

Date: 20 January 2014

Carter-Ruck Solicitors

6 St Andrew Street
London EC4A 3AE

T 020 7353 5005
F 020 7353 5553
DX 333 Chancery Lane
www.carter-ruck.com

Report finds “clear evidence” of torture and execution of prisoners by the Syrian regime

An inquiry team mandated by Carter-Ruck to look into the credibility of photographs and other evidence relating to the torture and murder of prisoners by the Syrian regime has concluded that *“there is clear evidence, capable of being believed by a tribunal of fact in a court of law, of systematic torture and killing of detained persons by the agents of the Syrian government”*.

The team, which was chaired by The Right Honourable Sir Desmond de Silva QC (former Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone) and which also comprised Professor Sir Geoffrey Nice QC (former lead prosecutor before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia) and Professor David M. Crane (former Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone), together with an independent forensics team, reviewed the evidence of a Syrian defector, who had formerly been a military police officer tasked with photographing and documenting the bodies of detainees brought to a military hospital. This individual had taken approximately 55,000 photographs – which have now been smuggled out of Syria – relating to approximately 11,000 dead detainees.

The inquiry team found the defector to be *“a truthful and credible witness”*, who gave *“an honest account of his experiences”*, while forensic analysis of a large number of his photographs showed them to be authentic and to record the widespread use of torture by various means including prolonged starvation, ligature strangulation and beating. It also found there to be compelling evidence of the *“systematic”* and *“organized”* killing of persons in detention facilities.

The inquiry team’s report concluded that the available evidence *“would support findings of **crimes against humanity** against the current Syrian regime”* and also *“findings of **war crimes** against the current Syrian regime”*.

A copy of the Report is attached.

Partners

Alasdair Pepper
Guy Martin
Nigel Tait
Ruth Collard
Cameron Doley
Claire Gill
Adam Tudor
Isabel Martorell
Stephen Loughrey

Consultant

Andrew Stephenson

Partnership Secretary

Helen Burrluck

Regulated by the
Solicitors Regulation
Authority

SRA No. 44769

For further information please contact Cameron Doley at cameron.doley@carter-ruck.com