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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 11/29/2007

On October 14, 2007, FARIS SAADI ABDUL KARIM, Colonel in the Iraqi National Police and Chief of Security, was interviewed at his place of employment adjacent to Forward Operating Base - Prosperity in Baghdad, Iraq. After being advised as the identity of the interviewing agents and the purpose of the interview FARIS SAADI ABDUL KARIM provided the following information:

FARIS was working on September 16, 2007 when, at approximately 12:10 PM -12:15 PM he heard small arms fire just outside of his police compound. The shooting was less frequent at first and increased in frequency as time passed. At approximately the same time checkpoint number 1 called him to report the incident. Checkpoint 1 reported that they were taking fire and that the Americans were shooting. Upon hearing this, FARIS asked who specifically was shooting at them, Army?

FARIS immediately started running for the checkpoint and in the direction of the shooting. FARIS received a report that the shooting was coming from a security company and that the security company is shooting at local nationals. FARIS then advised his police officers to take cover if they were not being shot at.

FARIS arrived at Nisur Square Traffic Circle, Baghdad, Iraq and saw the four vehicles in question in the circle. FARIS observed vehicle 3 and 4 of the 4 vehicle convoy shooting. He observed all vehicles having two individuals on the roof. FARIS stated that vehicle number 4 was clearly visible and he observed the hatch to the turret behind the roof gunner. He believes that all four vehicles in the convoy were firing as outlined in a drawing FARIS provided the investigators.

FARIS observed many victims including a driver of a pick-up who fell from the vehicle after being shot and then moved to a hiding position next to the pavement/curb. Laborers were observed hiding behind the pavement near the fountain at Nisur Square Traffic Circle. He also observed an individual who had been hit by a bullet on the NW side of the circle.

FARIS also observed two helicopters in the sky while the

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incident was occurring. He stated that he believes the area to the south of Nisur Square Traffic Circle was hit by gunfire coming from one of the two helicopters. FARIS bases his belief on the position of the gunners in the helicopter aiming their weapons down toward the area hit by gunfire. Additionally, FARIS stated that he heard shooting coming from the sky. FARIS described the weapon as long and similar to the type of weapon used by a sniper. The gunners in the helicopters were described as wearing "sand" colored pants with dark colored, perhaps blue, body armor and helmets. FARIS drew what he believed was the flight pattern of the circling helicopters. FARIS does not know whether or not American military helicopters were in the area.

FARIS stated that there was smoke coming from a canister near checkpoint location B12. When this smoke finished, he observed a second canister thrown from the trucks that continued to produce additional smoke.

FARIS stated he was very thankful his guards did not fire at the convoy and that he was able to control his officers. FARIS was told by his officers that checkpoint location B1 had been hit by some of the bullets from the convoy. FARIS ordered his officers not to return fire.

FARIS stated that he and his officers never identified or observed any individuals firing weapons from any other location than Nisur Square. The Iraqi police never found any evidence or took any reports of any individuals bearing weapons or firing weapons at the convoy prior to, during or after the incident on September 16, 2007. FARIS stated that had anyone fired at the convoy, the Iraqi police would have fired their weapons at that location.

FARIS believes that the shooting lasted for approximately 10 minutes. When he arrived at the circle, the white Kia was not yet burning. He believes that a total of 2 to 3 rockets were launched during the incident. The rockets were shot from the roof of the convoy vehicles. The white Kia was hit through the windshield by one of these rockets.

The third vehicle in the convoy was believed by FARIS to have fired the first shots at the Kia. After the initial shots, convoy vehicles 3 and 4 started shooting at all the cars in the first row of traffic. The convoy vehicles left after the white Kia exploded and was burning. As the vehicles left, he observed

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no signs of damage to any of the vehicles.

The convoy was observed shooting its weapons as they departed the circle. The convoy departed the circle west bound and then north from the traffic circle into oncoming traffic. The convoy continued north driving against the flow of traffic. FARIS believes that the convoy may have been blocked by a construction vehicle from proceeding north in the correct lanes. The convoy therefore deviated to driving north against traffic that was proceeding south. Southbound traffic was described by FARIS as very heavy. FARIS speculated that the convoy continued firing their weapons in an effort to clear traffic.

FARIS stated that the Civil Defense employees may have witnessed the events that occurred just north of Nisur Square. He stated that the Civil Defense evacuated many individuals from the shooting incident that occurred to the north of Nisur Square Traffic Circle. FARIS is aware of one individual who died as a result of the shooting at this location.

At the conclusion of the shooting, FARIS blocked various streets and directed a water truck to put out the fire ablaze in the white Kia. After the fire was extinguished the water truck was used to block the intersection.

FARRIS and his officers then proceeded to evacuate individuals from the area and ordered vehicles still in the area to assist injured people by taking people to the hospital. Specifically, FARIS remembered putting two people into a gray minibus and sending them to the hospital.

Four vehicles arrived at Nisur Square approximately 10-15 minutes after the first convoy exited and while the injured and dead were being attended to. The four vehicles looked identical to the four that had just been involved in the shooting and arrived from the same direction as the original four vehicles. These four vehicles were blocked in by Iraqi Police.

The blocked convoy proceeded to throw water bottles at the police and point their weapons at the police. FARIS then pointed to his rank on his uniform and warned the convoy not to shoot their weapons or they will be shot by Iraqi Police.

Two people from the convoy exited their vehicles and came to speak with FARIS. FARIS directed them to point their weapons

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up and get back into their vehicles. The convoy complied with these orders. At this time, Colonel Dave Boslego, US Army, and General Hussain, of the Iraqi National Police, arrived on the scene. After evaluating the scene and determining that these are not the same vehicles from earlier, General Hussain ordered the vehicles released. The convoy then proceeded back toward the direction from which they came.

FARIS and his officers proceeded to continue their evaluation of the incident scene. The collected bullet casings and shells from grenades. They Nisur Square Traffic Circle is the only location where the Iraqi police recovered bullet casings. The Iraqi Police found various bullet strike marks that originated from the north and exited toward the south. Examples of struck areas included the bus stop and traffic signs.

FARIS also believes that an individual who was near the bus stop was shot by one of the helicopters. This individual was shot with a 7.62mm bullet. Additionally, the Iraqi Police claim to have found a bullet strike on top of the bus stop that could have only come from an air based weapon. FARIS reported that the first investigative team from the US Embassy - Baghdad took the recovered bullets from the scene.

FARIS offered his opinion as to what happened on September 16, 2007. He also provided a diagram of his areas of responsibility on a map. FARIS believes that the convoy was deployed when a vehicle borne improvised explosive device detonated in the vicinity of one of its convoys. The convoy that ended up in Nisur Square is believed by FARIS to have panicked when they found themselves in heavy traffic and blocked by a closed road.

FARIS provided that his investigation into this incident is basically complete and has been turned over to General Hussain. An Iraqi committee of high ranking individuals will now evaluate the report and decide on the next course of action to be taken by the Iraqi government.

The following biographical data was obtained through investigation and/or observation:

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BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

NAME: FARIS SAADI ABDUL KARIM
SEX: Male
DOB/POB:
NATIONALITY: Iraqi
PERMANENT ADDRESS:
PERMANENT ADDRESS:
EMAIL:
PASSPORT NUMBER/COUNTRY:
HEIGHT: 6'3"
WEIGHT: 190#
HAIR/EYE COLOR: Black/Brown
NAME OF SPOUSE:
CURRENT EMPLOYER: Iraqi National Police
JOB TITLE: Chief of Security
PREVIOUS EMPLOYER/TITLE:
EDUCATION: