

Iraqi Security Officer Proves Mr. Younadam Kanna was Falsely Accused

Fred Aprim
Jan 18, 2024

Sabah Alhamdany is a former officer of the infamous Iraqi General Security Directorate (مديرية الامن العامة). He worked in certain regions throughout Iraq, including in Kirkuk in 1988. He appeared on several programs to talk about his experiences or as an eyewitness.

[Alhamdany appeared in a video](#) in which he was asked to *Fact Check* a letter that claimed that in 1985 Mr. Younadam Kanna, of the Assyrian Democratic Movement (ADM), had received 3,000 Iraqi Dinars in exchange for alleged information that led to the imprisonment and execution of three fellow members of the ADM; martyres Youbert Benyamin, Yousip Toma and Youkhana Esho.

The alleged letter was published many years ago by two sources: first in al-Hawza newspaper and the second in a Kurdish newspaper. The letter spread quickly and was later in time posted on many social media platforms as these platforms became popularly used to disseminate information.



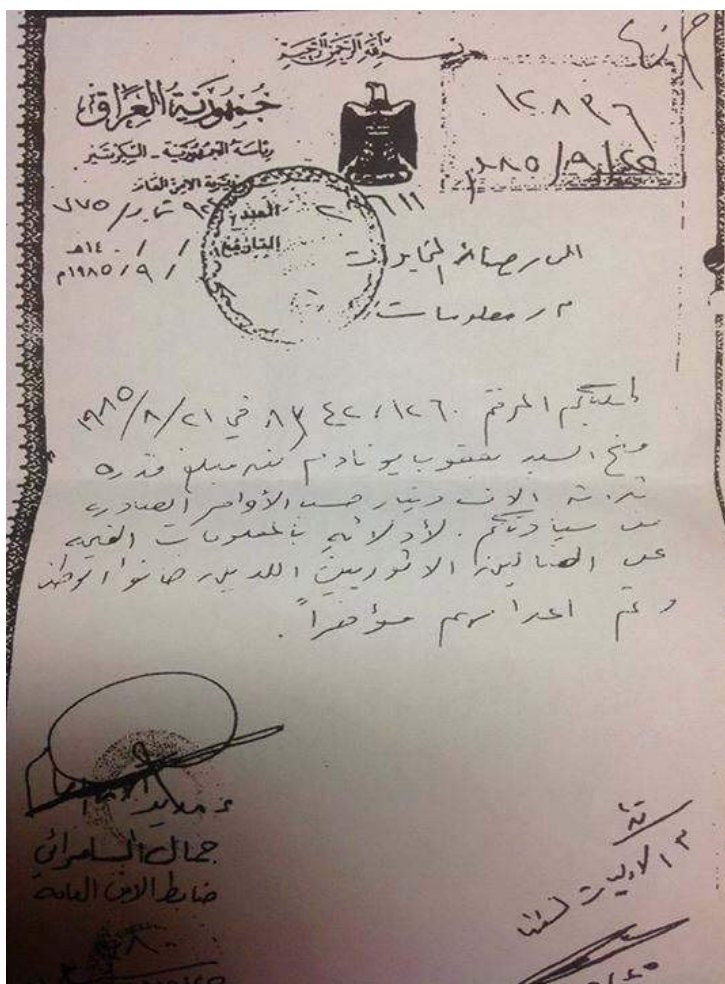
The former Iraqi Security officer explained the difference between a forged (مزور) and faked (مزيف) letters. A forged letter, he stated, is one in which a person alters or changes certain information in an existing letter. For example changes names, dates and other data. The faked letter is the one that is created completely anew using false material or information.

The former security officer said that this particular letter about Mr. Kanna is generated with a generic cover letter of the Iraqi security stationary. He said that after the 2003 US invasion of Iraq most of the Iraqi security and intelligence offices were raided and documents were confiscated [by US army, Kurdish peshmerga and Iraqi opposition personalities]. During this time, he said, many letters were forged using security and intelligence stationary.

The former security officer then listed many reasons why this particular letter was forged, including:

1. The letter is sent from an officer of the General Security Directorate to the an Intelligence Dept. The letter is signed by a certain officer Jamal al-Samira'i. He said, in the security dept we do not write the name of the officer who is issuing a letter. We simply write the rank, position and signature only.

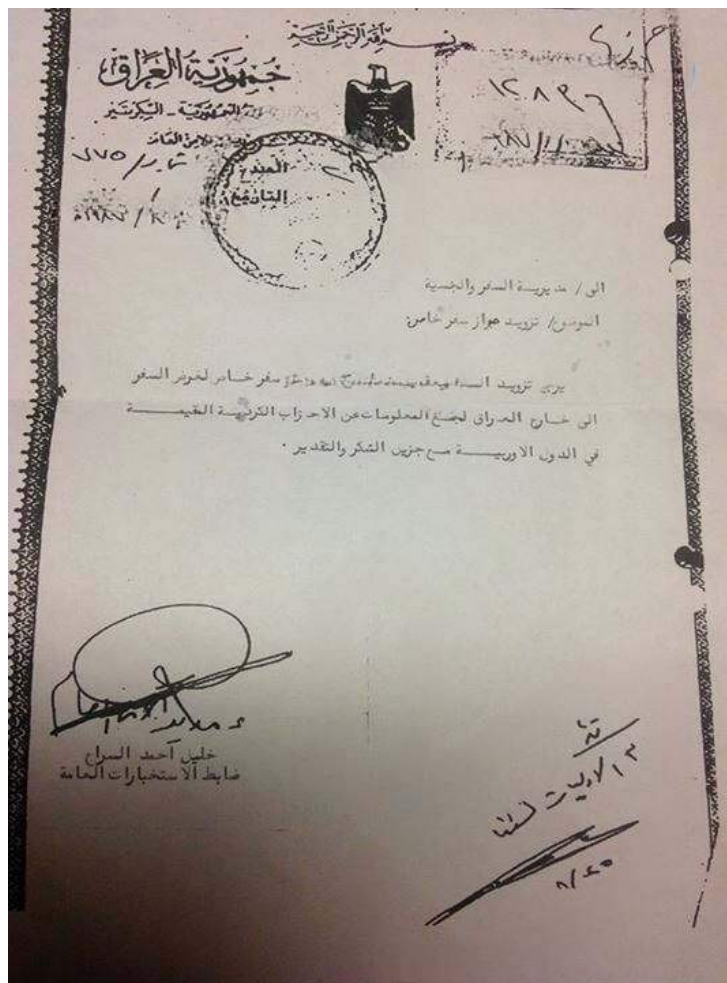
2. The letter is issued in 1985 as it is indicated. The letter head indicates that the letter was issued by the General Security Directorate, listed underneath the office of the Secretariat of the Republic Presidency (رئاسة الجمهورية - السكرتير). In 1985, he said, the General Security Directorate was not linked to the Secretariat of the Republic Presidency. It was rather linked to the Interior Ministry. The General Security Directorate became linked to the Secretariat of the Republic Presidency in 1987 when Ali Hasan al-Majid became the head of the General Security Directorate. The message of the former security officer here is that the person who forged the letter later after 2003 US invasion of Iraq was not aware of the structure of these Iraqi institutions and a real document will not include such monumental mistake.



The former officer spoke about other questionable issues related to communication protocol between the various departments and how payments to informants were made to further backup his conclusion.

In fact, there are more issues about the letter not mentioned by the former Iraqi security officer, including, for example, the name of Mr. Kanna, who is referred to as Yacoub Younadam Kanna. Mr. Kanna's real name is Younadam Yousif Kanna. The name he used during the years of armed struggle was Yacoub Yousif. The person who prepared this document has mixed the two names which is not supposed to happen considering that the security directorate has detailed and precise information on people.

Interestingly, I was provided with another separate letter that made the issue more peculiar. This second letter was signed by a certain Khalil Ahmad al-Saraj whose title is indicated as officer of the general intelligence. This letter is dated 1987, two years after the first letter. Notice that the two signatures at the bottom right and bottom left in both letters are the same. The letters' numbers 775 (٧٧٥) on the top left of both letters (issued two years apart) are the same. The reference numbers 12836 (١٢٨٣٦) on the stamps on the top right in both letters (issued two years apart) are the same. The point is that two formal letters on two separate subjects issued two years apart could not have the exact same letter numbers or same stamped reference numbers.



We must not believe everything we read. Why do you think that a Kurdish newspaper was one of the two main newspapers that had access to this letter and published it without hesitation? Why did the Kurdish newspaper quickly publish this letter without verifying its content, as independent Assyrians were trying to find their place in the new Iraq post 2003 US invasion of Iraq?