

## Statement of Les Walker

Before I was tortured in Saudi Arabia, I was in a good state of health. This was despite having suffered a heart attack in 1995, which I had recovered from. I took care of my health, closely monitoring my blood pressure and controlling it with medication. I kept myself reasonably fit by walking my dog twice daily for an hour and walking around 3 to 4 kilometers daily related to my work.

I had a very good job as project manager in Saudi Arabia, responsible for the running and maintenance of a large housing and hotels complex for a Saudi company who leased the complete complex to BAE Systems for the housing of their European staff. I had a lovely rented house on a small compound in the middle of Riyadh complete with swimming pool, sauna, and large gardens, with my wife Aida we were looking forward to a long and happy period of employment and to remain in Riyadh until retirement.

As the result of being tortured, my blood pressure became very unstable resulting in numerous periods of hospitalization. I had dental problems; broken teeth, and problems with my feet due to the beatings. Mentally I was very unstable and used to be very morbid especially during the period of solitary confinement and the period of total isolation from mental stimulation (first four months, no books nor anything to occupy the mind) even considering for a while suicide. I was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes on my return to UK. I received counseling for a period of 1 year upon my release and have monthly check-ups with my GP for my heart and diabetes.

Since I have returned to the UK I find it difficult to mix with people and hard to make friends. I like to spend most of my time on my own, my ability to concentrate on one thing for more than a few minutes is bad. I am now dependant on State benefits for my daily needs and live in a small 1 bed council flat. I don't have the mental ability to learn new skills due to this lack of concentration, and find that I panic in situations where I am surrounded by people. I do still have flash backs and nightmares.

I have received little support from the British Government: They funded me to travel to Copenhagen to attend the Parker Institute where it was established that the injuries to my feet are probably caused by beating the soles of the feet as found in torture victims. Other than receipt of sickness benefit £119 and housing benefit I have not had any other financial support from the government. In fact the British Government even used their own Office of constitutional affairs to fight against us in the House of Lords in our case those who were responsible for our torture, and I believed at the time of our defeat in the House of Lords that the decision was politically and financially driven and did say this to the media at the time. Nothing has changed my mind. However I have strengthened my views on this when hearing the former P.M. say that the enquiry into the BAE slush fund would have upset the Saudis, so he stopped the enquiry in the interests of the nation. To the British Government MONEY, ARMS, PLANES & OIL mean more than the rights and lives of this country's citizens.

Any financial benefits which may result from a successful claim against my torturers would be very nice and would assist in living a life I was striving to achieve prior to my arrest. More importantly, and the main reason for pursuing my claim, was to STOP TORTURE and to bring to justice those responsible for the act along with others who did not try to stop it or inform world bodies that torture was being undertaken within their country. If we had obtained a judgment against the torturers then I believe this would have helped to prevent torture occurring in the future. However, we were not given the opportunity to make this claim.

A law in any Country that outlaws torture in another Country and allows the tortured person a way of seeking redress can only be good for mankind. I think laws that allow the torturers of persons by a state or its officers to go unpunished are wrong, and immunity from prosecution should not be allowed. Torture is evil and should be outlawed out world wide.

If the torturers and their cohorts in my case could be brought to justice at the European Court of Human Rights then I will be a happy man, as I do not want to see anybody have to suffer the cruelty of these evil people.