The lifeguards who cannot even swim
Page 62

Map of hate: how violence changed face of Baghdad
Page 68, 69

India

Iraq

British soldiers cleared of tribal rapes after £3m inquiry finds forged records

Jonathan Claynton

British soldiers have been cleared of all allegations that they raped hundreds of tribal women during training exercises in Kenya. The Times has learned

An inquiry that cost the British taxpayer more than £3 million has established that police records were forged to support the claim

The findings, being made public today, are certain to increase tensions between Britain and its former East African colony. Relations are already strained over British accusations of high-level corruption and demands for ministerial resignations.

The investigation by the Royal Military Police (RMP) has concluded that there is not one single case to answer out of 2,187 reported rapes. A team of 12 to 15 investigators spent ten months in Kenya between October 2003 and July 2004 and interviewed all 2,187 claimants, most of whom were Massa and Samburu tribeswomen from some of the most remote areas, where about 1,500 British servicemen train every year.

Working with local interpreters, the investigators deemed only 294 cases worthy of further examination. These fell apart on closer scrutiny and during follow-up interviews with other local people and former Kenyan members of the Army in Britain.

"No corroborative evidence which could be given in a UK court of law, and which might lead to a successful prosecution of any named individual, could be found to support any of the rape allegations," a source linked to the investigation said.

Today’s report also exonerates senior British Army officers who were on duty in Kenya at the time and to whom the claimants alleged they had reported the incidents. "There are no grounds to believe in any adulterous relationships," the report states.

When the allegations surfaced in the summer of 2003, senior officers were forced to bring large numbers of male and female police officers from Kenya into Britain to give evidence at a hearing held outside the British High Commission in Nairobi and demand compensation. It appears that the children resulted from consensual sex or rapes by other men. One woman told The Times that her baby was the result of an affair with an Italian exchange student, but the story remains uncorroborated.

The inquiry uncovered dozens of forged entries in police files about the alleged incidents, some of which dated back 15 years. "All entries relating to the alleged rapes had been fabricated, some of them some considerable time afterwards," the source said. The forgeries, some astonishingly clumsy, at time almost farcical, were uncovered by British scientific experts working with Kenyan counterparts, who concurred with the findings.

A "chief" from an African political protest movement, the Young Kikuyu Association, led by Harry Thuku, was to become the Kenyan African Union (KAU), an African nationalist organisation demanding access to white-owned land.

1952 Colonial Government suppresses organisations attempting to reclaim land appropriated by white settlers

1952-56: The Government fiercely represses the Mau Mau rebellion, a violent campaign against colonial rule

1957: The first direct elections for Africans to the Legislative Council.

1960: Mau Mau leaders are executed in the name of British colonialism.

1963: Mau Mau veterans are granted amnesty.

1963: Kenyan independence is declared.

1962: Kenya’s first multi-party system is restored.

1986: Germany and Britain divide territory split by the Halbe of 1966.

1990: Kenya is incorporated into an East Africa Community.

1992: Kenya becomes a British colony.

2002: Kenya becomes a multi-party state.

2004: Kenya holds its first national elections.

2006: Kenya holds its second national elections.

2008: Kenya holds its third national elections.

2010: Kenya holds its fourth national elections.

2012: Kenya holds its fifth national elections.

2014: Kenya holds its sixth national elections.

2016: Kenya holds its seventh national elections.

2018: Kenya holds its eighth national elections.

2020: Kenya holds its ninth national elections.

2022: Kenya holds its tenth national elections.

2024: Kenya holds its eleventh national elections.

2026: Kenya holds its twelfth national elections.

2028: Kenya holds its thirteenth national elections.

2030: Kenya holds its fourteenth national elections.

2032: Kenya holds its fifteenth national elections.

2034: Kenya holds its sixteenth national elections.

2036: Kenya holds its seventeenth national elections.

2038: Kenya holds its eighteenth national elections.

2040: Kenya holds its nineteenth national elections.

2042: Kenya holds its twentieth national elections.

2044: Kenya holds its twenty-first national elections.

2046: Kenya holds its twenty-second national elections.

2048: Kenya holds its twenty-third national elections.

2050: Kenya holds its twenty-fourth national elections.

2052: Kenya holds its twenty-fifth national elections.

2054: Kenya holds its twenty-sixth national elections.

2056: Kenya holds its twenty-seventh national elections.

2058: Kenya holds its twenty-eighth national elections.

2060: Kenya holds its twenty-ninth national elections.

2062: Kenya holds its thirtieth national elections.

2064: Kenya holds its thirty-first national elections.

2066: Kenya holds its thirty-second national elections.

2068: Kenya holds its thirty-third national elections.

2070: Kenya holds its thirty-fourth national elections.

2072: Kenya holds its thirty-fifth national elections.

2074: Kenya holds its thirty-sixth national elections.

2076: Kenya holds its thirty-seventh national elections.

2078: Kenya holds its thirty-eighth national elections.

2080: Kenya holds its thirty-ninth national elections.

2082: Kenya holds its fortieth national elections.

2084: Kenya holds its forti-first national elections.

2086: Kenya holds its forti-second national elections.

2088: Kenya holds its forti-third national elections.

2090: Kenya holds its forti-fourth national elections.

2092: Kenya holds its forti-fifth national elections.

2094: Kenya holds its forti-sixth national elections.

2096: Kenya holds its forti-seventh national elections.

2098: Kenya holds its forti-eighth national elections.

2010: Kenya holds its forti-ninth national elections.

2012: Kenya holds its forti-ten national elections.

2014: Kenya holds its forti-twelfth national elections.

2016: Kenya holds its forti-fourth national elections.

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