRIST

Psychiatrist, Dr. Raghda Sleit

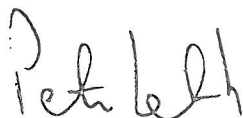
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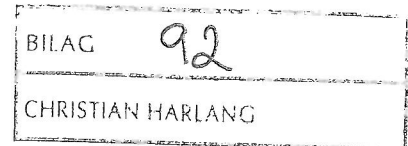
#### FORENSIC DOCTOR

Senior lecturer, MD; Ph.D. Peter Mygind Leth

Signature







## MEDICAL REPORT

### CASE INFORMATION

**Date of exam:** 29 September and 1 October 2014

**Place of exam:** Restart Centre for the rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-17-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 3 hours 15 minutes

Physical: 1 hour 25 minutes

**Subject's birth date, births place:** 01.07.1975, Nasriya, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:** , Male, passport number

**Interpreter name:** Hala Naffah (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):** -

### CLINICIANS' QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Sana Hamzeh: Dr. Sana Hamzeh is currently a Doctorate in Counseling of Grief and Trauma in Breyer State University, USA. Holding a BS degree in clinical psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology from the Lebanese University, Dr. Hamzeh founded (along with other mental health professionals in Lebanon) *Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture* (1996). Nominated **Head of the Rehabilitation Unit** at Restart center (which is accredited by IRCT since 2001). Dr Hamzeh holds 19 years of experience as psychotherapist working with victims of torture and her mains include "*clinical individual supervision*" and "*peer supervision*", for which she is also certified to train. She is an international expert in Istanbul Protocol for documentation on the mental health level. Her reputation is also well appreciated on the international level, being elected as member of the *International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)* during a three-year mandate and as one of the founders of the *Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP)*.

- B. Dr Raghda Sleit. Dr. Raghda Sleit graduated from faculty of medicine Ain Sham university in 2008 after that she worked as a resident in Ain Shams Institute of Psychiatry and then she completed her master's degree in neuropsychiatry from Ain Shams University in 2012, she has been working in Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims since then. The activities of Al Nadeem Center include: psychiatric management, documentation, legal aid and campaign. It is the only Non-Governmental Organization in Egypt that involved psychiatric medical doctors and the professionals there worked as both trainers and trainees themselves in this specific field for several years. The center organized training activities with lawyers and physicians on the documentation of torture cases according to the Istanbul protocol.
- C. Senior Lecturer Peter Mygind Leth, physician, board certified specialist in forensic medicine, University of Southern Denmark. Many years of experience in the evaluation of alleged torture victims. Publications on medico-legal issues, including torture.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **General information**

Mr. [redacted] was born in 1975. He is married and he has two sons and one daughter. He has been imprisoned two times during the Saddam Hussein period because he was against the regime: the first time was in 1991 and the second was in 1995-1996. In 2003, *"I escaped from prison during the war, and I went to Al Zubayr where they welcomed me as a hero."* The third time, he was arrested by the militias in presence of the Danish forces, in 2004. He has been exposed to ongoing traumatic events. He currently works as a cleaning man in a restaurant.

### **Past medical history**

The patient suffers from physical and psychological trauma after imprisonment and torture under the Sadam Hussein regime. He is not suffering from any known medical condition, receives no medication and has never been hospitalized.

### **Past psychiatric history**

No past psychiatric history.

## **ALLERGATIONS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT**

### **Summary of detention and abuse**

Mr. [redacted] was arrested on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Al-Zubayr region by the Danish, British and Iraqi forces. During his arrest he was subjected to different form of ill treatment. His arrest was allegedly not based on a particular charge, but rather on a religious background. He remained detained for two weeks.

### **Narrative account of ill-treatment and torture**

At November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 at daybreak he was asleep in a room in a mosque, in the "taquie". He was a university student, and used to live in the mosque. At 8-9 in the morning. *"I was sleeping upstairs in the room. I didn't have a place where to live. I saw planes and tanks. I felt secure and I was not afraid because I thought that they are just coming to have a look. Until I saw the militias. I felt scared and I told them "we're going to die, they will kill us". I tried to resist and defend myself. They pushed me on the stairs. If the Danish were not present, I would have vanished."* He was woken by knocks on the door. He heard noises outside from a helicopter and engines. When he opened the door he was confronted with masked soldiers. He was beaten and dragged out of the room. On his way down the stairs he fell and hurt his left ankle and left big toe. He received blows to his head. His left eye was closed because of swelling of the soft tissues around the eye. He was bleeding from his nose. He put up a fight with the soldier, and was severely beaten. *"My nose is beaten from the first torture, and they hit me on my nose."*

*"They took us to the Shaibah region, they tried to blindfold my eyes, I resisted, I tried to defend myself."* He noticed that soldiers from Danish armed forces were present, but they did not interfere. They laughed at him. He was taken on an armoured pickup to the Shaibah base. *"I can remember the Danish forces until now. I was choked because is it possible that Danish help these militias?"* He had a positive idea about Denmark, he says that he can differentiate the Danish flag from these Danish soldiers who do not represent their country and who he blames. *"They are disfiguring the Danish reputation, the elegant population. When I see on the television a Danish cow, I relax. Fat, clean. The Danish cheese, and the butter, are the tastiest. I want to complain about this government - representing the Danish population - who has transgressed humanity."*

During transportation he was handcuffed with his hand tied together by plastic strips and he was blindfolded. He was not beaten during transport. He was ordered to sit down outside with other prisoners. It was very cold. Some Danish soldiers with dogs were present, and they allowed the dogs to come very near, which scared him. *"They let us sit on the floor at the Shaibah. They brought two dogs."* He was thirsty and was given water in a bowl. *"I told them that I was thirsty; the Danish soldier was giving water to the dogs but not to me. I felt that I was inferior to the dogs."*

They were denied to visit a toilet. A mentally retarded man urinated in his trouser, and they were eventually allowed to visit a toilet. He was called to a tent, where he was asked general questions about his identity: *"One of them told me "how are you related to Arabic countries? If he asks about Arabic country, it means that he's Iranian"*. He was accused to have missiles and to be a terrorist.

*"I stayed in the Shaibah from 8-9 in the morning until the afternoon, without eating and drinking. After the Shaibah, they took us to a non-legitimate place. The British exploded it after that. They used to call it Al Chououn. They let us enter inside. They took off my sweater and they winded it around my head. When I entered, I saw the people of Al Barrak mosque inside."* Late in the afternoon was transported to a centre at Al Jamiyat (Al Tasfirat) in Basra. He was told that this was a centre for serious crimes. *"In Al Tasfirat, the prisoners started to help me. They put me with the criminals and the burglars. I was like a criminal during around two weeks between the Chououn and the Tasfirat. After that, we went out as innocents. After that, I was defeated."*

He and other prisoners were forced to sit down on the floor with their heads facing toward the wall. At first he had his T-shirt over his head, and he was later blindfolded. He was kicked and beaten with fists on the back and head. He was accused of hiding weapons. He was left for some hours in a room with a bad smell as punishment. He was forced to sign a sheet of paper, but did not know what he had signed. He was transferred to a hall in the same area. Many other prisoners were present there. He stayed 7 days in this room. It was very cold. He got food and drink from other prisoners. He received no food from the authorities. He was then sent to a prison, Al Maagal in Basra. He was blindfolded while speaking to a judge. He was accused of corporation with terrorists, which he denied. He was put in a large room divided into smaller cells with partitioning walls. He was released after 7 days in this facility. *"After all, instead of being a hero, they made of me a terrorist. They seeded in me something frightening. One day will come where I will get out the beast. After the prison, there began to be a beast in me. I thought of obtaining privileges. They made a terrorist of me. It means a global destruction. This is the certificate they gave me."*

Previous abuse: He had been imprisoned for several years during the Saddam Hussein regime. He was arrested and imprisoned in 1991, 1995 and 2003. During these imprisonments he had been burned with glowing embers. He had his left ankle broken by a rifle butt. He was strapped to a bed and electrocuted. He also received a severe blow to his head. He fainted, and when he woke up he was missing several teeth. *"I have been exposed to disfigurement, to burns and teeth disfigurement. They cut my ears during Saddam's period, when I was 15 years old. They embarrassed me. They executed my father and my brother. My mother was exposed to a beat on her head. I thought about revenge. As I got my revenge from these executioners, I think of getting my revenge from these militias. They have entered a beast in me."*

After his first detention during Saddam Hussein regime, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ has taken revenge from the persons who tortured him. He has broken the two legs of the person who broke him one leg, he had also aggressed a person on her mouth, to take revenge from that person who had hit him too on his mouth.

## **Review of present abuse and ill-treatment**

### Physical forms

- Beating and kicking
- Sensory deprivation (blindfolding)
- Deprivation of food and water

### Psychological forms

- Threatening
- False accusations
- Humiliation
- Insulting
- Listening to others being beaten

- Bad conditions of the prison: toilets were holes in the middle of the room; crowdedness; *"we wait for food to come from outside"*; dirtiness, smell of rot and urine.
- Hard to contact one person from outside of prison

## PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISABILITIES

When he was beaten and kicked, he felt pain. The lesion consisted of bruises and abrasions that healed without complications. He suffers from a numb feeling in his left leg. He also suffers from pain in the left big toe when walking. The numbness in the left leg and the pain in the left big toe began when he fell down the staircase during arrest. He does not suffer from any serious disease. The coldness of the cell where he stayed for 3 hours participated in the numbness of the leg since then.

## PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The patient was a slightly overweight middle-aged man. He participated well in the examination. He was composed and tried to answer the question as well as possible. There were no signs of disease. Head and face: The periphery of both ears has been cut off, allegedly during torture before the 2004 episode. Thorax and abdomen: He has irregular sharp edged scars, 2x2 cm, in the lower right abdomen, allegedly from an accident with glass unrelated to his imprisonment. He has a 4x5 cm geographically shaped hyper-pigmented area above the right buttock, allegedly from burns during torture before the present episode. Arms and legs: He has two linear scars on his right arm and a rounded and a linear scar on his left arm, allegedly from beating in prison before the present episode. He has a 1x2 cm scar on the back of the right hand 2 cm from the little finger, allegedly from the present torture episode. The patella reflexes are normal. The sensation on the outside of the left leg is reduced in an area down to the knee. There is a slight swelling of the inner left malleolus with pressure pain. There is no indirect pain. The foot soles are unremarkable.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY/EXAMINATION

### 1. Methods of assessment

Two sessions with clinical interviews, the first one was held by Dr. Sana Hamzeh and Ms. Line Abou Zaki on 29/09/2014 and lasted for 2 hours and 30 minutes. The second session was on 1/10/2014 and lasted for 45 minutes, in the presence of Dr. Ragda Sleit and Dr. Sana Hamzeh. We interrupted both sessions several times, because of his emotional regulation difficulties. We did with him some emotional arousal exercises.

Harvard trauma questionnaire, Hopkins scale for anxiety and Hopkins scale for depression, as screening measures, were also done by Ms. Line Abou Zaki, the results were 4 (he scored extreme to all the symptoms), 4 and 3.5, respectively.

## 2. Current psychological complaints

Up to date, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ suffers from the following psychological sequelae:

- **Two suicidal trials** after the last detention (in 2006): once with benzine and once with septol ( *"terrorist", I prefer suicide."*)
- **Hypersensitivity** (he cries each time he says it, Non stop crying. *"the most dangerous word on Earth". "I have preferred to die rather than being told this word".* He says that he needs therapy for it. )
- **Stigmatization** (he repeats the word "terrorist" which causes him feelings of shame and shyness. *"Because of this word, I feel rejected from society."*)
- **Cautiousness** (when he walks in the street, he is always armed).
- **Hypervigilance**
- **Crying spells** (he cries a lot while we tell him his story again to check consistency; he has crying episodes at home)
- **Suffocation feelings** (*"I feel alight fire"*)
- **Irritability** (*"sometimes I am very angry, and I ask my family to go off my face"*; he tells us about one day when he took the taxi, and he had an exchange with the driver who was talking about terrorists. He told the driver that he was a terrorist himself, and how angry he got.)
- **Revenge feelings** (*"One day will come where I will get the beast out of me and get my revenge"*)
- **Hopelessness**
- **Recurrent thoughts and memories of the event**
- **Feeling as though the event is happening again**
- **Avoidance of activities, thoughts, feelings, that reminds him of the detention**
- **Inability to remember part of the traumatic events**
- **Low energy, feeling blue**
- **Loss of sexual interest/pleasure**
- **Poor appetite**
- **Tendency to isolation** (*"I isolate myself in the room when I am angry so that I don't hurt anybody"*)
- **Self-harm behaviors** (he might hurt himself when he is angry)
- **Alcohol consumption when he's angry** (average of two beers, as a coping strategy that begun after the last detention)
- **Poor memory**
- **Lack of concentration**
- **Hyperarousal**
- **Sleeplessness**
- **Intrusive thoughts** (*"when I see the Danish cow on television, I feel bad."*)
- **Flashbacks** (*"When I get my sweater off, I remember how they closed my eyes. I feel ashamed of myself, it's tiring."*)

- **Recurrent nightmares**
- **Persecution feelings** (he feels that he can be arrested again at any moment, he feels that he might be pursued by militias)
- **Exaggerated startle response** (including at night: he keeps a distance between him and his wife while sleeping, so that his arms don't hit her by accident when he startles; he has beaten his son once because his son startled him)
- **Sudden emotional/physical reaction when reminded of the trauma**
- **Feeling detached from people**
- **Feeling lonely**
- **Emotional numbness ("beast")**
- **Diminished interest in daily activities**
- **Suicidal ideation**
- **Feeling of being trapped**
- **Worry too much about things**
- **Feeling of worthlessness**
- **Headaches**
- **Feeling fearful**
- **Heart pounding/racing**
- **Trembling**
- **Feeling restless**

### **3. Mental status examination**

**General appearance and behaviour:** middle aged male, average build, fair self-hygiene, he is calm and very cooperative. He told his story through a lot of mimics and gestures. He used to be called the "muscle man" when he was in prison. Conscious, attentive, oriented to time place and person.

**Speech:** coherent to the point average amount volume and stream.

**Affect:** Sad and angry, mood swings.

**Thinking:**

- Content: He has no delusions, but he is preoccupied by the stigmatization that he has since the traumatic events.

- Thought control: No abnormality detected.

**Perception:** No delusions. Conscious.

**Insight:** He is aware of his psychological situation.



4. Assessment of social functioning

Mr. [redacted] was able to get married and build a family after he was released from prison. He also found a work. However, he has a poor social life and he frequently needs to isolate himself.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The testimony by Mr. [redacted] is very similar to other victims' testimonies. His claims of ill treatment are fully consistent with his signs and symptoms.
2. The described humiliations and physical abuse amount to serious maltreatment, and torture may well be the most appropriate term to use.
3. After the two clinical sessions and with the help of Harvard and Hopkins diagnostic tools he may be suffering from: **Post-traumatic Stress Disorder with comorbid Depression and Anxiety signs.**
4. Mr. [redacted] is in need for psychotherapy and for anger management skills, and for help to integrate in society after the several traumatic events and stigma he suffered. He is also at risk of developing dependence to alcohol.

I personally know the facts stated below, except those stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true. I would be prepared to testify to the above statements based on my personal knowledge and belief.

EXPERT PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Psychotherapist, Dr. Sana Hamzeh

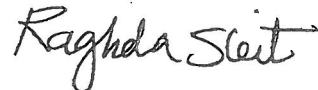
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PSYCHIATRIST

Psychiatrist, Dr. Raghda Sleit

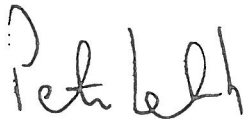
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FORENSIC DOCTOR

Senior lecturer, MD; Ph.D. Peter Mygind Leth

Signature





**MEDICAL REPORT**

**CASE INFORMATION**

BILAG	93
CHRISTIAN HARLANG	

**Date of exam:** 30 September and 1 October 2014

**Place of exam:** Restart Center for the rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-18-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 2 hours 30 minutes

Physical: 1 hour

**Subject's birth date, births place:** 25.09.1974, Basra, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:** , Male, passport number

**Interpreter name:** Rossene Abdel Khalek (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):** -

**CLINICIANS' QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. Sana Hamzeh: Dr. Sana Hamzeh is currently a Doctorate in Counseling of Grief and Trauma in Breyer State University, USA. Holding a BS degree in clinical psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology from the Lebanese University, Dr. Hamzeh founded (along with other mental health professionals in Lebanon) *Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture* (1996). Nominated **Head of the Rehabilitation Unit** at Restart center (which is accredited by IRCT since 2001). Dr Hamzeh holds 19 years of experience as psychotherapist working with victims of torture and her mains include "*clinical individual supervision*" and "*peer supervision*", for which she is also certified to train. She is an international expert in Istanbul Protocol for documentation on the mental health level. Her reputation is also well appreciated on the international level, being elected as member of the *International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)* during a three-year mandate and as one of the founders of the *Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP)*.

- B. Dr Raghda Sleit. Dr. Raghda Sleit graduated from faculty of medicine Ain Sham university in 2008 after that she worked as a resident in Ain Shams Institute of Psychiatry and then she completed her master's degree in neuropsychiatry from Ain Shams University in 2012, she has been working in Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims since then. The activities of Al Nadeem Center include: psychiatric management, documentation, legal aid and campaign. It is the only Non-Governmental Organization in Egypt that involved psychiatric medical doctors and the professionals there worked as both trainers and trainees themselves in this specific field for several years. The center organized training activities with lawyers and physicians on the documentation of torture cases according to the Istanbul protocol.
- C. Senior Lecturer Peter Mygind Leth, physician, board certified specialist in forensic medicine, University of Southern Denmark. Many years of experience in the evaluation of alleged torture victims. Publications on medico-legal issues, including torture.

#### **IV. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

##### **General information**

Mr. [redacted] was born in 1974; he lived in Kuwait till the gulf war where he returned to Al Basra, Iraq his home land. He was educated till preparatory school "he quitted school due to the gulf war". Before the trauma he used to serve in the Takia "he served there from 1996 to 2006", after that he became a security guard then later when the security guards were integrated in governmental system he became a policeman. He is married with one son eight years old.

##### **Past medical history**

He has suffered from migraine since childhood. He had a kidney stone 4 years ago, and has since suffered from repeated urinary tract infections. He is presently in good health, and receives no medication. He has never been hospitalized.

##### **Past psychiatric history**

No past psychiatric history.

#### **ALLERGATIONS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT**

##### **Summary of detention and abuse**

Mr. [redacted] was arrested on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Al-Zubayr region by the Danish, British and Iraqi forces. During his arrest he was subjected to different form of ill treatment. His arrest was allegedly not based on a particular charge, but rather on a religious background. He remained detained until December 12<sup>th</sup> 2004.

##### **Narrative account of ill-treatment and torture by examinee's own words**

After the dawn prayer, I slept in the Takia's Haram "a place where prayers are held". A while later I waked up on loud voices of helicopters and tanks. There was a loud voice saying "open the door! You terrorists! Open the door!", when I went to open the backdoor of al Haram, I found an Iraqi masked militant climbing the door. When he

saw me he jumped down grabbed the collar of my shirt, forced me to lie on the floor, beat my head and began insulting. I remember being barefooted and wearing Kurdish pants, a shirt and an icecap over my head to cover my long hair. When the Iraqi militant was beating me the icecap fell out and other militants saw my long hair so they grabbed it and dragged me on the street around the Takia from the back door to the front door, of course while dragging me they were accusing me of being a terrorist, insulting my mother and my sisters calling them prostitutes and mocking my hair. I tried to say anything to defend myself but they didn't listen. When I reached the Takia's front door they grabbed my collar forced me to stand up while leaning forward then pushed me till we reached the costa (a car that can hold 21 passengers). They handcuffed me with plastic handcuffs, and then threw me in the car "I guess I was the first detainee to reach the car". I was confused and terrified. The car was darkened so I barely saw anything. When I entered I heard a person insulting me and threatening "we are going to kill you all tonight", a while later the bus moved forward a little bit, I heard yelling and shouting, people running in the street, and moving tanks. I also remember hearing the voice of our Sheikh Mohammed Yassein. An hour later my Takia mates began to enter the car "they were first beaten then pushed to the car", I also remember seeing two masked militants in the car holding their guns, they didn't stop insulting. When my Takia mates tried to argue they insulted more, I saw them beating and . I unintentionally looked at one of the militants in the eye he said to his mate "this man is staring at me" then slapped my face several times.

After an hour the car stopped and the militants pushed us out of the car they took off our handcuffs and we stood in a row. After that we were delivered to the Danish troops, I wasn't aware that the Danish were involved in our detention till then, after that we were forced to sit on the sand while leaning forward, I remember the sun hitting my face and the cold breeze hitting my back, the feeling was terrible. Danish soldiers were surrounding us with their dogs; I saw two dogs. After two or three hours we were taken one by one to a small interrogation tent, in the tent there was three Danish officers and a good looking Lebanese interpreter "I guessed his nationality from his accent". They asked about my name, my work in the Takia, the reason I was detained and then I entered another large tent with the others. At five pm "may be six", the Iraqis took us back from the Danish. The Iraqis handcuffed us and pushed us to enter a car.

After two hours, the car stopped I was forced out of the car then one of the militants pulled my shirt from the back and put it over my face, forced me to lean forward then made me enter a place I knew later it was call the security office in "al jamiaat", when I entered this building they blindfolded me. Then I was forced to sit facing the floor in a corridor inside this building. After that they began beating me, on my back, on my face, on my neck, on my hands, and on my arms, kicking my back like they are kicking a ball, pulling my hair, insulting me, mocking my hair, a nonstop beating and insulting. After that, they took us one by one to interrogation rooms. They asked about the nature of my work in the Takia and other questions, I was sitting on a chair while asking they wear pushing the chair backwards and whenever I lose balance and fall on my back they laugh and say "are you on drugs?" then do it again. I heard the voices of my Takia mates yelling and screaming. After that, the mocked my hair and said that I look like women and then they accused us of hiding explosives inside the Takia and that we are planning to do a terrorist attack saying "your Takia mates confessed everything", I denied so they forced me to sign a confession, took my finger prints and photographs for my face. From their accents and the way the interrogators were

addressing each other I interpreted they were Iranians "they called each other Mister so and the father of so, not as Iraqi officers call each other".

Then took me to the detention room after taking off my handcuffs and folds, while taking me they tried to cut my hair but they failed. The room was full of other detainees, it was very cold with no good source of aeration, and the light was not enough. We didn't know day from night. There was only one toilet and it was plugged so the smell was terrible. Some people managed to buy food.

I cannot remember exactly how many days I spent in that room, all I remember is: one day my name was called I was blindfolded and handcuffed and forced into a car then after a while I was pushed out of the car and taken to a room waited for some hours then taken again to stand before what they call a judge. The judge asked me about my confessions saying "you own explosions and you plan for terrorist attacks?!" I denied, he wondered "I see your signature on the papers" I denied, he asked another person, I guessed from the question that he is one of the militants; the judge said "did you find the explosives?" the militant replied "we received a notification and we acted". The judge released six and detained six. I was among the six whom were detained and transferred to Al Maaqal prison (the court was in al Maaqal).

Each one of us was put in a different cell; I was put in a cell with mighty convicted criminals "thieves, murderers, muggers and rapists". I was really afraid, I know how these people treat suspected terrorists, I tried to hide my accusation especially after I saw how they dealt with another Libyan detainee accused of being a terrorist; they put him in the middle of the cell piled up over him and began beating he was almost killed. Either wise, the cell conditions were a little bit better than the other one, yet the smell was terrible, there was no toilet only a hole at one side of the cell.

On 12/12/2004 I was released.

#### **Review of abuse and ill-treatment**

- Beating
- Kicking
- Blindfolding
- Deprivation of food and water
- Death threats
- Mocking
- Insulting
- Positioning
- Listening to the torture of others
- False accusations

#### **PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISABILITIES**

When he was beaten and kicked, he felt pain. The lesion consisted of bruises and abrasions that healed without complications. He presently enjoys good health, and do not suffer from any serious disease.

#### **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

The patient was a middleweight, healthy looking middle-aged man. He participated well in the examination. He was composed and tried to answer the question as well as possible. There were no signs of disease. Head and face were unremarkable. Thorax and abdomen were unremarkable. Arm and legs were normal.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY/EXAMINATION

### 1. Methods of assessment

Two sessions with clinical interviews, the first one was held by Dr Raghda Sleit on 30/10/2014 and lasted for 2 hours and the second session was on 1/10/2014 and lasted for 30 minutes where Dr. Sana joined Dr. Raghda for a second opinion. Harvard trauma questionnaire, Hopkins scale for anxiety and Hopkins scale for depression were also done by Dr. Raghda Sleit, the results were 2.6(moderate), 3(high) and 3.1(high), respectively.

### 2. Current psychological complaints

- Sleeps allot "he sometimes run from thoughts of trauma and other problems by sleep" but he has difficulty in initiation
- Always anxious and on guard
- Indecisive "he takes very long time to decide in the most trivial issues worrying about the consequences"
- Guilt feeling "about anything and everything"
- Prefers to be isolated
- Irritability "his family and wife noticed that he loses his temper easily especially when reminded with the trauma"
- Hyper-arousal symptoms especially when reminded of the trauma
- Flash backs
- Avoidance of cues
- Decreased appetite
- Tachycardia and sweating without specific reason
- Fearful and restless
- Death wishes
- Frustration and hopelessness

### 3. Mental status examination

**General appearance and behaviour:** middle aged male, average build, fair self-hygiene and grooming, he is calm cooperative.

Conscious, attentive, oriented to time place and person

**Speech:** coherent to the point average amount volume and stream.

**Affect:** Anxious

**Thinking:**

- Stream: Average

- Form: No formal thought disorder was detected.

- Content: He has no delusions but preoccupied by how his anxiety is slowing him down
- Thought control: No abnormality detected

**Perception:** He has neither illusions, nor hallucinations, only flashbacks.

**Insight:** He has insight for both his symptoms and the need for treatment yet he is afraid of the stigma of mental illness in the Iraqi society.

#### 4. Assessment of social functioning

There is a slight decline in functioning due to his indecisiveness, and some problems with his wife due to his anger issues.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The testimony by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is very similar to other victims' testimonies. His claims of ill treatment are fully consistent with his signs and symptoms.
2. The described humiliations and physical abuse amount to serious maltreatment, and torture may well be the most appropriate term to use.
3. After the two clinical sessions and with the help of Harvard and Hopkins diagnostic tools he was found to suffer from: post-traumatic stress disorder with comorbid Generalized Anxiety disorder.
4. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is in need for psychotherapy.

I personally know the facts stated below, except those stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true. I would be prepared to testify to the above statements based on my personal knowledge and belief.

#### EXPERT PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Psychotherapist, Dr. Sana Hamzeh  
Signature



#### PSYCHIATRIST

Psychiatrist, Dr. Raghda Sleit  
Signature



#### FORENSIC DOCTOR

Senior lecturer, MD; Ph.D. Peter Mygind Leth  
Signature



BILAG	94
CHRISTIAN HARLANG	

## MEDICAL REPORT

### CASE INFORMATION

**Date of exam:** 29 September and 1 October 2014

**Place of exam:** Restart Center for the rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-19-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 3 hours 30 minutes

Physical: 1 hour 18 minutes

**Subject's birth date, births place:** 06.10.1962, Zubeir in Basra, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:**  
passport number

, Male,

**Interpreter name:** Hala Naffah (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):** -

### CLINICIANS' QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Sana Hamzeh: Dr. Sana Hamzeh is currently a Doctorate in Counseling of Grief and Trauma in Breyer State University, USA. Holding a BS degree in clinical psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology from the Lebanese University, Dr. Hamzeh founded (along with other mental health professionals in Lebanon) *Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture* (1996). Nominated **Head of the Rehabilitation Unit** at Restart center (which is accredited by IRCT since 2001). Dr Hamzeh holds 19 years of experience as psychotherapist working with victims of torture and her mains include "clinical individual supervision" and "peer supervision", for which she is also certified to train. She is an international expert in Istanbul Protocol for documentation on the mental health level. Her reputation is also well appreciated on the international level, being elected as member of the *International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims*



(IRCT) during a three-year mandate and as one of the founders of the *Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP)*.

- B. Dr Raghda Sleit. Dr. Raghda Sleit graduated from faculty of medicine Ain Sham university in 2008 after that she worked as a resident in Ain Shams Institute of Psychiatry and then she completed her master's degree in neuropsychiatry from Ain Shams University in 2012, she has been working in Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims since then. The activities of Al Nadeem Center include: psychiatric management, documentation, legal aid and campaign. It is the only Non-Governmental Organization in Egypt that involved psychiatric medical doctors and the professionals there worked as both trainers and trainees themselves in this specific field for several years. The center organized training activities with lawyers and physicians on the documentation of torture cases according to the Istanbul protocol.
- C. Senior Lecturer Peter Mygind Leth, physician, board certified specialist in forensic medicine, University of Southern Denmark. Many years of experience in the evaluation of alleged torture victims. Publications on medico-legal issues, including torture.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **General information**

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ was born in 1962 in Al Basra, he was educated till preparatory school, before the trauma he was working in a construction company along with his serving in the Takia, right now he is unemployed living with his brothers who is financially responsible for him, when asked about his job and his relationship status, he burst into tears and said that after the trauma he has been stigmatised as a terrorist so he was denied from any job he applied for or any woman he intended to marry.

### **Past medical history**

The patient enjoys a good health. He has never been hospitalized and receives no medication.

### **Past psychiatric history**

No past psychiatric history.

## **ALLERGATIONS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT**

### **Summary of detention and abuse**

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ was arrested on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Al-Zubayr region by the Danish, British and Iraqi forces. During his arrest he was subjected to different form of ill treatment. His arrest was allegedly not based on a particular charge, but rather on a religious background. He remained detained for three weeks.



**Narrative account of ill-treatment and torture by examinee's own words**

On 25/11/2004, I went to pray in the Takia, and then spent my night there; at these times we had shifts to protect the Takia from any attacks "the Takia was subjected to militia attacks few weeks earlier"

While I was sleeping in a room upstairs with                      and                      after the dawn prayer, I waked up on loud voices of people cursing and breaking things, helicopters and tanks, I looked from the window to find Danish troops along with masked Iraqi militias surrounding the Takia, I was surprised but not afraid "I did nothing, it is a peaceful Takia" so I went to them asking about what is going on, I didn't finish my sentence, two of the masked Iraqis put the hood of my jacket over my face, searched my clothes, then grabbed my shoulders and dragged me while barefooted and leaning forward outside the Takia, then threw me on the floor and pressed their legs over my back several times, I became really afraid I tried to ask the militias "what is going on? What did I do?" one of the masked men yelled at me with a hoarse voice "shut up, don't talk" then they continued cursing and kicking my back. I heard the Danish soldiers laughing.

After one hour or so "I don't remember exactly" one of the Iraqis grabbed my hood upwards and made me stand then dragged me to a car we call it costa "a microbus that can hold 21 passengers" with others who were in the Takia, before entering the costa they bound my hands behind my back with plastic handcuffs, during the car ride, the hood was on my face, the car windows were darkened so I barely saw anything, I only heard cursing and sounds of beating "they cursed our mothers, sisters and called us terrorists", the word terrorist scared me "at this time when anybody was taken by the militias with the accusation of being terrorist she/he only had one fate; death"

After an hour "maybe 45 minutes" we got out of the car in front of al Shaeba Camp "a camp for the Danish and English troops" our cuffs were unbound, the Danish received us they made us walk in a line then they forced us to sit on the sand while our heads are leaning forward, it was really cold, I still remember how cold the sand felt on my bare feet, yet my main concern were the two scary dogs whom the Danish soldiers were holding in front of us, I remember peed on himself, after several hours, they took us one by one to interrogation, they took me to a small tent, there was two Danish soldiers "a male and female" and an interpreter "I guess Iraqi", they asked me about my job, my address, my work with the Takia, and whether I have any chronic illness, then they put me with other detainees in a large tent till before sunset "maybe 5 pm".

After that, the Danish took us out of the tent and delivered us back to the Iraqi militias, the Iraqis handcuffed us with plastic handcuffs and put again the hood over my face then forced me in the car "a costa like car". When the Danish delivered us back to the Iraqis I was shocked, I thought the interrogation will end at the camp as we did nothing. We spent about one or two hours in the way, then the car stopped, the masked men pushed me out of the car blindfolded me with a cloth then forced me to sit in a corridor while my face is facing the wall, "after that I knew that this place is called the national security office in al jamiaat", the others were sitting beside me facing the wall too, we stayed there till 12 am, while sitting there I was kicked by legs and beaten with hands frequently on my back, on my face, and on the back of my neck, it was extremely painful for me. After that they took us one by one to the interrogation room. When I entered the room, they began asking, I was beaten before and after every question from them

and any answer from me. One of them asked "how come you are a social drinker and you pray? How come you are shiit and you pray with the sunnis? What do you exactly do in the Takia?" from their accent I interpreted they were Iranians.

They beat me with their hands, beat me with a heavy stick, and swayed me from a side of the room till my head banged the wall then swayed me to the other side several times. One of them came behind my back put his arms under my both shoulders, clutched his hands together behind my neck and pressed his legs on my back "at this point I thought my back was broken", they electrocuted me. Finally they forced me to sign some confessions and what is called "terrorism form four".

They threw me back to the corridor "I heard some of my Takia friends crying and begging the militants to stop beating them", on 2:30 am I was taken to a large room (9x9 maybe) along with the others, they took off our cuffs and folds then locked the room. The room was dim, contained plenty of other prisoners, it smelled terrible, there was only one toilet that served more than hundred prisoners "maybe more maybe less", the toilet was plugged, I still remember the smell of the room. It was really cold but I slept anyway, yet I waked up panicking every time I hear the door open, I used to hear the screams from others being tortured outside the room. After a day or two I knew that some people can manage to bribe the guards to buy them cigarettes and food.

On the eighth day "maybe more maybe less as we didn't know day from night" I was blindfolded and handcuffed again then taken to what they call a court. I stood before whom they call a judge while blindfolded and handcuffed, he asked about my name my work, whether I am a terrorist or not then I was dismissed.

I was deported to another prison called "Al Maaqal" I was put alone without my Takia mates in a cell with convicted criminals "thieves, murderers, muggers and rapists". I was really afraid they know about my charges. When they knew I was charged with terrorism few of them tried to beat me, but lucky me, I was known to some of them so they defended me saying "we are sure he is not a terrorist". The cell conditions were a little bit better than the other one at least I had a cover to protect me from cold, yet the smell was terrible, there was no toilet only a hole at one side of the cell so the smell was terrible, the water came to us from outside in tanks. After two weeks "maybe less" the guards called my name and I was released, without any I.Ds or money. I had money and other belongings in the Takia that was either stolen or lost during the Takia raid, I never got them back.

After the detention my life completely changed, my old friends don't speak to me anymore, no one wants to work me, and no woman wants to get married to me, I'm a terrorist in the eyes of my society.

#### **Review of abuse and ill-treatment**

- Beating
- Kicking
- Blindfolding
- Deprivation of food and water
- Electrocution
- Mocking

- Insulting
- Positioning
- Listening to the torture of others
- False accusations

## **PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISABILITIES**

When he was beaten and kicked, he felt pain. The lesion consisted of bruises and abrasions that healed without complications. He lost a tooth (incisor) in the upper mouth. He suffers from pain in the back of his neck. He does not suffer from any serious disease.

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

The patient was a normal-weight middle-aged man. He participated well in the examination. When talking about the mistreatment at the serious crime unit, he broke down and cried for a long time. He was otherwise composed and tried to answer the question as well as possible. There were no signs of disease. Head and face: One of the front teeth (1+) are fractured. Thorax and abdomen: Unremarkable. Arms and legs: Unremarkable. The foot soles are unremarkable.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY/EXAMINATION**

### **1. Methods of assessment**

Two sessions with clinical interviews, the first one was held by Dr Raghda Sleit on 29/10/2014 and lasted for 3 hours and The second session was on 1/10/2014 and lasted for 40 minutes where Dr. Sana joined Dr. Raghda for a second opinion.

Harvard trauma questionnaire, Hopkins scale for anxiety and Hopkins scale for depression were also done by Dr. Raghda Sleit, the results were 3.25(high), 2.6(moderate) and 3.1(high), respectively.

### **2. Current psychological complaints**

## Report Beirut 19 2014

- ▣ Difficulty in initiation of sleep with frequent interruptions
- ▣ Hyper-arousal symptoms especially when reminded of the trauma
- ▣ He is always on guard
- ▣ Flash backs
- ▣ Persistent avoidance of cues "police"
- ▣ Nightmares and night terrors
- ▣ Irritability
- ▣ Decreased appetite "he lost allot of weight since the incident"
- ▣ Tachycardia, anxiety and sometimes fainting attacks especially when there is an explosion nearby
- ▣ Sad mood
- ▣ Associability "prefers to be isolated"
- ▣ Frustration and hopelessness
- ▣ Guilt feelings
- ▣ fatigability
- ▣ Inability to stand between crowds

### 3. Mental status examination

**General appearance and behaviour:** middle aged male, less than average build, fair self-hygiene and grooming, patient is calm cooperative.

Conscious, attentive, oriented to time place and person

**Speech:** coherent to the point average amount volume and stream.

**Affect:** Sad "cried several times during the interview".

**Thinking:**

- Stream: Average

- Form: No formal thought disorder was detected.

- Content: He has no delusions but preoccupied by the effect of the traumatic event and his current social and occupational dysfunction. He also expressed that his sad mood, fatigability and hopelessness only began less than two years ago when he lost hope in either finding a job or a wife.

- Thought control: No abnormality detected

**Perception:** He has no illusions, nor hallucinations, only flashbacks.

**Insight:** He has insight for both his symptoms and the need for treatment yet he said there were two obstacles preventing him from being treated, first he cannot afford treatment and second he is afraid of the stigma of mental illness in the Iraqi society.

### 4. Assessment of social functioning

The level of function has deteriorated significantly since the trauma. He never worked after the trauma, was never able to get married, he avoids social activities and is unable to move on.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The testimony by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is very similar to other victims' testimonies. His claims of ill treatment are fully consistent with his signs and symptoms.
2. The described humiliations and physical abuse amount to serious maltreatment, and torture may well be the most appropriate term to use.
3. After the two clinical sessions and with the help of Harvard and Hopkins diagnostic tools he was found to suffer from: **post-traumatic stress disorder with comorbid moderate depression.**
4. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is in need for psychotherapy.

I personally know the facts stated below, except those stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true. I would be prepared to testify to the above statements based on my personal knowledge and belief.

### EXPERT PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Psychotherapist, Dr. Sana Hamzeh

Signature



### PSYCHIATRIST

Psychiatrist, Dr. Raghda Sleit

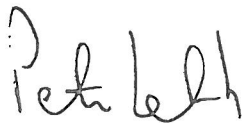
Signature



### FORENSIC DOCTOR

Senior lecturer, MD; Ph.D. Peter Mygind Leth

Signature



**MEDICAL REPORT**

**CASE INFORMATION**

BILAG	95
CHRISTIAN HARLANG	

**Date of exam:** 30 September and 1 October 2014

**Place of exam:** Restart Center for the rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-20-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 2 hours 30 minutes

Physical: 1 hour 5 minutes

**Subject's birth date and births place:** 02.05.1977, Basra, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:** , Male, passport number

**Interpreter name:** Hala Naffah (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):** -

**CLINICIANS' QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. Sana Hamzeh: Dr. Sana Hamzeh is currently a Doctorate in Counseling of Grief and Trauma in Breyer State University, USA. Holding a BS degree in clinical psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology from the Lebanese University, Dr. Hamzeh founded (along with other mental health professionals in Lebanon) *Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture* (1996). Nominated **Head of the Rehabilitation Unit** at Restart center (which is accredited by IRCT since 2001). Dr Hamzeh holds 19 years of experience as psychotherapist working with victims of torture and her mains include "*clinical individual supervision*" and "*peer supervision*", for which she is also certified to train. She is an international expert in Istanbul Protocol for documentation on the mental health level. Her reputation is also well appreciated on the international level, being elected as member of the *International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)* during a three-year mandate and as one of the founders of the *Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP)*.

- B. Dr Raghda Sleit. Dr. Raghda Sleit graduated from faculty of medicine Ain Sham university in 2008 after that she worked as a resident in Ain Shams Institute of Psychiatry and then she completed her master's degree in neuropsychiatry from Ain Shams University in 2012, she has been working in Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims since then. The activities of Al Nadeem Center include: psychiatric management, documentation, legal aid and campaign. It is the only Non-Governmental Organization in Egypt that involved psychiatric medical doctors and the professionals there worked as both trainers and trainees themselves in this specific field for several years. The center organized training activities with lawyers and physicians on the documentation of torture cases according to the Istanbul protocol.
- C. Senior Lecturer Peter Mygind Leth, physician, board certified specialist in forensic medicine, University of Southern Denmark. Many years of experience in the evaluation of alleged torture victims. Publications on medico-legal issues, including torture.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## General information

was born in 1977 in Al Basra and spent all his life there. He was educated till preparatory school. He is married with six children the youngest is five. He has been working as a truck driver before the trauma and he didn't change his job after the trauma.

### Past medical history

The patient suffers from a high blood pressure. He has had allergic reaction with swelling of the head, coughing and a skin rash. The cause is unknown. He receives some tablet (probably antihistamines). He is otherwise healthy and has never been hospitalized.

### Past psychiatric history

No past psychiatric history.

## ALLERGATIONS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

## Summary of detention and abuse

Mr. [REDACTED] was arrested on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Al-Zubayr region by the Danish, British and Iraqi forces. During his arrest he was subjected to different form of ill treatment. His arrest was allegedly not based on a particular charge, but rather on a religious background. He remained detained for two weeks.

**Narrative account of ill-treatment and torture by examinee's own words**

I wasn't at the Takia, I was at my uncle's house with my wife and children, as my uncle asked me to guard it and take care of my cousin while he was out of town. The house is about 200 meters away from the Takia. I was sleeping in the same room with my wife my daughter , my son , and my son , who was only forty days old. Before sun rise and while we were sleeping, masked Iraqi militants aided by Danish



soldiers stormed my uncle's house, broke into the room while we were sleeping, I was wearing my pyjamas, my wife's sleeping clothes were unappropriated for any strangers to see them. The Iraqi militants grabbed me in front of my family, handcuffed me with plastic handcuffs and forced me to squat facing the wall then beat me on my back several times, while my wife and children watching and screaming begging them to let me go, they put them all in a corner in the room as not to distract them. They searched the house broke the furniture and I knew later that they stole some money. Ten to fifteen minutes later they dragged me out of the house, I begged them to put on shoes or were a jacket, but they refused. My wife and children were running after me, crying and screaming, they thought I was going to be killed. My daughter still remembers this incident

When I was out of the house, my hands were handcuffed behind my back, and my undershirt was pulled from my back to cover my face. I was forced to walk while leaning forward. They beat me all the way from the house till I entered the Costa car "200 meters".

I guess I was the last one to get into the car. I heard voices of people insulting our mothers and sisters and accusing us of being terrorists. I also remember that and were beaten.

Forty five minutes later the car stopped and the militants pushed us out of the car they took off our handcuffs and we stood in a row. After that we were forced to sit on the sand while leaning forward, it was really cold. Danish soldiers were surrounding us with their dogs. Few hours later we were taken one by one to an interrogation tent, in the tent there were three Danish officers; two men and a woman, and an interpreter. They asked about my name, my work in the Takia, if I am really a terrorist and that I plan to kill Shiits, I replied "how come I plan to kill shiits and I'm a shiit myself?!" After that I entered another large tent with the others. At five pm "may be six", the Iraqis took us back from the Danish. The Iraqis handcuffed us, put the shirt again over my face and pushed me into the car.

After one and half hours may be two, the car stopped I was forced out of the car and then entered a place I knew later it was called the security office "the internal affairs office" in al jamiaat, when I entered this building they blindfolded me. Then I was forced to sit facing the wall in a corridor inside this building. After that they began beating me, on my back, on my face, on my neck, on my hands, and on my arms, with their hands and leg. I remember that was beside me; he peed on himself and began laughing. The urine contaminated me. I also remember hearing other detainees screaming and begging to be released.

After that we were taken one by one to an interrogation room, when I entered they began asking "do you kill shiits? Do you meet Ezzat Al Douri? Who is financing your terrorist operations? Admit your crimes!" Then they began asking each other "should we kill him or should we leave him?" during these questions I was beaten heavily with anything, hands, legs, sticks and even furniture, after that they put something that pinched my fingers and electrocuted me, I begged them "Please stop! Please I'm innocent" They beat me on my shoulder and arms several times till my handcuffs fell down, when my hands were free they beat my head with something heavy and then I fainted.

I waked up finding myself in a large room with my Takia mates and other detainees, the room was crowded, I wasn't able to move. The room was very cold with no good source of aeration, and the light was not enough. We didn't know day from night. I couldn't sleep, every time the door opens I panic, there were detainees from other



nationalities (may be Tunisians and Libyans), they were tortured too, from the intensity of the torture I think some of them died. There was only one toilet and it was plugged so the smell was terrible. The first time I was able to put anything inside my stomach was after about three days.

After some days, I can't remember how many, I was handcuffed and blindfolded again, I was limping and unable to walk so I was dragged to a car and then after a while, I was dragged from the car and put in a room for four hours then I was taken to stand before whom they call a judge, I stood in front of him blindfolded and handcuffed, he asked me about my name, then told me "we are really sorry, you know the situation in Iraq now a days, we didn't mean to detain you" and I was released.

I found my uncle out there waiting for me, he took me to a hospital, my ankle was broken and I had rash all over my body. My leg was put in a cast and I had to remain at home for a month.

#### **Review of abuse and ill-treatment**

- Beating
- Kicking
- Blindfolding
- Electrocution
- Deprivation of food and water
- Death threats
- Insulting
- Positioning
- Listening to the torture of others

False accusations

#### **PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISABILITIES**

When he was beaten and kicked, he felt pain. The lesion consisted of bruises and abrasions that healed without complications. He went to a physician with his broken ankle two weeks after he was released. He was treated with plaster of Paris for 2 month. He is still suffering from pain from the right ankle when walking. The right ankle has a tendency to swell, making it difficult to wear shoes.

#### **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

The patient was a middle-aged slightly over-weight man. He participated well in the examination. He was composed and tried to answer the question as well as possible. There were no signs of disease. Head and face: unremarkable. Thorax and abdomen: On the back, between the shoulder blades are four 1-3 cm long, 0.1 cm broad white scars running upward and to the right. On the right side of the back, below the right shoulder blade, was a brown 5x3 cm scar. On the right side of the chest, just in front of the axil, an 8x0.5 cm white horizontal scar. Arms and legs: On the dorsal aspect of the right lower arm, 4 cm from the wrist, a 3x0.5 cm white scar. On the dorsal side of the right lower arm an irregular 15x8 cm healed burn-scar. On the extensor surface of the right wrist, a 2x3 cm white scar. On the dorsal aspect of the right hand (at the level of the little finger) a 4x0.5 cm white scar. On the dorsal aspect of the left wrist a 2x0.5 cm

white scar. The right outer malleolus at the right ankle was tender on pressure and slightly swollen. The foot soles were unremarkable.

The scar at the left wrist was caused by a wound that arose when the strips around the wrists was forcefully broken during torture. The other scars were unrelated to the torture episode. The tenderness and swelling of the right ankle is a sequel to the fracture that he sustained during torture.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY/EXAMINATION**

### **1. Methods of assessment**

Two sessions with clinical interviews, the first one was held by Dr Raghda Sleit on 30/10/2014 and lasted for 2 hours and the second session was on 1/10/2014 and lasted for 30 minutes where Dr. Sana joined Dr. Raghda for a second opinion. Harvard trauma questionnaire, Hopkins scale for anxiety and Hopkins scale for depression were also done by Dr. Raghda Sleit, the results were 2.8(moderate), 3(high) and 2.7(moderate), respectively.

### **2. Current psychological complaints**

#### By his own words:

I used to feel way worse the first few years after the trauma now I am better. My irritability and anger bouts hurt my family and made me lose a lot of friends, there is one incident that I will never forget, in 2007 it was my worst year, I had frequent nightmares, I didn't sleep at all and my mood was terrible, I was fighting constantly with my wife, till one day she said she cannot stand my tempers anymore, she threatened to kill herself, I was sarcastic and didn't believe, after that, she brought kerosene and set fire on herself. I still remember the way she looked, I covered her with a blanket and ran to the hospital, she was saved by a miracle, but her face and hand were affected, now she is fine but she cannot move her hand properly, I feel responsible for what she did, if I cared enough, if I wasn't that angry all the time, nothing would have happened.

Now I'm better yet

- My sleep is interrupted and non-refreshing
- I have nightmares but not every night
- I always feel lonely and prefer to be isolated
- I don't see any hope in the future
- I'm still irritable but not as before
- I avoid anything that reminds me of the incident
- I can't feel anything anymore, I became numb

### **3. Mental status examination**

General appearance and behaviour: middle aged male, average build, fair self-hygiene and grooming, he is calm cooperative.

Conscious, attentive, oriented to time place and person

Speech: coherent to the point average amount volume and stream.

Affect: euthymic, became sad at the end of the interview

Thinking:

- Stream: Average
- Form: No formal thought disorder was detected.
- Content: He has no delusions or preoccupations
- Thought control: No abnormality detected

Perception: He has no illusions, nor hallucinations, only flashbacks.

Insight: He has insight for his symptoms but not to the need for treatment

#### 4. Assessment of social functioning

The trauma affected his relation with his family and friends, it affected his social functioning in general yet his occupational functioning is not affected by the trauma.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS


1. The testimony by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is very similar to other victims' testimonies. His claims of ill treatment are fully consistent with his signs and symptoms.
2. The described humiliations and physical abuse amount to serious maltreatment, and torture may well be the most appropriate term to use.
3. After the two clinical sessions and with the help of Harvard and Hopkins diagnostic tools he was found to suffer from: **post-traumatic stress disorder with comorbid mild depression.**
4. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is in need for psychotherapy.

I personally know the facts stated below, except those stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true. I would be prepared to testify to the above statements based on my personal knowledge and belief.

#### EXPERT PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Psychotherapist, Dr. Sana Hamzeh

Signature



#### PSYCHIATRIST

Psychiatrist, Dr. Raghda Sleit

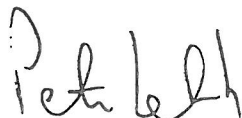
Signature



#### FORENSIC DOCTOR

Senior lecturer, MD; Ph.D. Peter Mygind Leth

Signature



**MEDICAL REPORT**

**CASE INFORMATION**



**Date of exam:** 30 September and 1 October 2014

**Place of exam:** Restart Center for the rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-21-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 1 hours 55 minutes

Physical: 1 hour 5 minutes

**Subject's birth date and births place:** 01.01.1958, Basra, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:** , Male, passport number

**Interpreter name:** Hala Naffah (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):** -

**CLINICIANS' QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. Sana Hamzeh: Dr. Sana Hamzeh is currently a Doctorate in Counseling of Grief and Trauma in Breyer State University, USA. Holding a BS degree in clinical psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology from the Lebanese University, Dr. Hamzeh founded (along with other mental health professionals in Lebanon) *Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture* (1996). Nominated **Head of the Rehabilitation Unit** at Restart center (which is accredited by IRCT since 2001). Dr Hamzeh holds 19 years of experience as psychotherapist working with victims of torture and her mains include "*clinical individual supervision*" and "*peer supervision*", for which she is also certified to train. She is an international expert in Istanbul Protocol for documentation on the mental health level. Her reputation is also well appreciated on the international level, being elected as member of the *International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)* during a three-year mandate and as one of the founders of the *Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP)*.

- B. Dr Raghda Sleit. Dr. Raghda Sleit graduated from faculty of medicine Ain Sham university in 2008 after that she worked as a resident in Ain Shams Institute of Psychiatry and then she completed her master's degree in neuropsychiatry from Ain Shams University in 2012, she has been working in Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims since then. The activities of Al Nadeem Center include: psychiatric management, documentation, legal aid and campaign. It is the only Non-Governmental Organization in Egypt that involved psychiatric medical doctors and the professionals there worked as both trainers and trainees themselves in this specific field for several years. The center organized training activities with lawyers and physicians on the documentation of torture cases according to the Istanbul protocol.
- C. Senior Lecturer Peter Mygind Leth, physician, board certified specialist in forensic medicine, University of Southern Denmark. Many years of experience in the evaluation of alleged torture victims. Publications on medico-legal issues, including torture.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **General information**

Mr. [redacted] divorced 16 years ago. He has 3 daughters and 2 sons. He has done his military service during the war against Iran, and he says about it: "*The army destroyed me.*" He considers that poverty is the base of all of his problems, and that he escaped to the *taqie* because of his hard situation. He used to be a driver, and to work in mechanics and cars, in addition to being a dervish. He has only been schooled during the elementary years. He said that he had a relationship then and that this was the reason for which he stopped going to school.

### **Past medical history**

The patient is healthy. He has never been hospitalized and receives no medication.

### **Past psychiatric history**

No past psychiatric history.

## **ALLERGATIONS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT**

### **Summary of detention and abuse**

Mr. [redacted] was arrested on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Al-Zubayr region by the Danish, British and Iraqi forces. During his arrest he was subjected to different form of ill treatment. His arrest was allegedly not based on a particular charge, but rather on a religious background. He remained detained for two weeks.

### **Narrative account of ill-treatment and torture**

At November 25<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 2004, early in the morning, he was arrested by a Danish soldier at the mosque. He worked at the mosque as security man, and slept in a room

belonging to the mosque. He was handed over to the Iraqi militia. *"They took me to the Danish military base, hand tied together and blindfolded. The Danish were supporting the militias."* *"We are sufis."* They accused them and criticized their rituals. *"The militias came to us. They said that we tell stories, and that we collaborate with the djinn, and that we are magicians. We are slaves. We have Sufi rituals. They said that I disturb people. We play drum and daf instruments, and say poems, with a loud voice."* He was handcuffed with his hand tied together by plastic strips and blindfolded, and was together with others placed in a prone position outside. He noticed that a soldier was video recording the events. He was handed over to the Iraqi militia, and was transported to the Shaibah base in an armoured vehicle followed by tanks and a helicopter. They were beaten during transport. The driver laughed at them and ridiculed those with long hair. After arrival he was ordered to sit down outside with other prisoners in rows. Some Danish soldiers with police dogs were present, and they allowed the dogs to come very near. He was forced with others to sign on papers which state that he does not collaborate with terrorists.

Strips and blindfold was removed, and they were given food. He was handed over to the Iraqi militia and transported to another place. He and other prisoners were forced to sit down on the floor with their heads facing toward the wall. He was again handcuffed with his hand tied together by plastic strips and blindfolded. The prisoners were called by name, one after the other. When it was his turn, he was lead to another room. There he was beaten. Electrodes were attached to his ears and he was electrocuted at least four times. He did not pass out. He suddenly received a flat-handed slap simultaneous on both ears from behind. He couldn't hear anything for several hours after this. Another person entered the room and beat him severely with a stick. He was then transferred to a big hall in the same area. Many other prisoners were present in the hall. He stayed 8 days in this room, in Al shou'oun, and he did not go to Al Tasfirat as many others. It was very cold in the hall. He slept on the floor. He was not given any blanket. He got no food for the first two days. Then he got some food that his family brought. He received no food from the warders. He was then sent to a court. He was blindfolded while speaking to a judge. He was then released.

## **Review of present abuse and ill-treatment**

### Physical forms

- Beating and kicking *"They hit me on my hand which was already broken from before"*
- Electrocution
- "Telefono" (simultaneous slap on both ears)
- Sensory deprivation (blindfolding)
- Deprivation of food and water

### Psychological forms

- Humiliation, insults
- Listening to others being beaten

## PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISABILITIES

When he was beaten and kicked, he felt pain. The lesion consisted of bruises and abrasions that healed without complications.

He says that he was beaten on his head during his military service.

## PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The patient was an elderly underweight man. He participated well in the examination. At the beginning of the examination he started to cry, but was otherwise composed and tried to answer the question as well as possible. There were no signs of disease. Head and face: unremarkable. Thorax and abdomen: Unremarkable. Arms and legs: There was a 1x1 cm scar on the right upper arm, allegedly unrelated to the torture episode. There was a 1x0.5 cm scar on the right knee, allegedly unrelated to the torture episode. He complained of pain on the back of the right shoulder. The movement of the shoulders was normal. The pain was allegedly unrelated to the torture episode. The foot soles were unremarkable.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY/EXAMINATION

### 1. Methods of assessment

Two sessions with clinical interviews, the first one was held by Dr. Sana Hamzeh and Ms. Line Abou Zaki on 30/09/2014 and lasted for 1 hour and 15 minutes. The second session was on 1/10/2014 and lasted for 40 minutes, in the presence of Dr. Ragda Sleit and Dr. Sana Hamzeh.

Harvard trauma questionnaire, Hopkins scale for anxiety and Hopkins scale for depression, as screening measures, were also done by Ms. Line Abou Zaki, the results were 3.3, 3.2 and 3.5, respectively.

### 2. Current psychological complaints

Up to date, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ suffers from the following psychological sequelae:

- **Bizarre thoughts** (*"I can smell the nature of all humankind. The smell of a cow is a cow's nature, the smell of a sheep is a sheep's nature"; "I know the djinn", "I have been kidnapped by the fire".*)
- **Hypersensitivity because of his vulnerability**
- **Cautiousness**
- **Lack of affection**
- **Hearing delusions since 4 years:** he can hear the voice of his wife from far, he can talk to the dead and listen to their replies.
- **Visual delusions** (he can see other planets, he can see people (e.g. his mother which is already dead, walking in the street), he talks about miracles: *"I saw a dead person waking up", "the sheikh has healed a man beaten by a snake".*

- Inability
- May have a tendency to isolation: it wasn't very clear in his speech *"I work alone, I do everything alone. But I help people."*
- Crying easily
- Suffocation feelings
- Irritability
- Despair (*"I want to commit suicide"*)
- Recurrent thoughts and memories of the event
- Inability to remember part of the traumatic events (a little)
- Flashbacks (*"When the army took me, I was afraid."*)
- Low energy, feeling blue
- Self blame (a little)
- Loss of sexual interest/pleasure
- Difficulties of concentration
- Sleeplessness (a little)
- Recurrent nightmares
- Exaggerated startle response (words like *"riffle"*, hearing someone shouting)
- Feeling detached from people
- Emotional numbness and blunting
- Diminished interest in daily activities (a little)
- Suicidal thoughts (he also had suicidal thoughts when he was doing his military service)
- Sadness
- Worry too much about things (a little)
- Feeling everything is an effort
- Feeling of worthlessness (a little)
- Headaches (a little)
- Nervousness
- Feeling fearful (*"I was fearful in the plane"*)
- Heart pounding/racing
- Trembling
- Feeling restless
- Feeling of becoming crazy (*"I have the feeling that my mind, after 5 minutes, becomes different. I think of God, and this feeling goes away."*)
- Diffuse anxieties

### 3. Mental status examination

General appearance and behaviour: middle aged male, average build, fair self-hygiene, he is calm and cooperative.

Conscious, attentive, oriented to time place and person.



**Speech:** coherent, but not to the point.

**Affect:** incongruent.

**Thinking:**

- Content: Delusions of reference : my ex wife refers to me in a bad way.

Delusions of omnipotence: I am very near from god and I have some healing powers like my sheikh. I can bring the dead back to life

Bizarre delusion: I can smell the nature and manners of others. "It is related to his delusions of omnipotence "

Form of thought: derailment and some off pointing.

- Thought control: No abnormality detected.

**Perception:** Auditory hallucination: I listen to my ex wife talking with others about him and about other stuff too

Visual hallucinations: I can see Mars from here "related to his delusion of omnipotence".

**Insight:** Insight-less.

#### **4. Assessment of social functioning**

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ got divorced after the traumatic detention. His wife excluded him because of being a terrorist and a dervish. He found himself in the street. He says that he tolerates bad things from everyone: brother, mother, wife. *"My family did not give me my full rights. My brother stole my right, he sold the house, and he got me, he only gave me a little part of the house fees [...] My mother used to erase my personality. I did not have a personality in front of my mother [...] My mother damaged my reputation, God forgives her"*. He cries when talking about his mother. His mother and his wife used to fight a lot; and his mother didn't like the fact that he goes to the Sufiye. *"They told my wife that that we were prestidigitators, magicians, and crazy". They told her that he wanted to divorce her (he cries when telling us about that). "My wife divorced me after the detention". She told him that he was a terrorist. "My wife says "the dervishes ruined you"."*

#### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The testimony by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is very similar to other victims' testimonies. His claims of ill treatment are fully consistent with his psychological signs and symptoms.

2. The described humiliations and physical abuse amount to serious maltreatment, and torture may well be the most appropriate term to use.
3. We have found a lack of consistency in Mr. . 's narrative, and this seems to be related to his mental health state. His state could also be explained as a result of his religious beliefs, which we interpret as delusions because of our different socio-cultural background. In both cases, he is in need for psychotherapy, and for help to integrate in society after the traumatic detention he suffered.
4. After the two clinical sessions and with the help of Harvard and Hopkins diagnostic tools he may be suffering from: **Post-traumatic Stress Disorder with some signs of Anxiety and less signs of depression. According to ICD10 he also suffers from undifferentiated schizophrenia.**

I personally know the facts stated below, except those stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true. I would be prepared to testify to the above statements based on my personal knowledge and belief.

**EXPERT PSYCHOTHERAPIST**

Psychotherapist, Dr. Sana Hamzeh

Signature



**PSYCHIATRIST**

Psychiatrist, Dr. Raghda Sleit


Signature



**FORENSIC DOCTOR**

Senior lecturer, MD; Ph.D. Peter Mygind Leth

Signature



**MEDICAL REPORT**

**CASE INFORMATION**



**Date of exam:** 30 September and 1 October 2014

**Place of exam:** Restart Center for the rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Exam requested by, reason for exam:** Lawyer Christian Harlang, alleged torture victim

**Case or report No:** Beirut-23-2014

**Duration of evaluation:**

Psychological: 1 hour 30 minutes

Physical: 45 minutes

**Subject's birth date and births place:** 01.06.1979, Basra, Iraq

**Subject's name, gender, ID:** , male, passport number

**Interpreter name:** Hemal Eskandar (during physical examination only)

**Informed consent (yes/no):** Yes

**Persons present during the exam (name and position):**

(born 01.07.1951, Fao in Basra, Iraq). is mr. s legal guardian. He has produces official papers as documentation. has himself been examined (Medical Report Beirut 12 2014).

**CLINICIANS' QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. Sana Hamzeh: Dr. Sana Hamzeh is currently a Doctorate in Counseling of Grief and Trauma in Breyer State University, USA. Holding a BS degree in clinical psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology from the Lebanese University, Dr. Hamzeh founded (along with other mental health professionals in Lebanon) *Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture* (1996). Nominated **Head of the Rehabilitation Unit** at Restart center (which is accredited by IRCT since 2001). Dr Hamzeh holds 19 years of experience as psychotherapist working with victims of torture and her mains include "*clinical individual supervision*" and "*peer supervision*", for which she is also certified to train. She is an international expert in Istanbul Protocol for documentation on the mental health level. Her reputation is also well appreciated on the international level, being elected as member of the *International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)* during a three-year mandate and as one of

the founders of the *Eastern Mediterranean Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (EMACAPAP)*.

- B. Dr Raghda Sleit. Dr. Raghda Sleit graduated from faculty of medicine Ain Sham university in 2008 after that she worked as a resident in Ain Shams Institute of Psychiatry and then she completed her master's degree in neuropsychiatry from Ain Shams University in 2012, she has been working in Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims since then. The activities of Al Nadeem Center include: psychiatric management, documentation, legal aid and campaign. It is the only Non-Governmental Organization in Egypt that involved psychiatric medical doctors and the professionals there worked as both trainers and trainees themselves in this specific field for several years. The center organized training activities with lawyers and physicians on the documentation of torture cases according to the Istanbul protocol.
- C. Senior Lecturer Peter Mygind Leth, physician, board certified specialist in forensic medicine, University of Southern Denmark. Many years of experience in the evaluation of alleged torture victims. Publications on medico-legal issues, including torture.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **General information**

Mr . was born in 1979 in Al Basra, and he lived there all his life, his parents died when he was very young and his uncle held his custody afterwards, he has a certificate from the Iraqi government showing that he and his brother suffer from mental disability and that their uncle is still legally responsible for them.

### **Past medical history**

The patient is mentally retarded with almost no language. He is otherwise physically healthy, and do not receive any medication.

### **Past psychiatric history**

History of intellectual disability

## **ALLERGATIONS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT**

### **Summary of detention and abuse**

The patient is mentally retarded with almost no language. His legal guardian, mr. , who was detained together with mr. , has explained that Mr. was arrested on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Al-Zubayr region by the Danish, British and Iraqi forces. During his arrest he was subjected to different form of ill treatment. His arrest was allegedly not based on a particular charge, but rather on a religious background. He remained detained for two weeks.

### **Narrative account of ill-treatment and torture**

's intellectual disability prevents him from communicating with others, so the testimony was collected from the testimonies of others detainees.

s legal guardian stated:

" 's main residence since he was 12 is Al Takia, the day the Takia was raided he was sleeping upstairs with the others. The first time I noticed him was when we were at the Costa. We were taken to Al Shaeba Camp "a camp for both the Danish and English troops" where we were forced to sit on the sand for hours, peed on himself. After that we were taken to interrogation tents then another tent, I don't know if the Danish soldiers interrogated and knew that he is mentally disabled or not. After that we were given to the Iraqi militants who hand cuffed and blindfolded us all then put us in a car and took us to Al Jamiaat security office. After that we were forced to enter the building leaning forward. After that we were forced to sit facing the wall in a corridor inside this building. After that they began beating".

Mr and Mr remembered hearing his voice laughing while they were sitting in the corridor. Mr stated that peed on himself again and that his urine contaminated Mr 's clothes. No one was sure if he was taken to an interrogation room afterwards or not.

Mr stated "we were all dragged to a large dark filthy room full of other prisoners and was with us, we barely ate anything".

Mr Stated "I spent thirteen days in the Jamiaat prison after that I was released and I asked my father who is a famous tribal leader to ask the Iraqi militants to release too, as he is mentally disabled and he has no one to ask about him, they accepted and he was released"

Mr then stated " after my release, I found out that was lost, we found him three months later near Nyala , he is not the same person anymore, he is irritable, the site of the police frightens him, he sometimes cry and scream more than usual."

### **Review of abuse and ill-treatment**

#### **Physical forms**

- Beating and kicking
- Sensory deprivation (blindfolding)
- Deprivation of food and water

### **PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISABILITIES**

The patient was mentally disabled and therefore not able to explain about his symptoms and disabilities. His guardian has explained that displayed severe psychological problems for some time after the incident, consisting of outburst of anger and urinary incontinence, and has received psychological treatment in Baghdad and Basra.

## PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The patient was a young normal weight man. He was mentally disabled with no language, but was never the less able to participate in the examination. There were no signs of disease. Head and face: unremarkable. Thorax and abdomen: There was several hyper-pigmented areas crossing the upper back transversely. Arms and legs: There was a 1x0.5 cm scar on the dorsal surface of the base of the right second finger, which according to his guardian was caused by biting himself, as he had a tendency to do after the incident. The foot soles were unremarkable.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY/EXAMINATION

### 1. Methods of assessment

Three sessions with clinical interviews, the first two were held by Dr Raghda Sleit on 29/09 and 30/09/2014 with the presence of Mr and the third session was on 1/10/2014 and where Dr. Sana joined Dr. Raghda for a second opinion.

### 2. Current psychological complaints

The patient's intellectual disability prevented him from communicating with others, the first interview he was asked to draw anything so he drew something like a masked face, then he put his hands over his face to describe that he was blindfolded after that he ran away from the interview, the second interview he only kept nodding and refused to be engaged in any activity, the third interview he only stayed during the interview when he was offered candies, so he kept eating them while Mr

Did the talking.

So the complains are by "Mr his legal guardian yet non-reliable informant as he doesn't stay with Mr all the time"

- He became more irritable
- The site of the police frightens him
- His anger bouts are more than usual, now he sometimes break stuff
- He doesn't sleep well
- Sometimes he talks to people that are not presented in the room and laugh spontaneously "hallucinatory behaviour"
- Before detention he had some control of his urination, now he doesn't

### 3. Mental status examination

**General appearance and behaviour:** young aged male, average build, poor self-hygiene and fair grooming, no eye to eye contact; he was calm yet not cooperative with hallucinatory behaviour.

**Speech:** Couldn't be assessed

**Affect:** incongruent

**Thinking:**

- couldn't be assessed

**Perception:** couldn't be assessed.

**4. Assessment of social functioning**

His mental disability prevented him from practicing any social activity before and after detention.

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. We weren't sure whether Mr \_\_\_\_\_'s psychological disturbances "except being frightened from the police" are due to detention or due to his mental disability.
2. Mr \_\_\_\_\_ is in need for therapy to improve his social and occupational functioning.

I personally know the facts stated below, except those stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true. I would be prepared to testify to the above statements based on my personal knowledge and belief.

**EXPERT PSYCHOTHERAPIST**

Psychotherapist, Dr. Sana Hamzeh

Signature



**PSYCHIATRIST**

Psychiatrist, Dr. Raghda Sleit

Signature



**FORENSIC DOCTOR**

Senior lecturer, MD; Ph.D. Peter Mygind Leth

Signature

